

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”**

**May 2024**



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

### Sunday Worship Service Schedule in May

8:30 a.m. Bible Class: Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D teaches the Bible Class.

10:00 a. m. Divine Service: Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.

**May 5** † Sixth Sunday of Easter, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**May 6** Holocaust Remembrance Day

**May 5** **Pastor Nunes will speak on the Lutheran Hour!**

**May 9** The Ascension of Our Lord

**May 12** † Seventh Sunday of Easter, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**May 12** Mother's Day

**May 14** **Pilgrim's 110th Anniversary! May 14, 1914 ~ May 14, 2024**

**May 19** † Day of Pentecost. Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**May 26** † Holy Trinity Sunday, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

**May 27** **Memorial Day Observed, Campus Closed**

## Stewardship.....a Way of LIFE!

Cherish what God has given you!

"What good am I?" We sometimes find ourselves in a funk and wonder what our purpose or reason is! That is when we need to take an assessment of just what GIFTS God has given us and then determine how and what he wants us to use them for. On St. Patrick's Day...Lizzie taught us about Shamrocks....rather than Stewardship so as to take away the mental "sting" the word brings to us. It is not a dirty word, rather it is a HOLY word because it is what pleases God. "GIFTS"-- he has blessed us with! Knowing where they come from, I think we are more inclined to use them for everyday blessings to others and for building up of His kingdom.

Every person, young or old, short or tall, to be used for the kingdom. They are there! You don't even have to know Holy Spirit to move you to generosity of generosity, is manifesting of His work for

Ask the Lord to guide you today and in commitment to the work of Pilgrim and/ Dare to pray that the Spirit will move you freedom of knowing that the Lord gives the Gospel of Jesus Christ!



veteran or rookie in the faith have gifts not the same. But those simple gifts are what those gifts are. Just allowing the your service or talents, or to financial the common good.

the coming days as you consider your or to "Santa Monica and beyond." beyond your comfort zone and into the His simple gifts to you for the sake of

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

Watch for a fun Sunday lunch with the Elders and to explore more on Gifts...on **June 23rd**.

**Thank you Jane for scheduling our after worship fellowship:**

**May Fellowship Schedule: May 5 Lana, May 12 Chloe, May 19-Barbara, May 26 Sara & Mat**

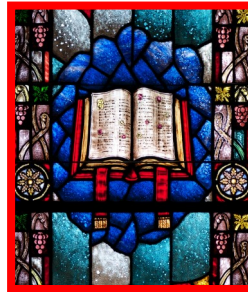
## Sunday Gospel Readings for May 2024

May 5, 2024 John 15:9-17

May 12, 2024 John 17:6-19

May 19, 2024 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26, 2024 John 3:1-17



### 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

**Mother's Day is Sunday May 12th** The fourth Commandment tells us... "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." We therefore, honor the women that serve us as our biological mothers but also as guardians or leaders in our homes, schools, State, Church or wherever their leadership is found. We appreciate our wonderful Pilgrim Women, many are Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, and volunteers here at Pilgrim.

#### Congratulations to:

**Annika Haberl graduated from Pepperdine University on April 27, 2024.** She will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, TN starting in August. Annika has been accepted into the doctoral program in physical therapy. Her major at Pepperdine is Sports Medicine.

**Lucas Rosales graduates from middle school as an honor student on June 7, 2024.**

**Vandrick Van Vactor received his Nursing Degree from Stanbridge University on April 26, 2024. His Pinning Ceremony is May 2, 2024**

Please see celebrations photos on the back page.



**May 2nd Save the Date!** Pastor Nunes has again 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.

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.

**May 19, 2024: Church Directory Launch Sunday!**

As many of you have noticed, we have improved and updated our Pilgrim website. [www.pilgrims.org](http://www.pilgrims.org). We are now including our on-line “Member Directory” via Servant Keeper, on our website and you may go into that software and update your personal contact information and or family information. You may also privately monitor your offering (giving) records. You will receive your own personal password. The information you put into Servant Keeper will be secure. If you have any questions regarding this or need help setting this up go to: [Media@Pilgrims.org](mailto:Media@Pilgrims.org).

In June, we will begin using Servant Keeper as our on-line giving portal. Servant Keeper will replace Push-Pay on-line giving. Additional information will be forthcoming.



**Memorial Day is Observed on May 27th 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 WWII 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.



**Armed Forces Day is Saturday, May 18th.** We thank our God for His defense through the men and women of our Armed Forces. Please keep them in your regular prayers.

## **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 110 th Anniversary, May 14, 1914 ~ May 14, 2024**

### **“News from Pastor Nunes”**

I was elated to again represent Pilgrim Lutheran Church at Santa Monica's National Day of Prayer event on Thursday, May 2, 2024. A variety of prayer leaders for a variety of Christian traditions offered prayers at this outdoor, ecumenical event. Each was given a different prayer topic. I was assigned to offer prayers for The Church.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray, O God of our salvation; that your church might always proclaim Jesus Christ as the center of our joy. He is the author and finisher of our faith; the firstborn from the dead who gives abundant life to all who believe and are baptized. Help us to know Jesus as our source and to follow his course, ...in your mercy,

**Help us, Holy Spirit.**

We pray, God of the harvest, that you might raise up workers to build up your church; fill us with courage to go beyond the four walls of the sanctuary into Santa Monica and beyond; make us brave to go outside of our little, stained-glass ghettos; fill us with prophetic zeal to be good news in the world, ...in your mercy.

**Help us, Holy Spirit**

We pray, God of compassion, that your church might be filled with tender mercy and lovingkindness towards the least of these, the lost, the last, the laughed at, the littlest, the unborn and the unhoused, the overlooked and the leprous among us, ...in your mercy.

**Help us, Holy Spirit.**

We pray, God of unity, for the fellowship of the faithful and for faithfulness in the fellowship. Where the church is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, reform it; where it is warped, straighten it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it, ...in your mercy,

**Help us, Holy Spirit.**

We pray, God of eternity, for the church on earth and the church in heaven, for those who yet assemble with us and for those who are with you, awaiting the day of your second coming, the day of resurrection. Hold us in the palm of your hand until the final in-breaking of your kingdom, that we might see with all the faithful who have gone before us, the full consummation of your power and glory, forever and ever with the church on earth and the church in heaven. Alleluia. Amen.



## In Our Prayers. . . .

Prayers of Intercession

Pam with Parkinson's disease.

Mothers & Babies

Brad, Enteritis

Mark F. seriously ill

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, wrist fractures

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

Corby, 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

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 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 Resurrection 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, 2024, Pilgrim will observe our 110th Anniversary! (May 14, 1914-May 14, 2024.)

### 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 stillstands 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. J.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. Rev. Nunes is a frequent guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour.”

✠ 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 110 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.

