

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”
September 2024**



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



September Calendar at a Glance

Sunday Worship Service Schedule September

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

September 1 † 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

September 2 Labor Day Campus Closed

September 8 † 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

September 11 Patriot Day

September 15 † 17th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

September 22 † 18th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

September 29 † 19th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m.

Thank you Jane for scheduling our after worship fellowship:

**September 1—Lana, September 8—Barbara, September 15—Mary, September 22—Chloe,
September 29—Carolyn.**

Stewardship.....a Way of LIFE!

The gift of FAITHFUL Stewardship

God was pleased. With whom was He pleased? His Son Jesus of course! But have you ever wondered why? What had Jesus done up to this point to cause such pleasure for His Father? Well, He didn't get murdered by Herod. He was in the temple like a good Jewish boy. He hadn't done anything exceptional. Nothing spectacular to inspire pleasure in the Father has been seen yet.



[This Photo](#) by Un-

But that is what gives us the greatest stewardship lesson. Stewardship isn't about the spectacular. You don't have to give millions of dollars to be a Father-pleasing steward. You don't have to go to Africa for mission work to get the same kind of "atta boy" from God. Stewardship that is faithful and God pleasing is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because she is a gift from God. It is a mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night because she has been given this new life to steward. It is a child doing their level best because their talents are gifts from God.

cause their talents are gifts from God.

This happens every day. You have been doing it. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of Jesus' love and so many other mundane efforts are stewardship. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given.

The Father was well pleased with Jesus because of what He had done up to that point. He was also well pleased with what He was going to do. The same is true of you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what He knows you will do. He knows you will heed His Word and answer His call. He has given you all the grace you need to be His faithful steward.

With you He is well pleased.

Sunday Gospel Readings for September, 2024

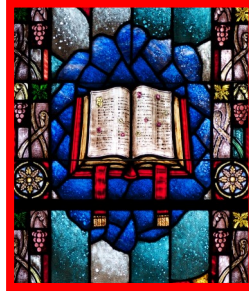
September 1, 2024 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8, 2024 Mark 7:24-37

September 15, 2024 Mark 8:27-38

September 22, 2024 Mark 9:30-37

September 29, 2024 Mark 9:38-50



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

We held a welcoming event after the worship service on September 1st. For Vacancy Pastor Lew Upchurch and his wife Lisa.

We are thankful for his enthusiastic commitment to our Pilgrim Family. We enjoy Pastor Upchurch's knowledge and sense of humor. His gifted sermons seem to connect with each of us in so many ways. His children are also very devoted LCMS workers and you may read about them in his biography on the next page. This photo shows rays of sunshine greeting both of them. Photo of Lisa and two of their children in photo below.



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 Carolyn B. or Bonnie 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.

In the United States, Patriot Day occurs on September 11 of each year in memory of the people killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. [Wikipedia](#)

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024



Labor Day Is September 2, 2024 this year.

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday of September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements in the United States. [Wikipedia](#)

Date: Monday, September 2, 2024

Event Length: 1 Day

Observed for: 142 years

Celebrations: Parades, barbecues

Related to: [Labour Day](#)

Type: [International Workers' Day](#), [US Federal holiday](#)

A graphic for a Prayer Requests form. It features a small image of a lit candle and hands clasped in prayer. The text reads: "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." Below the text are four horizontal lines for writing. At the bottom, it says "Submitted by:" followed by "(Your name is not required.)".

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 September

Pastor A.	September 2
Bob N.	September 2
John K.	September 10
Mary H.	September 20
Beth O.	September 20
Nick. B.	September 23
Lana B.	September 28



Anniversaries in September

Michael and Julia's Wedding Anniversary is September 6th!

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

Reverend Lew Upchurch, III

Associate Pastor: Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, CA (2022-2024)

Associate Pastor: Hope Lutheran Church, Wake Forest, NC (2011-2022)

Primary Responsibilities

- Regular Preaching
- Care and Visitation
- Adult Education Coordination
- Assimilation of New Members
- Primary Counselor
- Oversight of Small Groups
- Funerals and Weddings

I am a NC native. I am married to Lisa and we have five wonderful children and one grandchild. Maddie is married to Wes. Maddie is the PSD President's Administrative Assistant and Wes teaches theology at Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine. They have a son, Marvin. Isabelle is married to Adam. Isabelle is a called teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran in Orange, CA and Adam serves as the DCE at Salem Lutheran in Orange. Max is married to Alexis. Max is pursuing a graduate degree at Concordia University, Irvine and Alexis serves as the DCE at Abiding Savior Lutheran in Lake Forest, CA. Mimi is a rising junior at Crean Lutheran High School and Phoebe is a rising fifth grader at Christ Lutheran in Costa Mesa.

I enjoy spending time outdoors, especially hiking, trail running, biking, and walking. I also enjoy cooking for my family.

After spending 25 years in medical and pharmaceutical sales, I am truly humbled to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as a Pastor in His Church.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis 2011, Pastoral Certification.

High Point University 1993, BA History



In Our Prayers. . . .

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
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 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 July—September 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!

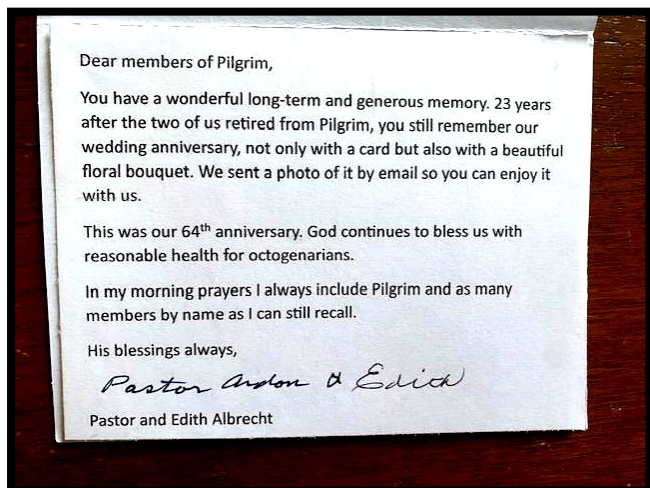
PACIFICA IS HOLDING A SPECIAL EVENT AND PILGRIM IS INVITED. GUEST SPEAKER: DAN CHURCHWELL “AI AND THE NATURE OF WORK.”

09/20/2024 — 09/20/2024 AT 06:00PM - 09:00PM PST

GUEST SPEAKER: DAN CHURCHWELL: AI AND THE NATURE OF WORK Technological disruption and the future of work are becoming a daily conversation topic. Techno-optimists promise that artificial intelligence and machine learning will solve most of our problems, while techno-pessimists see a techastrophe looming over the horizon. In this talk, we will engage the range of technological issues affecting our daily lives and assess their effect on free and virtuous societies. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 6:00 - 9:00 PM PACIFICA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL & PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH 1730 WILSHIRE BLVD, SANTA MONICA 90403 Mr. Churchwell will also lead a Socratic seminar with students, from 10:00 - 1:00 pm engaging in the topic of AI & Education.

<https://www.pacificachristian.org/>

REGISTER ON-LINE FOR THIS EVENT



Thank you note from Pastor Albrecht and Edith, with photo of anniversary flowers Pilgrim sent to them.





Photos taken from the Welcome Event Pilgrim held for Vacancy Pastor and Lisa and two of his children. We appreciate them very much. And thank you to Carolyn and those who supplied and set up the food.