

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”

November 2024



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



November Calendar at a Glance

Sunday Worship Service Schedule November

8:30 a.m. Bible Class: 10:00 a. m. Divine Service: Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.
November 3 † All Saints Sunday, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
November 10 † 25th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
November 17 † 26th Sunday after Pentecost, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
November 24 † Christ the King, Last Sunday of the Church Year, Divine Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
November 28 † Thanksgiving Day Worship Service online at 10 a.m.

Thank you Jane for scheduling our after worship fellowship:

November 3 —Barbara, November 10—Nahed, November 17—Lana, November 24—Carolyn



Join us!
Annual Congregational LUNCHEON
SUNDAY Nov. 3rd, after service
In the Pilgrim Gym
Free...just come...members & friends
Come enjoy other Pilgrim folks...and talk about how we can be inviting to others outside our own sphere!
...to Santa Monica and beyond

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UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP EVENTS:

SUNDAY, 11/10 WE'LL OPEN LAST YEAR'S COMMITMENTS IN "THE CHURCH"
SUNDAY 11/24 COMMITMENT SUNDAY – BRING 2025 COMMITMENTS

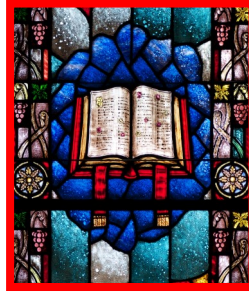
Sunday Gospel Readings for November, 2024

November 3, 2024 John 11: 32-44

November 10, 2024 Mark 12:38-44

November 17, 2024 Mark 13:1-8

November 24, 2024 John 18:33-37



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

“The Opposite of What We Might Expect”



We know what’s going on in our country and around the world with natural disasters, wars and political division, just to name a few. We read about it. We see it. We stress about it. We pray about it. And even if we’re not directly in the middle of such things, life can be challenging for us all, to say the least. That’s why a National Day of Thanksgiving is so important. Because it should be a time to pause and thank God for all the ways he has blessed this country of ours, including the freedom we have to worship. And our celebrations should be rather simple. A prayer of thanks. Food, family and friends, maybe even a football game. It should be day to kind of take a break and reflect on our many blessings instead of dwelling on what we lack.

But for so many of us, the challenges of life can overshadow what this day should be all about. The travel and the traffic. The marketing machine that continues to encourage us to use the day to get a head-start on our Christmas shopping. The petty fights and disagreements when we finally get together. Before we know it, this day that should be a day to give thanks to God almighty for his providential care becomes the opposite of what we might expect.

But you know what? The opposite of what we might expect is exactly what happened to Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross bridged the distance between God and us, proven by his resurrection on Easter morning. He’s the one who reaches out to us, through the ups and downs of life. He’s the one who forgives us, renews us, and gives us the promise of his eternal love. It’s the opposite of what we might expect, but it’s God’s way! This Thanksgiving may we all, “Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 106).

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.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 3rd.

Just a reminder to set your clocks back an hour Saturday night, November 2nd. Otherwise you will be an hour early for church, which will be good because you will be just in time to attend Bible Class! Also, this is a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries.



We will keep you updated on our December Worship Services.

Wednesday Night Advent Worship Services.

The services will be probably be held on-line only, at 6 p.m. We will let you know.

December 4, 11, 18.

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Service will be held in person and on-line.

Thank you to all who made Pilgrim’s October 13th Pastor Appreciation Day a huge success! Mat made a beautiful Thank You sign for Pastor Upchurch, Jane and Henry Stoffers provided fun balloons and wonderful food. We also sang Happy Birthday to Lisa, Pastor Upchurch’s wife even though she was not able to be with us. Photos of the event are on the back cover.

A "WELCOME" visitor information card. The header says "WELCOME WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE". Below that, it says "We would love to connect with you, please take a moment to fill out any information in this card." There are three lines for "Name", "Email", and "Phone". Under "I am interested in...", there are three radio button options: "Just visiting", "Serving", and "Learning more about this church". There is also an option for "Speaking with the Pastor". Below that is a section for "Prayer Requests" with two lines. At the bottom, it says "All prayers remain private unless you discuss ongoing prayer options with the Pastor." and "CONTINUED ON BACK" with a right-pointing arrow.

We now have Visitor information cards in the back of each pew, with the supplemental offering envelopes. You may also write a prayer request on this card, and place it in the offering plate. We Welcome our visitors!

Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in November

Rebecca S. November 5
Pearl R. November 6 (Remembered)
Kevin E. November 6
Martin Luther November 10 (Born in 1483)
Kimshelley L November 21
Sue P. November 22



Anniversaries in November

Gaye and Dietmar ~ Nahed & Anthony

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



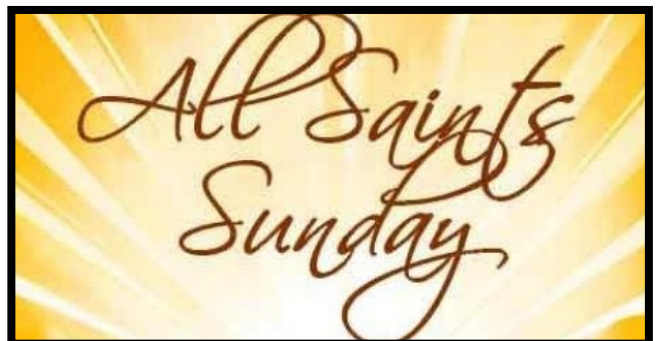
“O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever.” Pilgrim’s *Annual Thanksgiving Day Worship Service* will be held on **On- line only**, on Thanksgiving Day, November 28th at 10 a.m. **You may also watch this service later in the day, or even days later.** Our worship services are not deleted. This special Worship Service and message will help us remember our wonderful Lord and what He has done for us.

Thank you, Bonnie for your beautiful Fall decorating!

All Saints’ Sunday

On November 3, 2024, All Saints’ Sunday will be observed. We have a special form for you to fill out with the name of a loved one who has passed away during the year.

If you wish, fill out the form and Kathy or an usher will pick it up and give it to Pastor Upchurch. He will then read those names during the worship service.



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 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 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! **Pastor Upchurch wrote the November Santa Monica Star “Clergy Corner” this month!**

Christmas Decorating Party!



We will decorate for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 30th, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. This is always a fun time, as we listen to Christmas music while we decorate. We decorate the Sanctuary with the classic symbols that highlight remembrance of Advent and Christmas as we listen to our favorite Christmas songs. We will clean, decorate and prepare for this joyous season. We have fun working and fellowshiping together as we bless God’s Church in preparation for the Christ Child. We need men to help assemble and put up the two large Christmas Trees! It is exciting to walk into the Sanctuary the next morning as we view all the beautiful decorations! Please join us! The members of the congregation arrive for Worship Service the next morning, and appreciate the decorating that was done the day before!

We will find out how and if the Santa Monica City Nativity Scene decorating will take place. Calvary Baptist Church on 20th and Broadway has allowed Santa Monica Churches to set up on their property, for several years. We appreciate their allowing us to do this. Due to financial matters, regarding the annual taking down and storing each church's Nativity Scene, and then transporting them back into Santa Monica and assembling each booth, not all churches will be able to set up this year. The committee plans to only have booths honoring Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Probably only five booth setups this year. Last year they were not able to let any church set up a booth, again, due to financial issues with the high cost of storing each booth, etc. In order for the well known Santa Monica Nativity Scenes to continue this well known tradition, the Nativity Scene Committee asked Pilgrim and other churches to donate \$1,000.00 to help with the cost involved. Pilgrim donated \$1,000.00 with the help of a Pilgrim member.



Celebrating
Pastor Appreciation Day
on October 13th

