

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1730 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, California 90403



“Pilgrim’s Progress”

February 2023

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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February Worship Schedule at Pilgrim

Sunday Worship Service Schedule in February

- 9:00 a.m.** Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class, meets in the Discovery Conference Room.
9:30 a.m. Arrangements can be made to have a short Sunday School Lesson at 9:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. Worship Service Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.
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Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.

Please be sure to attend our Sunday morning Bible Class at 9 a.m. in our Conference Room.
Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D teaches the Bible Classes.

Thank you to Pilgrim's new 2023 through 2024 Church Council

Pilgrim made history on January 15, 2023, when we elected our first woman Council President, as per changes voted on and approved December 4, 2022.

- **Officers:**
- **President: Carolyn B.**
- **Vice President: Allen G.**
- **Treasurer: Kathy F.**
- **Council Secretary: Bobbie R-B**
- **Board Chairs:**
- **Church Growth/Media Ministry: Mathew M.**
- **Stewardship: Barbara P.**
- **Trustee: Dietmar K.**
- **Head elder: Joseph P.**



The new Church Council will be formally inducted during our worship service on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

We want to thank all of those who have agreed to serve on our Church Council, and use their time, talent and efforts to help Pilgrim move forward in a positive manner now and far into the future. We also want to thank Pastor Nunes for his leadership as he guides our Strategic Planning Committee as to how we can connect with the neighborhood, Santa Monica residents and beyond.

Thank you to all who attended the January 21st Pilgrim-Pacific Center for Philosophy & Theology event with Trey Dismdale, J.D. Executive Director of the Center for Religion, Culture and Democracy. Approximately 50 people attended this event, including several from Pilgrim.



The **Mission of Pilgrim Lutheran Church** is to be an incarnation of Jesus Christ to people of all ages in the Santa Monica area and throughout the world.

Sunday Gospel Readings for February

February 5 Matthew 5:13–20 (The fulfillment of the Law)

February 12 Matthew 5:21–37 (The heart of the Law revealed)

February 19 Matthew 17:1–9 (The transfiguration)

February 26 Matthew 4:1–11 (Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted.)

Lent Begins February 22nd With Ash Wednesday

Rev. Dr. John Nunes will Preach

Pilgrim's traditional Lenten Worship Services begin on Wednesday evening February 22nd at 6 p.m. as we observe the solemn Ash Wednesday Service when worshipers will have the opportunity to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of penitence and baptismal remembrance. The use of ashes suggests in a dramatic way God's judgment and condemnation of sin, our frailty and total dependence on God, humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposed, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," were spoken first to Adam after his fall into sin. But ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment and baptismal cleansing.

Our Lenten theme this year is "Growing in Faith with the Plants of Lent"

Our Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, Maundy Thursday, April 6th and Good Friday, April 7th, worship services will be held in-person and on-line. We plan to only do On-line Wednesday night Lenten Worship Services on: March 1st, 8th, 15th 22nd and 29th. at 6 p.m.

"Growing in Faith with the Plants of Lent"

From Ash Wednesday through Good Friday, our Lenten theme this year will focus on plants in the Bible. Whether in-person or on-line, please join us as we hear from God and grow in his Word.

In-Person. Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 6 PM (with Imposition of Ashes) "Palm tree"

On-Line. Midweek One, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 6 PM, "Apricot"

On-Line. Midweek Two, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 6 PM, "Hyssop"

On-Line. Midweek Three, Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6 PM, "Broom Tree" (Juniper)

On-Line. Midweek Four, Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 6 PM, "Sycamore tree"

On-Line. Midweek Five, Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 6 PM, "Wormwood" (Gall)

In-Person. Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023, 6 PM (with Holy Communion) , "Grapes"

In-Person. Good Friday, April 7, 2023, 6 PM, "Aloe Vera"

February Calendar at a Glance (Worship Services are in person and on FB and our website.)

- February 5** † Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
- February 5** Installation of Pilgrim's 2023-2024 Church Council during Worship Service.
- February 5** Church Council Meeting after Worship Service.
- February 5** Pastor Nunes preaches on the Lutheran Hour!
- February 12** † Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
- February 12** Super Bowl—Come to Church first!
- February 18** Martin Luther Renewer of the Church, 1546
- February 19** † The Transfiguration of our Lord Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
- February 22** Ash Wednesday Worship in person, at 6 p.m.
- February 27** † The Transfiguration of our Lord Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

Coming in March: A Christian Approach to Mindfulness: On March 19, 2023, during our 9 a.m. Bible Class, Pastor Tom Johnson from Long Island, New York will lead us in a conversation of the practice of prayer, silence, and focused meditation on God's Word.

On-line Giving Available

Thank you to those of you who have been using Pilgrim's on-line giving app via a company called Push-Pay. Pushpay allows people to make online offerings instead of writing checks. The company does a lot of work with Christian Churches.

LCMS Websites

Keep current on the activities and events of our Pacific South District (PSD) Missouri Synod by going to their website at www.psdnews@psd-lcms.org. You can get a weekly newsletter and stay up to date. You may also check out the Synod's website at www.lcms.org. Good Lutherans stay informed!

LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO

The Lutheran Hour was first broadcast Oct. 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world's oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. To listen: go to LHM podcasts: <https://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> For 24/7, go to: <https://www.lhm.org/> in our LLL district, here are popular radio stations and times: 8:00 a.m. Costa Mesa KBRT 740 AM 1:30 p.m. Glendale KKLA 99.5 FM 7:00 a.m. Sirius – XM Family Talk 131 8:00 p.m. Monday Santa Monica 98.3 KZLA FM and 5:30 a.m. Sunday 5:30 a.m. KZLA . Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D, can occasionally be heard on the Lutheran Hour. His remaining schedule to preach is February 5, 2023, March 12 and 26, 2023, April 16, 2023 and June 4, 2023.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, you may call the Church office with your request or you may send an email to amenmail@aol.com

Statements of Giving

The Year 2022 Statements of Giving were mailed out on January 25, 2023. If you did not receive yours please let the church office know if your mailing address has changed. We thank you for giving to the Lord!

Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in February

Edith A.	February 1
Joe L.	February 1
Brian B.	February 1
Ramona F.	February 16
Anthony Rott	February 16
Mariana S.	February 18
Sami N.	February 18
Elizabeth M.	February 22 (turns 101!)
Bonnie R.	February 25



Let the church office know when your Birthday or Anniversary is!

“News from Pastor Nunes”

Great movements are like sunrises. They first cast their brightness just on the tips of a few mountain peaks; then, they cascade on the tallest steeples, then, they light up the whole village, then, an entire valley, then, every corner of the world is illuminated. Epiphany is a season of Light. This Light is never still.

Because the Light of our lives was born in Bethlehem, we cannot remain still. Faith that is alive will grow. We grow in our study and reading of God’s Word. We begin to pray more regularly. we let the Holy Spirit saturate our lives. We see this Light growing brighter, coming alive more fully in us and through us. It’s miraculous and motivating.

Our strife-filled world needs this Light. Too many people are languishing in the gloom of terminal diagnoses, in the obscurity of incurable loneliness, in the obscenity of unspeakable abuse, in the aching valley of the shadow of death. Desperate is the cry for Good News, for the Light. Are we listening?

The Holy Spirit is moving in a great way at Pilgrim. For example, we are grateful for those committed members who are working on our Strategic Planning process. Stay tuned for a redefined Mission Statement, for restated Mission Priorities, and for a reimagined Plan to execute our Mission.

The more God shines into our lives, the more we can see:

- The power of baptismal grace day-by-day erasing our sin;
- God’s presence and promise made real in bread and wine;
- Our unique place as lights of the world, beautiful, glowing as we reflect Jesus Christ, the One who is the true, inextinguishable Light of the whole world.



In Our Prayers. . . .

Prayers of Intercession

For California flood victims
For Monterey Park shooting families
For those with Dystonia
For James, Speech Apraxia
For Hal's wife, Darylene. health
Travis's father, Reinheld
For Randy—breathing issues
End of war in Ukraine
Mark C.—Lungs
Evelyn L. Stroke recovery
For Pilgrim
Roger H. —health issues
End of COVID –19 Virus
Medical personnel, first responders
Hilda's mother Berjik, Health
Tiffany's mother and family
Lila, neck tumor
Social Justice, End of Racism
Dave K. brain shunt
Kathy, heart and shoulder
Clara, head injury
Grace, Dystonia
Edith A. shoulder
Claudia back, leg issues
Pearl R. Stroke recovery
Jim K, myasthenia gravis & cancer
Neven, heart procedure
Corine, health
Julia A. fibromyalgia, arthritis
Alia, kidney problem
Joe K health and well being
Cyndy for heart issues
Derrick, recovery
Mary's mother
Pastor G. health and eyesight
Frank, ALS
Jeremy, health issues
Annie, Cystic Fibrosis
Greater Evangelism
Marriage difficulties

Unemployment

Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Megan, breast cancer
JoAnna, breast cancer
Arthur N.-cancer
Dale Frese-cancer
Myrna, Bob's stepmom
Susan M.
Brian, Stomach, Esophagus
Rudolph A.
George D. Bladder cancer
Cezanne, intestinal cancer
Carole, stomach
Fernando L.
Neville E.
Adam R.
Cindy C.
Monique Y.
Steve H.
Debbie D.
Susan S.
Ken B.
Hilda's husband Jim
Ivan P.
Dana A.
Kay T.
Kim
Zack
Bob's Aunt
Charles (prostate)
Rich Z.
Molly
Peggy H.
Greg W.
Paul
Jill
Paul
Marc F. Bladder
Tammy F, lung cancer

Continued Prayers

Protection for Police Officers & Firefighters
Protection for our troops
Jews for Jesus Ministry
The ill and lonely
Persecuted Christians
Andrew S. in military

(Continued)

Corby-health issues
Lamar, needs housing
Natalie-Restoration
Chloe
Darell W.
Jim R. continued healing
Adolfo, recovery from stroke
Martha E. M.S. and heart issue
Alex B. for recovery
Mary Ann's health
Sharon C. -Healing
Kathy H's sister Alice—MS
For Missionaries
Laurie's mother
Michael's brother & sister-in-law returning to the Lord
Mike C, mental & spiritual health
Abused children
Steve G. tumors

Prayers of Praise & Thanks

For the Birth of Jesus!
For America's Leaders!
For our Wonderful Country!
For Pastor Nunes & Monique!
For Pilgrim's Wonderful Volunteers!



Valentine's Day is about more than Candy and Flowers!

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly known as **Valentine's Day**, or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is observed on February 14th each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it remains a working day in most of them. St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian Saints named [Valentinus](#). The most popular [martyrology](#) associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing [weddings](#) for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were [persecuted under the Roman Empire](#); during his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer Asterius. Legend states that before his execution he wrote "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her. ([Wikipedia](#))

The Apostle John said it so well: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us and sent His Son as the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us." (1 John 4: 7-12)

We want to wish Monique's Mother Ida a Blessed and Happy 85th Birthday!

Monique and the family held a wonderful 85th Birthday Party for her mother on January 21st. The event was held with a lot of love and a lot of fun! Her mother did a cute Birthday dance and she is an excellent dancer!





Monique on the LHM Rose Parade Float, Below, LHM Float with “Director Trophy” Award Banner in Front of Float.



Celebrating Pastor Nunes' Birthday. Mat was able to get the Buffalo Bills football game on for Pastor—see photo background.



Pastor Nunes with LHM President Dr. Kurt Buchholz. Thank you Dave and Regan for the historical sweatshirt gift!

