

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



(Pilgrim's First Church Building was on 14th & Arizona Ave in Santa Monica)

“Pilgrim’s Progress”

May 2023

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
(310) 829-4113
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May Worship Schedule at Pilgrim

Sunday Worship Service Schedule in May

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.

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.

May 14th: After our worship service, Pilgrim will host a special buffet luncheon in our gym, (with catered food from Fromins!) to honor our much-beloved Kimshelley & Joe (We will also honor mothers as this is also Mothers' Day.) This is the last day Kimshelley & Joe will be with us at Pilgrim. As most of you know, they purchased a home in Alabama, and they and their many cats will be soon be leaving California and heading to Alabama! We love you so much Kimshelley and Joe!



Memorial Day is Celebrated on May 29th this year. On this day we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in serving in our Armed Forces and thank God for their lives. Let us remember those Americans who have bravely served our beloved USA. While some people consider Memorial Day a time for barbecues and the unofficial start of summer, we must remember those who have given their lives for us over the duration of our country's history. Gravesides will be decorated with USA Flags by both family members and friends of

loved ones. We must also remember our Veterans who have been wounded in combat, and those who suffer from PTS Syndrome. Many Veterans returned from WW11 and the Vietnam War and resumed their family lives and went to school or work. However, there are hundreds of thousands of USA Veterans living on the streets, homeless and without families to help them. There are hundreds of tents set up on the LA Veterans Hospital grounds, with Veterans living in them. Those are the "fortunate ones." Many more Veterans are living on the streets with no shelter. Some are mentally ill or addicted to drugs or alcohol and refuse shelter, others have nowhere to go. We need to pray for our Veterans. If you wish, you may donate money to the several accredited Veterans Charity Organizations. These are 501 c (3) Non Profit agencies that help our Veterans. The Church Office will be closed on this day.

Pilgrim's Mission Statement is:

"Called by the Holy Spirit, we are a community of worship and service that invites the people of Santa Monica and beyond to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacraments."

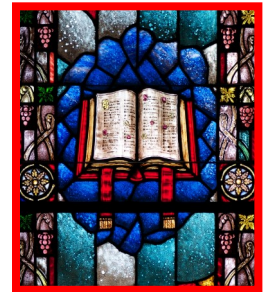
Sunday Gospel Readings for May

May 7 John 14:1-14

May 14 John 14:15-21

May 21 John 17:1-11

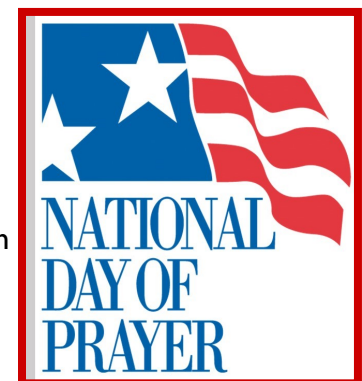
May 28 John 7:37-39



Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 20th. We thank our God for His defense through the men and women of our Armed Forces. Please keep them in your regular prayers.

May 4th: Save the Date! Pastor Nunes has been invited to be a "Prayer Leader" at the National Day of Prayer Event that will be held in Santa Monica. This annual event is held all over the USA and Santa Monica will hold their Prayer Meeting at the Tongva Park, from 8 a.m.—9 a.m. Located at: 1615 Ocean Avenue. Please represent Pastor Nunes and Pilgrim and attend this annual event. Flyers are in the Narthex.



Thank you to all who helped make our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Worship Services so meaningful. Our four confirmands were confirmed on Palm Sunday: Beth, Matthew, Lucas and Nicholas. Volunteers beautifully decorated our sanctuary with huge palm fronds that Dietmar brought to us. He then removed them the following day, and this was a huge job. Thank you Dietmar!

Congratulations to Jean-Enoch Berus

Some of you may remember Vicar Jean-Enoch Berus, from St Paul Lutheran Church here in Los Angeles. Rev. S.T. Williams notified us that Enoch is graduating from Concordia University Irvine, on May 6th. Invitations are in our narthex. Enoch's Ordination and Installation Service will be held June 25th at 3:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran, 3901 W. Adams Blvd. L.A. 90018. We are invited to attend.



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

- May 4** National Day of Prayer, Pastor Nunes will be a Prayer Leader in Santa Monica
May 7 †Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
May 14 †Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
May 14 Kimshelly & Joe Celebration and Mother's Day Celebration
May 14 Pilgrim was founded in Santa Monica on May 14, 1914
May 18 The Ascension of our Lord
May 18 Alpha Zoom meeting 7 –8:30 p.m. (See note below).
May 20 Armed Forces Day
May 21 †Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
May 21 Church Council Meeting after Worship Service.
May 25 Alpha Zoom meeting 7 –8:30 p.m. (See note below).
May 28 †Pentecost Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
May 29 Memorial Day Observed

Please contact Barbara P. for information regarding the ALPHA Bible Study/ Prayer Meetings. Barbara has ordered books and supplies for this ongoing program. For ZOOM meetings: RSVP email to AlphaAtPilgrimSM@gmail.com.

We have resumed hosting our after worship service fellowship hour!

We want to thank Jane S. and Sue P. for getting this started. **We need volunteers to host these events.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. With a receipt, Pilgrim will reimburse you for the expenses you incur. When the weather improves, we will hold these events in our beautiful courtyard. Until then we will meet in the Narthex.

Thank you to those of you who have been using Pilgrim's on-line giving app via a company called PushPay. 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 June 4, 2023. (The April 16, 2023 date will be rescheduled to unexpected circumstances at LHM).

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

Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in May

Barbara P.	May 5
Sharon C.	May 7
Peter H.	May 7
Karen W.	May 9
Carolyn B.	May 17

Pilgrim Lutheran Church's 109th Anniversary, May 14, 1914 ~ May 14, 2023

“News from Pastor Nunes”

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Does Not Belong to Us

Forgive me for the attention-grabbing headline. In the court of law, of course the members of Pilgrim are indeed the corporate owners of this non-profit, religious, voluntary organization. Moreover, we are blessed to live in a nation where this freedom of expression and right of association is protected. However, there is a court that is more supreme. And even if popular opinion, cultural norms, or the highest law of the land dictate otherwise, we must obey God rather than people (Acts 5:29).

I am inspired by the words of Joseph Sittler, quoting a religious leader who refused to capitulate or kowtow to a mighty monarch: “Our teaching must stand, exalted above all the glory, and invincible by all the power of the world, because it is not ours” (The Care of the Earth, p. 103). In our case, the power and the glory are returned to the source and summit of life, Jesus Christ, the resurrected monarch of the universe.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Not only do our physiological bodies belong to our Creator and Redeemer, the body of believers we call Pilgrim does as well. That’s why we’ve been working so diligently on our strategic planning process. Under the leadership of Carolyn B. and the Church Council, we are carefully discerning and prayerfully discussing how to move forward, how best to use the gifts God has given to us. Our assets are not our own. Our facilities, spiritually speaking, are on loan from God.

What an honor to “stand above,” kings and queens and kingdoms and governments, not in an arrogant or rebellious way, but because we are called by the Spirit. Enlisted in our baptisms, we are “coworkers for the kingdom of God” (Colossians 4:11) to spread the saving love of the One who is the Way. That grace is gifted to us but does not belong to us. It’s meant for the whole world. Will you join us in spreading it?

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D



In Our Prayers. . . .

Prayers of Intercession

For Joe & Kimshelley as they move to Alabama.

Terrance seriously ill

Mark F. seriously ill

For those with Dystonia

For James, Speech Apraxia

For Randy—breathing issues

Mark C.—Lungs

Evelyn L. Stroke recovery

Roger H. —Hepatitis C

Medical personnel, first responders

Hilda's mother Berjik, Health

Tiffany's mother and family

Social Justice, End of Racism

Dave K. brain shunt

Kathy, heart and shoulder

Grace, Dystonia

Edith A. shoulder

Pearl R. Stroke recovery

Jim K, myasthenia gravis & cancer

Neven, heart procedure

Corine, health

Julia A. fibromyalgia, arthritis

Cyndy for heart issues

Mary's mother

Pastor G. health and eyesight

Frank, ALS

Annie, Cystic Fibrosis

Greater Evangelism

Marriage difficulties

Unemployment

Corby-health issues

Lamar, needs housing

Natalie-Restoration

Chloe

Alex B. for recovery

Mary Ann's health

Sharon C. -Healing

Kathy H's sister Alice—MS

For Missionaries

Laurie's mother

Abused children

Steve G. tumors

Linda with Alzheimer's

Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Suzie A. recurring cancer

Ramona's niece Harriett and Harriett's' husband

Dan, both fighting cancer

Melissa, breast cancer

JoAnna, breast cancer

Arthur N.-cancer

Dale Frese-in hospice

Russel-pancreatic cancer

Myrna, Bob's stepmom

Susan M.

Rudolph A.

George D. Bladder cancer

Cezanne, intestinal cancer

Carole, stomach

Cindy C.

Monique Y.

Steve H.

Susan S.

Ken B.

Hilda's husband Jim

Ivan P.

Dana A.

Kay T.

Kim

Zack

Bob's Aunt

Charles (prostate)

Rich Z.

Greg W.

Paul

Jill

Paul

Marc F. Bladder

Tammy F, lung cancer

Arminda, kidney 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

Prayers of Praise & Thanks

For the Birth of Jesus!

For our Wonderful Country!

For Pilgrim's Wonderful Volunteers!

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you hear and honor our prayers, as we pray for healing for those who are sick, for comfort for those who are dying and for happiness for those who have been healed and are living successful lives. We know you hear our prayers, and you are in control, not us. We thank you for your beautiful planet, your beautiful trees, flowers, oceans, rivers, mountains and animals. We thank you for your wonderful diverse planet of many countries, many cultures, and many variations in their climate. We thank you for our wonderful USA and we ask that you bless and protect us, guide us and lead us. For those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, we ask that through your work here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, via our Pastor Nunes and our volunteers, we may bring unbelievers to Jesus Christ. For those who are already believers, we ask that they continue to support Pilgrim and Pastor Nunes and increase in-person participation here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA.

In Jesus Name, Amen



On May 14, 2023, Pilgrim will observe its 109th Anniversary!

A Brief History of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA

The official birthdate of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, is May 14, 1914 but the seed was planted much earlier. As far back as 1909 there was a desire to have a permanent LCMS Lutheran Church established in Santa Monica. In 1912 the Los Angeles Pastoral Conference enlisted the aid of Rev. Theodore Haeuser of Whittier, California, who held service in the area twice a month.

In 1913, the 80 members of the graduation class of Concordia Seminary received a variety of calls which sent them all over the world. One young man, Walter Troeger, was sent to the then remote little seaside town of Santa Monica, California.

Rev. Troeger gave his first sermon on October 5, 1913 and on May 14, 1914 twenty two families pledged support for the organization of a church. In those early days, Rev. Troeger noted that “Our total assets were a Bible, a couple dozen hymnals, and a Communion set.” In 1919, the first permanent church building (which still stands on the corner of 14th Street and Arizona Avenue in Santa Monica) was completed. As the church grew, the need for a new building became inevitable. In 1945 and 1951, a total of five building lots were purchased on the corner of 18th and Wilshire. Ground was broken in June of 1952 and the new church was dedicated on June 14, 1953.

Rev. Troeger retired in 1960, after more than 46 years of faithful service to Pilgrim. His exemplary efforts to establish and nurture our church are an example to all of us.

Rev. I.F. Hodde then served as interim pastor until Rev. Victor Neemeyer was called. Rev. Neemeyer served Pilgrim until his death in 1981. During his tenure at Pilgrim, Rev. Neemeyer served as Circuit Counselor and was a frequent guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour.”

- ✠ In 1982 Rev. Kenneth Molnar was installed. Rev. Molnar served as a member of the District Mission Board and as a Circuit Counselor. In 1987 Rev. Molnar was called to a mission in the explosively developing area of Rancho California. Although officially retired, Rev. Harry Miller agreed to act as interim pastor.
- ✠ On September 21, 1989, exactly 75 years after Rev. Troeger was installed as Pilgrim’s first pastor, Rev. Dr. Ardon Albrecht was installed as Pilgrim’s fourth pastor. Pastor Albrecht came to Pilgrim from Lutheran Television where he had served as executive producer for 17 years. Under his leadership, Lutheran Television garnered Emmys and many other awards for excellence in programming for the dramatic series, “This Is The Life” and numerous specials.
- ✠ In January 1994, a major earthquake caused extensive damage to Pilgrim’s sanctuary. For over a year and a half, services were held in the gymnasium while the church was being repaired. In November of 1995, we rededicated a newly restored and much strengthened church. The Altar is made of Sicilian marble and mahogany; the furniture and pews are also of mahogany.
- ✠ Pastor Albrecht retired in July of 2001, and Rev. Nathan R. Kilian was called as his successor. After serving Pilgrim for 20 years, Rev. Kilian resigned from Pilgrim in August, 2021. Rev. John Arthur Nunes, PhD was called to serve Pilgrim and was formally installed as Pilgrim's Pastor On October 23, 2022.
- ✠ May God’s blessing be upon us all as we go forward on our journey as the Lord leads the way!
- ✠ We are fortunate to have had our wonderful ministry for 109 continuous years, even during the Covid-19 pandemic. Allen and Mat quickly got us on-line with an iPhone, for on-line only services, We graduated to a “real” camera and are now able to do on-line worship on both our Facebook and website, in addition to our live in-person worship services.

