

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”

October 2024



Pilgrim Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
(310) 829-4113
www.pilgrism.org
amenmail@aol.com



October Calendar at a Glance

Sunday Worship Service Schedule October

8:30 a.m. Bible Class: 10:00 a. m. Divine Service: Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.

October 6 † 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

October 13 † 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

October 20 † 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

October 27 † Reformation Day Observed, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

October 31 Reformation Day October 31, 1517– October 31, 2024

Thank you Jane for scheduling our after worship fellowship:

October 6- Mary, October 13 Jane —October 20 —Lana , October 27 -Jane

Stewardship.....a Way of LIFE!

Our annual Congregational Luncheon to review Pilgrim's Progress and our Commitments we made a year ago!

Save the date....Sunday, November 3rd, after Service

11:00 to 1:00, free lunch!

Each family will receive a copy of My Cup Runneth Over, a small LCMS book which has shed a new and inspiring bent on Stewardship in our Christian life. It highlights what our God given, and inspired vocation signifies. **Not** our job or trained occupation but the vocation we hold as Christians in this world. It is the place where we find ourselves exactly where God has planted us for His reasons. He is an amazing God who has designed a creation before and around us that we can either respond to in an attitude of gratitude or not. When we are grateful....it leads us to wear a "mask" of a person who is caring, considerate, and compassionate rather than negativity that only destroys. **We are who God wants us to be in Christ.** In His Son we have a brother, one who shares our flesh and blood, prays for us, and dwells in us. We are members of the family of God by His Spirit dwelling in us. We are loved by a gracious God in Jesus Christ in whom our giving and generous Father fills our cup of blessing until it overflows! Where He is active, there we are active. In our vocations, He is present, to continue to love and give to those in need. When we struggle against the sin in our world and come against temptation, His Spirit fights for us and within us. He gives us more of Himself. We can respond in gratitude in so many ways and further His work here in our community. Let's strive to become better Pilgrims here in Santa Monica and beyond and let others experience our "Christian mask!"

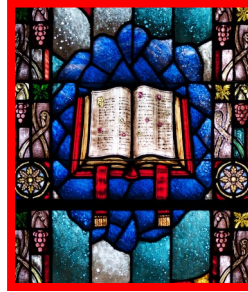
Sunday Gospel Readings for October, 2024

October 6, 2024 Mark 10:2-16

October 13, 2024 Mark 10:17-31

October 20, 2024 Mark 10:35-45

October 27, 2024 Mark 10:46-52



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

Updates from Pastor Upchurch



I love the month of October! I especially love celebrating two significant events that occur towards the end of the month: Reformation Sunday and Halloween! For a Lutheran Pastor to look forward to Reformation Sunday might seem obvious, but for that same Pastor looking forward to the celebration of Halloween? Well, that might seem a little strange. But here's the thing. Dressing up like Elvis, or a butterfly, or a ghost, or a witch, like we did a few years ago is fun! It's the one time we can walk around with little to no judgment, while collecting candy and treats in the process. We all like to put on masks at some point in our lives and that's OK. But did you also know that masks can be viewed as theological? A few weeks ago in our readings we heard Jesus say this: **"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all (Mark 9:35).** It's the "servant of all" part that's so important, not only for our lives, but the lives of others. And here is where the masks

come in. You see, our God has done everything to reconcile us to himself through the work of Jesus. Through faith in him, we have the promise of sins forgiven and life in his name. But our Lord is not done with us when it comes to serving our neighbors. In whatever vocation he has called us, whether that be a daughter or son, a mother or father, a farmer, a teacher, a nurse, an accountant, a church worker, or the thousands of other positions God has placed us, we are the masks of our Lord's love. He uses us to do his work in the world for the good of creation. I'm reminded of my father. For many years he was a farmer. One of his main crops was cotton. He wore the mask of God raising those crops for the good of society. So did the workers at the factory who turned that cotton into cloth. So did the people who turned that cloth into clothing. So did the store owners who sold those clothes to the public—all thanks to the masks. We might think that God is hidden but he's really not. Behind our unique masks he works through us to give others his gifts!

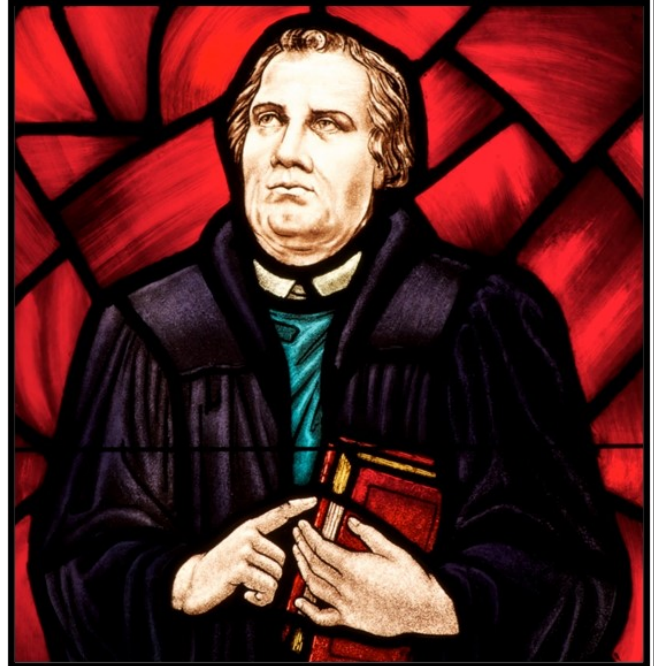
Pastor Lew

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 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 Zabelle if you are interested in joining CARE CREW. Our Care Crew has been reaching out to those who cannot attend Pilgrim in person and to those who need extra help.

Luther’s Reformation Celebrates 507 Years!

On October 31st we will celebrate more than a “half a millennium” of Reformation freedom. On this day in 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Thesis on the Church door in Wittenberg, Germany and began the “Reformation of Christendom,” calling God’s people back to the Gospel, and away from man-made rules and pronouncements. Martin Luther was able to lead this Reform by the power of the Holy Spirit, speaking through the Words of Scripture. *Romans 1:17. “In the Gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by Faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by Faith.”* These words continue to have power to reform the human soul even today. Solely by Grace, Faith and Scripture! (Our Reformation Worship Service will begin in front of our 18th Street church doors, Sunday, October 27th.)

PHOTO: Pilgrim’s Luther Stained Glass window in Narthex.



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like Pastor Upchurch to include during our worship service prayers, please fill out this for and place it in the offering plate. If you prefer the prayer to be confidential, please note Confidential on the form.

Submitted by:
(Your name is not required.)

We now have a Prayer Request form you may fill out during the worship service. The form is in the back of the pew with the supplemental offering envelopes. Please place it in the offering plate and Pastor Upchurch will receive it and pray for your request.

Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in October

Susan Z.	October 13
Sylvia H.	October 15
Stephen K.	October 16
Michael A.	October 23
Joshua N.	October 23
Allen G.	October 26
Chris M.	October 30
Reformation	October 31



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

October 17th is “Earthquake Shake Out Day”

For years, we in California have observed the month of October as “Earthquake shake out day. We have “Earthquake Drills” in our offices and schools. The Red Cross and First Responders (Fire Departments and Police Departments) participate in these drills and TV News reporters film some of the drills. Check and update your earthquake supplies. Make sure your food and water is not outdated, make sure your First Aid Kit is up to date. If you are on prescription medication, make sure you can keep some of it in your emergency supplies. Perhaps your doctor can give you some prescription samples to store in your earthquake kits. Have a Bible in your kit! Have emergency radios and batteries, flashlights, clothing, work gloves, sun screen, shoes and hats ready. Have a pry bar and hammer ready in case you need to open a jammed door. It is a good idea to have three types of Earthquake Kits. The supplies you keep in the house, in a safe location, a “Grab and Go Bag” to take with you if you need to leave the house, and a small earthquake kit in your car. If you have pets, make sure you have food and water for them, and a carrying case if you need to evacuate. Keep a list of phone numbers of friends and relatives in your earthquake kit and have at least one out of state contact you can notify if you have telephone or cell phone working. Calling out of state will decrease the burden on our local phone service. Have a cell phone charger with you so when the service is back up, you can keep in contact with people. It is a good idea to have face masks in your eq kit to protect you from debris and smoke.

This year's International ShakeOut Day is October 17, when millions of people worldwide will participate in earthquake drills at work, school, or home! At 10:17 am (local time) on 10/17, you can join millions of people across California practicing [earthquake safety](#). While we encourage you to participate with everyone, you can [register](#) your ShakeOut drill for any day of the year, and drill at a time of your choice. You can also include people in multiple locations through video conferencing.

In Our Prayers. . . .

For those affected by Hurricane Helene including Pr. Upchurch's family.

For Allen's health

For Dr. Winge's patients

For Rev. RZ Meyer & Carrie—health issues.

Pam with Parkinson's disease.

For Fran, 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

Medical personnel, first responders

Hilda's mother Berjik, Health

Hilda's husband Jim, seriously ill

Tiffany's mother and family

Grace, Dystonia

Edith A. shoulder

Jim K, myasthenia gravis & cancer

Julia A. fibromyalgia, arthritis

Cyndy for heart issues

Mary's mother Jean

Pastor G. health and eyesight

Frank, ALS

Annie, Cystic Fibrosis

Greater Evangelism

Marriage difficulties

Unemployment

Lamar, found housing!

Zackary, needs housing

Mary Ann's health

Sharon C. -Healing

Kathy H's sister Alice—MS

For Missionaries

Laurie's mother

Abused children

Peace on Earth toward all people!

Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Corby, cancer

Valerie—cancer

Jackson, lymphoma, friend of Kimshelley & Joe

Valerie in Chicago

Ramona's niece Harriett

and Harriett's husband

Dan, both fighting cancer

JoAnna, breast 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, we may bring unbelievers to Jesus Christ. For those who are already believers, we ask that they continue to support Pilgrim and increase in-person participation here at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, CA.

In Jesus Name, Amen



Portals of Prayer October—December are available in The Narthex. This is a Concordia publication With daily devotional messages of encouragement for all of us. Scripture is also included for each day. This is published quarterly. We also have a large Print edition available.

Copies of the ***Santa Monica Star Newspaper*** are located on a table in the Narthex. This is a monthly **All Good News** publication. Pilgrim has a beautiful monthly advertisement in this paper. They cover local events, give updates on local Santa Monica/ West L.A. citizens. Reading this newspaper will make you feel happy and connected to our wonderful Santa Monica!

**EARTHQUAKE
WARNING
CALIFORNIA**



From Pastor Ken Frese
earthquake.ca.gov
MyShake App

For those of you who know Pastor Frese, he does earthquake and emergency preparedness instructions. He has held conferences at Pilgrim and we like him very much.

Feeling a little “shook up” lately? Seismologists tell us that a series of little earthquakes can be the prelude to the Big One we are expecting here in Southern California. During National Preparedness Month it’s a good idea to prepare yourself and your loved ones for the catastrophic earthquake predicted to come at any time. A useful resource is the official earthquake website for the State of California – earthquake.ca.gov.

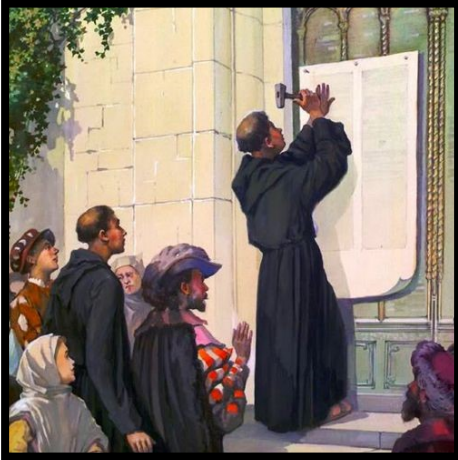
This website provides accurate, up-to -date information on how to be prepared, as well as access to the free **MyShake App**. The MyShake App utilizes California’s Earthquake Early Warning system to deliver warnings to people via cell phones before the strongest shaking arrives. Seconds to tens of seconds of alert can provide opportunity to take life-saving actions such as Drop, Cover, and Hold On and put devices into various forms of a safe mode. For the first time, you can receive warning of an earthquake before you feel shaking!

Thank you to: Bonnie, Carolyn, Barbara, Lana and Ramona

They held a wonderful “Pacifica Staff Appreciation Luncheon” on Tuesday, September 17th. The fellowship and interaction with the Pacifica staff was heart warming. The food was excellent and our beloved Ramona baked a cake and had Carolyn bring it to the event! Pastor Upchurch was able to attend this event and the Pacifica Staff enjoyed meeting with him and enjoyed his charming personality! See photos on the back page.



Thank you to those who provided a special luncheon on September 17th, for the Pacifica Staff! Carolyn, Lana, Bonnie, Barbara. Ramona made a delicious cake!



Pastor Frese holding our 2021 Reformation Sunday Observed event. Note the masks we had to wear during Covid!

