

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



**Called by the Holy Spirit,  
we are an intergenerational 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.**

**“Pilgrim’s Progress”**

**December 2023**



Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
(310) 829-4113  
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## December Calendar at a Glance

### Sunday Worship Service Schedule in December

**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.

**(Worship Services are in person and on FB and our 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 Class. Pacifica's popular Dr. David Sumida will teach

Bible Class on December 3rd. We will not hold Bible Class on December 24th or Dec 31st.

### **Pilgrim's Advent/ Christmas Holiday Schedule**

#### **Dec. 3, 2023 First Sunday in Advent Divine Service/ Holy Communion**

9:00 a.m. Bible Class (Pacifica's Dr. David Sumida will teach this class.)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and our website.)

#### **Dec. 6, 2023 Midweek Advent One Devotional on-line only at 6 p.m.**

#### **Dec. 10, 2023 Second Sunday in Advent Divine Service/ Holy Communion**

9:00 a.m. Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and our website.)

#### **Dec. 13, 2023 Midweek Advent Two Devotional on-line only at 6 p.m.**

#### **Dec. 17, 2023 Third Sunday in Advent Divine Service/ Holy Communion**

9:00 a.m. Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and our website.)

#### **Dec. 20, 2023 Midweek Advent Devotional Three on-line only at 6 p.m.**

#### **Dec. 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Advent Divine Service/ Holy Communion**

(No Bible Class this day.)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and our website.)

#### **Dec. 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Divine Service/ Holy Communion 6 p.m. In-person & On-line**

#### **Dec. 25, 2023 The Nativity of Our Lord Divine Service/ Holy Communion 10 a.m. In-person & On-line**

#### **Dec. 31, 2023 First Sunday after Christmas Divine Service/ Holy Communion**

(No Bible Class this day.)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook and our website.)

**Dec. 31, 2023** Pastor Nunes preaches on the Lutheran Hour

We have just been informed that there will be **NO** Christmas Nativity Scene setting up this year at Calvary Baptist Church on 20th and Broadway. Previously, several churches in Santa Monica were invited to set up their life size Nativity Scenes on the Calvary Baptist property and it was an excellent location. Additional information will be forth coming regarding plans for next year.

## Sunday Gospel Readings for December

December 3, 2023 Mark 13:24-37

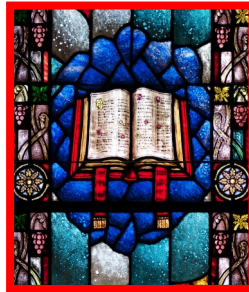
December 10, 2023 Mark 1:1-8

December 17, 2023 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24, 2023 Luke 1:26-38

December 25, 2023 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

December 31, 2023 Luke 2:22-40



### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES For Pilgrim

1. Connected Meaningfully in Worship
2. Connected in Spiritual Formation through Intergenerational Christian Education
3. Connected Sustainably to our Future through our Gifts and Resources
4. Connected in Witness and Service to our Neighborhood (including digital connection)
5. Connected in Partnership with Pacifica Christian High School
6. Connected in Care with One Another

**We have resumed hosting our after worship service fellowship hour!**

**December fellowship schedule is:**

**December 3rd—Carolyn B ~ December 10th— Memorial Luncheon for Dave Kendle**

**December 17th—Lana ~ December 24th Sue and Jane ~December 31st Mat and Sara**

**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.

### **Memorial Service for Pilgrim member Dave Kendle: From Kathy**

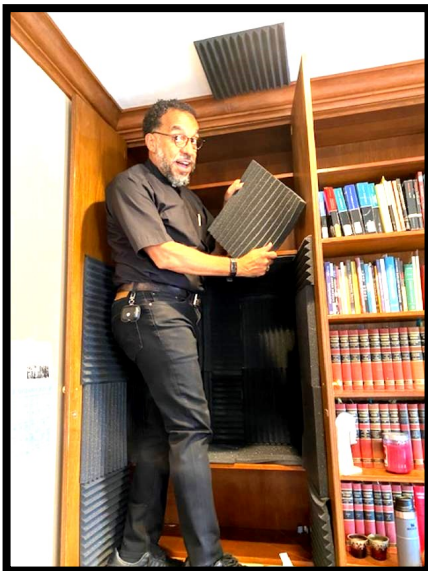
Our much loved, long time Pilgrim member Dave Kendle, recently passed away. We will hold a Memorial Service for him during our Divine Service on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 10 a.m. Dave was a very special man, humble yet brilliant, quiet but with a wonderful, dry sense of humor. Dave had a special way of helping us here at Pilgrim. He was known as the Candle Man, because he carefully changed our candles and took the brass tips home and heated them on the stove to remove the wax! Dave was also known as the Radio Man! When Dave read the Sunday Scripture readings from the podium, his voice sounded like a professional radio broadcaster—only better! Dave served on our Council and during his term, he served as the “Treasurer” —but was a “Treasure” to us at Pilgrim. His health had deteriorated these past several years, and his loving wife Regan, brought him to our worship services. **Regan, we love you and we thank you for all you have done to bring Dave to his beloved Pilgrim Church Family! You are also like family to us!**



**For all of you who would like to help Pilgrim successfully meet our 6th Strategic Priority—CONNECTED IN CARE WITH ONE ANOTHER, we invite you to join a new group we are calling “THE CARE CREW.” Your task would be to keep our members who are home-bound or dealing with health issues in our hearts and minds by preparing a Christmas card for them—perhaps include an encouraging sentiment, prayer or personal note and then return the card here to church by Sunday, December 10th and a member of the CREW will deliver the bundles of holiday cards to each person before Christmas. At this point, we have 5 people we would like to shower with the cards and our CARE. Christmas cards can be provided to you to complete if requested. We may also include a small Christmas stocking or goodie bag with a few cookies or candies and little treats for this year’s holiday delivery. Please contact Carolyn B. or Bonnie if you are interested in joining CARE CREW.**

Thank you to all who came out to decorate our Sanctuary and Narthex for Advent and Christmas. I was a lot of heavy work and everyone was very helpful. Tom, Noland, Andrew, Travis and Allen did the heavy lifting!

### **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/>. Pilgrim’s Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D, can be heard on the Lutheran Hour. His remaining 2023 schedule to preach is: Dec 31, 2023. (A wonderful way to say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024.) His 2024 schedule is: February 25, 2024, May 5, 2024 and July 21, 2024. We now have a small “recording studio” in his office, where Pastor Nunes can broadcast his Lutheran Hour Sermons. In this photo, he is working on setting up his studio and installing the acoustic foam equipment. (He can also record Podcasts and other media.) Recording in Santa Monica will save Pastor time and he will not need to travel to the St. Louis studio as often.

**From Pastor S.T. Williams: Christmas Collection and Distribution 2023 at**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church [www.stpaullutheranla.org](http://www.stpaullutheranla.org) December 15-17** We need your full participation.....Prayer. Donations of food (perishable and non-perishable), clothing, toys, Volunteers to coordinate and organize Volunteers on distribution days. Spread the word via Faith in Action. You may send donations by check directly to: St Paul Lutheran Church at 3901 West Adams. Los Angeles, CA 90018

## **Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays in December**

Tiffany E.	December 10
Ken K.	December 14
Jesus	December 24
Apassa S.	December 26



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

### **“News from Pastor Nunes”**

**“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places.”**

#### **Psalm 16:6**

Monique and I are burgeoning with thanksgiving as we come to the boundary of another beautiful year of hospitality, kindness, and grace here at Pilgrim Santa Monica. We marvel in the way God weaves divine love through the lives of people who care.

Two millennia ago, Jesus Christ assumed a bounded existence at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. From his birth in a spare barn to his death on a degrading cross, he lived within the borders of the same human traumas and trials that we all endure. In his crucified flesh “he broke down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Ephesians 2:14)—those divisive borders that keep us from seeing our salvation.

Living in this in-between time—between Jesus’ *resurrection* on the first Easter and his *return-to-come* on the Easter-without-end—we see only in part. One day, we will finally see like we’ve never seen before. For forgiven ones like you and me, Advent offers a glimpse. We stand on our tiptoes peeking into a future of full flourishing. Because love came down, the boundary lines have fallen with blessings for our broken lives.

Prayer:

“Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine.” Amen.

Bianco da Siena



## In Our Prayers. . . .

### Prayers of Intercession

Jan—knee surgery  
Mothers & Babies  
Brad, Enteritis  
Mark F. seriously ill  
Regan K, passing of Dave K.  
Goldie, for peace  
Ralph W. for peace  
For those with Dystonia  
For James, Speech Apraxia  
For Randy—breathing issues  
Mark C.—Lungs  
Roger H. —Hepatitis C  
Medical personnel, first responders  
Hilda's mother Berjik, Health  
Tiffany's mother and family  
Social Justice, End of Racism  
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  
Lamar, needs housing  
Natalie-Restoration  
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  
Peace on Earth toward all people!

### Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Valerie—cancer  
Jackson, lymphoma, friend of  
Kimshelley & Joe  
Valerie in Chicago  
Bob's cousin Doug, pancreatic cancer.  
Ramona's niece Harriett  
and Harriett's' husband  
Dan, both fighting cancer  
JoAnna, breast cancer  
Arthur N.-cancer  
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  
Charles (prostate)  
Rich Z.  
Greg W.  
Paul  
Jill  
Paul  
Arminda, kidney cancer  
**Continued Prayers**  
Protection for Police Of-  
ficers & 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

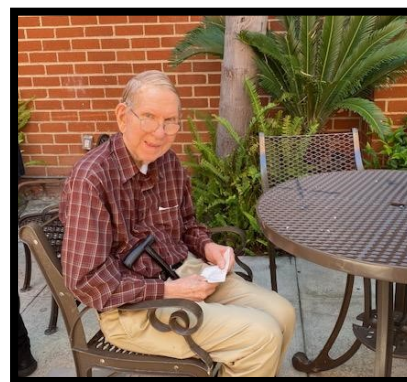




We want to congratulate Greg Bennett and Yana Mendoza on their Wedding that took place November 11, 2023 at Hartley Botanica Gardens. Rev. John Arthur Nunes, PhD performed the ceremony. Lana and her husband Brian Bennet have been long time members at Pilgrim. It was several months ago, after a long term illness, that Brian passed away to be with Jesus. And now the Lord has blessed us with this very special marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Greg Bennett attended our November 26, 2023 Divine Service. Many blessings to you and your family.



Pilgrim presenting Dave with a Rocket in December 2019, in honor of the excellent work he did at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, CA. and in honor of his more than 50 years of service at Pilgrim.



Pastor Nunes and Monique at the Greg and Yana (Mendoza) Bennett wedding.