

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”**

**January 2024**



Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D  
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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
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## January Calendar at a Glance

### Sunday Worship Service Schedule in January

**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.

**January 1** The Circumcision and Name of Jesus

**January 7** †First Sunday after Epiphany, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**January 14** †Second Sunday after Epiphany, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**January 15** Martin Luther King, JR Day, Campus closed

**January 21** †Third Sunday after Epiphany, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**January 22** National Sanctity of Life Day

**January 25** The Conversion of St. Paul

**January 28** † Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion



Thank you to all who helped decorate Pilgrim for Advent/ Christmas .We now need volunteers to help remove our Christmas trees and decorations on Saturday, January 13th.

Bonnie—we want to thank you for your skilled artwork in creating the hand made Candy Cane hand-outs.



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

**January fellowship schedule is:**

**January 7 Carolyn B., January 14 Chloe, January 21, Beverly, January 28 Lana**

**Thank you** to those of you who have been using Pilgrim's on-line giving app via a company called Push-Pay. The company does a lot of work with Christian Churches.

**NOTE:** (Monta “Boom” Ekwant Denow, director of LHM - Thailand) will be with us at Pilgrim on January 7, 2024) She will be on the LHM Float. See the Rose Parade update on the next page. Sara Trickey from LHM will also join us on January 7th. Please be sure to attend our Divine Service on January 7th and meet them!

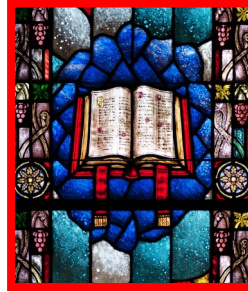
## Sunday Gospel Readings for January 2024

January 7, 2024 Matthew 2:1-12

January 14, 2024 John 1:43-51

January 21, 2024 Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024 Mark 1:21-28



### STRATEGIC PILLARS 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

**Lutheran Hour Ministries Float is #34 in the lineup.** Be sure to look for it on TV on January 1st. This information was obtained on-line via Pasadena Star News.

*Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord*

(Phoenix Decorating Company)

Winner of last year's Director's Award, Lutheran Hour Ministries returns with three oversized trumpets (yellow fine-cut strawflower, gold clover seed, white fine-ground rice, brown coffee, black fine-ground onion seed, bronze and orange fine-cut strawflower) with hanging banners (decorative cords of gold clover seed, lettering of black beans, crosses of white navy beans and red small kidney beans) in a floral garden.

Riders on this year's float include Jeff Craig-Meyer, LHM's president of United States Ministries; Monta "Boom" Ekwanit Denow, director of LHM - Thailand; Eden Keefe, the new president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and pastors and laypeople from throughout Southern California. (Monta "Boom" Ekwanit Denow, director of LHM - Thailand) will be with us at Pilgrim on January 7, 2024)

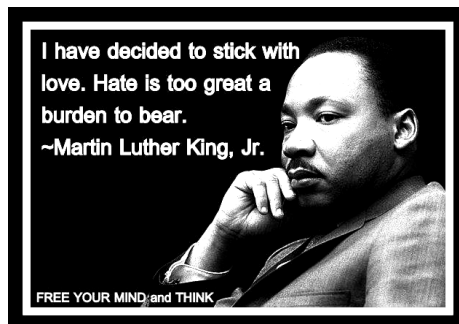


**Pilgrim's beloved Monique Nunes was on the LHM Float last year!**

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 homebound or dealing with health issues in our hearts and minds. Please contact Carolyn B. or Bonnie if you are interested in joining CARE CREW. We recently started this and our Care Crew has been reaching out to those who cannot attend Pilgrim in person and to those who need extra help.

### Church Office and Campus will be Closed Monday January 15th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

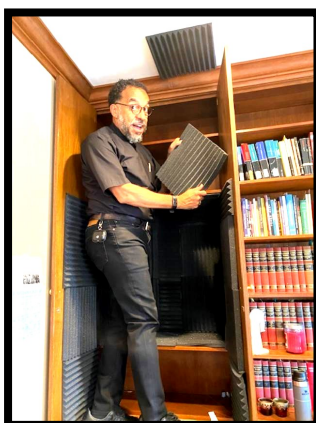
Dr. King’s original name was Michael, but his father, after a visit to Germany where he learned about the Reformer Martin Luther, was so impressed that he changed his name and his son Michael’s name, to Martin. On this day we celebrate the reforming work of Dr. King for the sake of Social Justice



Christmas Eve occurred on a Sunday this year, therefore we held three worship services in 24 hours! The “Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Service” at 10 a.m. on December 24th, then our “Christmas Eve Service” at 6 p.m. on December 24th, then our “Christmas Day” Worship Service at 10 am on December 25th! This was a lot of work for Pastor Nunes, Monique and our music and filming crew. Christmas Eve will not fall on a Sunday again until December 2028! Also—on December 23rd Pastor and Monique attended a Buffalo Bills game here in LA (Inglewood) at Sofi Stadium! Pastor Nunes is a huge Buffalo Bills fan! Fortunately, the Bills won the game!



### 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 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.

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

### **Birthdays in January**

Travis B.	January 10
Pastor Nunes	January 14
Ann E.	January 20
Nancy L.	January 20
Claudia T.	January 27



### **“News from Pastor Nunes”**

#### **Radical Hospitality in 2024**

I wonder what it might look like if we became even more passionate and more disciplined in our exercise of hospitality. Passionate with the indiscriminating love of Jesus. Disciplined with a zeal to do good works. Passionate with the fervor of gratitude for the gift of one another. Disciplined to put dates on our calendars for the Spirit to connect us with new friends.

When we are at our most hospitable, we discover ourselves—our truest selves—through the beauty we find in others. This is difficult work. Because some have fallen so far from whom we need them to be, whom we see them to be; so far from the masterpieces God created them to be. Sin makes the image of God in them unrecognizable. Perhaps what they’ve mastered through practice is becoming unlovable. They resist. But Christians persist. Though some may call them names, we who are named in three splashes of Father, Son, and Spirit do not. These are precisely the people Jesus died to save and saved us to love.

Here are some upcoming tangible opportunities on the horizon for you to join us and exhibit radical hospitality:

**Outdoor Imposition of Ashes**, Ash Wednesday, February 14, 12 noon to 5 PM at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> St and Wilshire Blvd

**Dr Anthony Bradley**, author, speaker, scholar, Friday, February 16 at 6 PM and Sunday, February 18 at Bible Study 9 AM. A joint Pacifica/Pilgrim event.

**Comedy in the Courtyard**, Saturday, March 23 from 2-4 PM: Hosted by Matthew and Chloe, featuring Lizzie Boeck and Jared Kassebaum

Join us and love one another with radical hospitality.

“Let your passion be disciplined. Let your discipline be passionate.”

~St Francis de Sales

Pr John



## In Our Prayers. . . .

### Prayers of Intercession

Pr Nunes' Uncle Arthur passing  
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

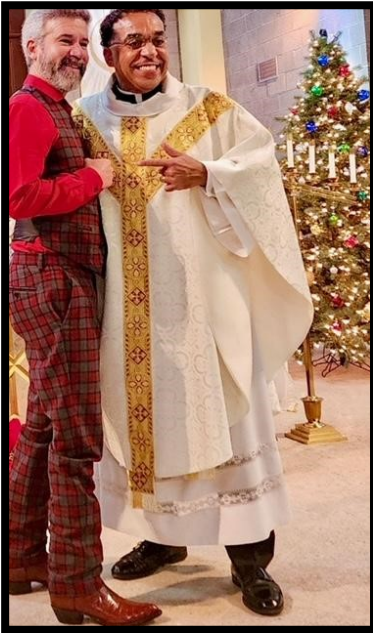
For the Birth of Jesus!  
For our Wonderful Country!  
For Pilgrim's Wonderful Volunteers!

### 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





Thank you to all who helped make Pilgrim's midweek Advent worship services, as well as our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services very special. Mat M. filmed our on-line only Wednesday night midweek Advent services. The music and sermons were wonderful. Our choir and musicians (some hired) helped make our Christmas Eve Service spectacular. Pastor Nunes' sermons were very appropriate. Pilgrim also held a Christmas Day Worship Service. Pilgrim has always held Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services, however many churches no longer do this.



Pastor Nunes has often mentioned his beloved Uncle Arthur, in his sermons and in general conversation. On Christmas Day, 2023, Uncle Arthur passed away. Pastor Nunes considered Uncle Arthur as his "second father." Uncle Arthur had a joyous, charming, charismatic personality that those around him loved. This charm was authentic, never egocentric. Uncle Arthur was also a very intelligent man. Pastor Nunes: Your Pilgrim family loves Monique and you. We think you inherited your Uncle Arthur's intelligence and wonderful personality.

My Uncle Arthur (Mar 5, 1939-Dec 26, 2023), the family patriarch and my second father, died last night. Surrounding him here at his 80th birthday are his wife of 56 years, Aunt Pat (Audrey Nunes), his daughter, Dr Allison Nunes, my Monique, and a grandson, Jordan. May he rest in the light of Christ's peace and rise in glory!

A group photograph of five people. In the foreground, an elderly man with glasses looks towards the camera. Behind him are four other people: a woman in a black jacket, a woman in an orange top, a woman in a black top, and a man in a blue shirt and glasses.



Monique & Pastor's grandchildren visited us!



Photos taken during the special luncheon Pilgrim held in honor and memory of Dave Kendle.

