



Vol. 67 Issue 12, December, 2023



The church council is thrilled to announce Christ Lutheran Church's new pastor, The Reverend Nicole Fielder, affectionately known as Pastor Nikki.

Pastor Nikki (she/her) comes to us from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Simi Valley where she has served as Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry for the past 6 years. She is originally from Minnesota, but has lived in southern California most of her life. At California Lutheran University Pastor Nikki received her Bachelor of Arts in Religion and minored in Mathematics. She then attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN where she received her Master of Divinity with a focus in Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

Pastor Nikki has the privilege of being a specialized generalist as a pastor, committed to the love and care of God's people, young and old. Her pastoral ministry thus far has been centered around family faith formation, caring especially for children, youth and their families, in the congregation and at our local Lutheran Bible Camp- El Camino Pines (LRCC). Having special gifts in building relationships, Pastor Nikki is popular with church members of all ages, and she is especially known to strengthen multigenerational connections.

Nikki met her now husband Scott working as a summer camp counselor with Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences in 2004. They have been married for 13 years and both serve as pastors in the ELCA with Pastor Scott specializing in interim ministry.

In ministry, Pastor Nikki has a deep commitment to nurturing faith in people of all ages, collaborative work, experimenting with new ways to be church, and living authentic lives of faith. She enjoys the outdoors, live theatre, new foodie adventures, fun socks, and kindness.

Pastor Nikki will start her call on January 1, 2024. Thank you to the Call Committee – Robin Black, Claudia Fitzpatrick, Greg Koch, Stephanie Murray, Matthew Timney, Shannon Timney (chair), and DJesus Trujillo – for their dedication this past year working through the detailed call process. They have also expressed their gratitude to you, the congregation, for entrusting them with this important task.

Pastor Laurie will continue to lead Christ Lutheran Church through the end of the year. We cannot express our gratitude to her enough for helping us to emerge from the pandemic, transition us through leadership changes, and guide us through our year of revival.

Overall, the excitement around the church is palpable. The next couple of months will be filled with events as we wish Pastor Laurie Godspeed, celebrate the birth of Jesus, and welcome Pastor Nikki. Stay tuned for announcements in worship, in our Friday Eblast, and on Facebook for all the celebrations to come.

Preschool News



Friday, November 3rd, we closed for a staff development day. Our staff went to the CRECEF conference in San Marino with guest speaker Ronald Mah. The topic was dealing with challenging behavior, how to talk with parents and strengthening resiliency.

Sunday, November 5th, Music Maker students were invited to sing at the 9:30am service. This has been a great way to include Preschool Families with Church.

On the 22nd we celebrated Thanksgiving with individual classroom feasts. The children had lots of fun making centerpieces and placemats to decorate their tables. They also sang a song and said a prayer before the meal. Pictures and video were posted on the Procure app for parents to see.

Our pajama day will be on November 30th. We will have a school-wide pajama day where the children can come to school in their pajamas and we will collect donations of new pajamas and new or gently used books to donate to LSS.

We will have a special family outing on Dec 6th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We will start with cookies and coco and then board the open air double decker bus and listen to a live guitar player leading us in Christmas carols as we take in all of the beautiful lights. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" will be on Friday, December 15th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. All of the children participate. Room 4 & 5 will be our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 will be angels, Room 2 will be little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 will be shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 will be the star and "wise babies".

The children will be singing with the church choir on Saturday, December 16 at 4pm. There is a chili cook off and a potluck supper following the concert; everyone is welcome.

We are thanking and celebrating Pastor Laurie's time with us by having a luncheon on Sunday, the 17th following worship. Everyone attending is encouraged to make a financial gift toward the meal and the gifts being presented to her.

We will be closed for winter break December 22 through January 1st. School will resume on January 2nd. During the break, we will be getting our playground re-done. We will be replacing the infant play structure and rubber surfacing on the infant yard. We will be adding a gas station and replacing the swings, clubhouse, and play structure on the preschool yard. We are excited to see the finished product!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Lisa Clinton

By the time you read this in our December Newsletter, Commitment Sunday will be in our rear window, and I have a few predictions to make:



Our "Egg-Bake O'Rama" was a great success! Over 50 members attended!

Most members brought their pledges for next year. Thank you very much!

Some members were not able to attend and have not had a chance to turn in a pledge card yet. There is still plenty of time, but our budget process starts soon, and we can't make plans for next year if we don't know your intentions.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to CLC!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Petrbook, Stewardship Chair

Saturday, December 2nd, at 10am our 4th **annual Christmas Market begins**. We have over 35 vendors with unique holiday gifts and delicious food offerings.

Saturday, December 9th starting at 10am, we need assistance **decorating the sanctuary** for Christmas. Please come and give a hand, even for a couple of hours.

Sons of Norway meets on Saturday, December 9th at noon in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Sunday, December 10th There will be an **ornament making workshop**. Please rsvp through the church office or use this QR code.



Thursday, December 14th, is the **OWLs in the Nest Lunch**. Join us in the conference room for lunch and good fellowship. We'll have something festive going on as well.

Saturday, December 16th 4pm is the **Christmas Choir and Carol Sing** and we will celebrate together afterward with a **chili cookoff and potluck supper**.

Sunday, December 17th, at 1130am, we are hosting a **luncheon for Pastor Laurie and her family**, as a thank you and farewell.

Lutheran Maritime Ministry



Lutheran Maritime Ministry requests the items listed below for Christmas Gifts for the International Seafarers Center. The seafarers are very grateful for these gifts, and your thoughtful concern for them during the holiday season.

Please bring a Christmas gift bag filled with items from this list. The staff at the Seafarer Center will add bibles, devotionals and other appropriate spiritual support materials.

Suggested Items (full size only, no samples):

Body wash, shampoo, shave cream (some brands make a 3-in-one product)
Deodorant, comb, socks,
Tooth paste, toothbrush
Note pads, pens, envelopes

Other Gift Items:

Knit Watch Caps (Neutral colors & no pom poms or tassels please)
Cologne or aftershave
Microwave popcorn, chewing gum, deck of cards, cup soup Individually wrapped hard candy (no chocolate)

**Deadline for Christ Lutheran to
receive : December 18**

We will once again be collecting pajamas and books for children attending Lutheran Social Services Christmas Party



During the Black Friday sales and the Cyber Shopping days would be a great



time to get some deals on little pairs of jammies for babies, toddlers, and young kids.

The children are given an age appropriate book to go with their pj's at the Christmas party, so we are looking for donations of those too. New or gently used are most welcome. Please drop these items off at church on Sunday, December 10th or make arrangements with Kim for weekday drop off.

Lutheran Social services will need volunteers again this year to help get things ready for the community party on Friday, December 15. Please contact Claudia Fitzpatrick if available to help.



Members at Home or in Care Centers: Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Sydney Nichols, and Frances Willms.

+ Those serving in our nation's Military, especially Samuel Brown, Ryan Dorris, Morgan Llewellyn, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.

Those struggling with illness or other concerns: Don Darnauer, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Chris and Sheryl Hunter, Kathy Klute-Nelson, Karen Koch, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Kurt Weisel, Rich Williams, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.



***Family & Friends:** Carolina, Chad, Barrett, Michael, Noah, John Baker, Lois Brown, Zach Burkard, Sue, Charlie and David Corm, Mary Croes, Denise Davis, Tamara Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Gina Barvy Fournier, Alberta Gray, Cindy Gray, Barbara Hagar, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Doris Jung, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Sue Lance, Ronda Lynn, Farnaz Perl, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, Tom Sievers, Marie Spangler, Christine Storm, Von, Vicki Thompson, Jessica and Jenny West.

12/3	Angel Trujillo
12/6	Shirley Pierce
12/8	Judy Haenn
12/13	Daniel Peralta
12/13	Linda Zimmerman
12/15	Claudia Fitzpatrick
12/17	Robin Black
12/18	Renu Moon
12/19	Angie Nelson
12/23	Annette Rodrigues
12/27	Pat Barnett

We pray for the ongoing work of:

+ Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia

+ First responders who provide safety, security, and care

Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497

Return Service Requested



Mission Statement

Living by Christ's example,
 we welcome, serve, and love
 all through God's grace.

Vision Statement

Embracing the truth that God's love
 and grace is for all, Christ
 Lutheran Church is a vibrant
 and active community spreading
 the good news through acceptance,
 action, and benevolence.

Our Position

Christ is ALIVE!

January Newsletter Deadline: December 15

Life In Christ
 Is the newsletter of

Christ Lutheran Church
6500 Stearns Street
Long Beach, CA 90815-3497
562.598.2433

www.christlutheranlb.com

[email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Please join us in person for Sunday
 Worship 9:30am**
**Live on FB or later on YouTube
 Channel**



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook.

facebook.com/christlutheranlb