



Vol. 68 Issue 1, January, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this letter, we are preparing for Christmas celebrations at Christ Lutheran. And the arrival of Rev. Nicole Fielder (Pr. Nikki) as the permanent pastor called to serve CLC! It's a perfect time of year to reflect on all that has happened during the 19 months as your Interim Pastor. I am so blessed to have been a part of this wonderful community of faith and work alongside so many of you to share the love of Jesus!

I have been thrilled and encouraged by the creative energy and am so grateful for the many hands, hearts and minds that stepped forward (and up) to fill in what was needed to allow this community to grow and thrive. It has been exciting for me to see the many gifted people use the energy of the Holy Spirit in serving our neighbors, leading in new ways, and inviting others to be part of sharing God's love to the world.

From worship planning to visiting homebound members, from working with Council and committees to property upgrades, from Preschool chapel to Lenten Soup Lunches, from baptisms to funerals, the life of faith at Christ Lutheran is VIBRANT! Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Interim Pastor.

There are so many 'thank you's that I have heard from you, but I have to say a big 'thank you' right back to you all for the many ways you have supported me and the ministry at Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool. I truly appreciate the cards, the kinds words, the gifts and most of all the smiles over the past few weeks.

Many of you have asked where I will go when I leave CLC on December 31st. To which I have replied "home", with a giggle, because I have so many projects planned for the New Year.

I look forward to all the ways the mission of Christ's church on earth will be realized through each of you alongside Pr. Nikki's leadership. I will hold you in my prayers.

In service to Jesus Christ,

Pr. Laurie Arroyo



Preschool News

November 30th was our annual Pajama Day event. We collected 75 pairs of pajamas and a lot of books. Claudia Fitzpatrick delivered them to Lutheran Social Services for them to pass out at their Christmas party. They were truly appreciative of our generosity. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped in making someone's Christmas special this year!

We had a special family outing on Dec 6th with a Christmas lights tour of Naples on the Big Red Bus. We had about 45 people attend. We started with cookies and cocoa at Marni's and then boarded the bus for the tour. What a fun and unique way to get in the Christmas spirit!

Our annual Christmas program, "Who Is Coming to Our House" was on Friday, December 15th at 3:30pm in the sanctuary. Room 4 & 5 were our stable animals and Mary & Joseph, Room 3 were angels, Room 2 were little drummer boys & girls, Room 1 was the shepherd and sheep, and Room 6 was the star and "wise babies". We enjoyed cookies and cocoa in the courtyard following the program.

We celebrated our last Chapel with Pastor Laurie on Thurs December 21st. Parents were invited to join. Pastor Laurie has built such a strong relationship with the preschool and their families, and we will truly miss working with her. We thank her for her time here and wish her all the best!

We closed for winter break December 22 through January 1st. School resumed on January 2nd. During the break, we started construction on our playground. The playground remodel includes: new rubber surfacing and infant play structure on the infant yard and new bench, trash can, swings, clubhouse and play structure and the addition of a gas station play panel on the preschool yard. We are hoping to finish up the playground by Friday, January 5th. (Continued on next page.)

What an exciting start to the new year it will be with the new playground and welcoming Pastor Nikki! During January, the teachers will be working on student assessments, and we will begin planning for our Auction which will be on Friday, 3/8/24. We will also have a special snow day with a 20x20 foot area of "snow" from Long Beach Ice Company.

Happy New Year!

Lisa Clinton

Your efforts and gifts bring joy to our community.

Dear Pastor and Friends of Christ Lutheran Church in Long Beach,

On behalf of our entire team at Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, we wanted to express our deepest gratitude for your generous contribution to our 28th Annual Christmas Celebration. Your support played a vital role in making this event a success. From the delicious meal to the laughter-filled bouncy basketball house, every aspect of the celebration was made possible by your kindness. The joy on the faces of the 83 families, 123 adults, and 228 children in attendance is a testament to the impact of your generosity.

The gifts, pajamas, books, beanies, monetary support, and gift cards provided by you and our other supporters made it possible for us to bring smiles and holiday cheer to those in need.

Your commitment to making a difference in the lives of others has truly made this Christmas memorable for our program participants.

Thank you once again for your generous support. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Wendy Rubio, LSSSC Staff and Volunteers

Reflections from COA Executive Director

Our declared year of kindness has continued throughout the year. Once we declared this year of kindness, my awareness of the kindness of others, bubbled up. Acts of kindness, small and large, seem to be all around me that I did not notice before our declaration. These actions may never be seen or heard, but my own awareness has helped me recognize the scope of people's kindness. What I have begun to understand is that we do not often realize just how much kindness is around each of us.

Our goal at COA is to carry out acts of kindness with no expectation of notice or reward as that is the true act of kindness. I want to share some quotes that others have shared with me about kindness:

A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve.

... Joseph Joubert

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.

... The Dalai Lama

HUMAN. KIND. BE BOTH

Blessings,

Dixie Dohrmann

Dixie Dohrmann, Executive Director COA Long Beach



Tuesday, January 2nd, Pastor Nicole (Nikki) Fielder will begin her first day on the job as our newly called Pastor.

Sunday, January 7th, we will have a welcome event on the patio or in the social hall for Pastor Nikki. Watch for details.

Thursday, January 11th, is the OWLs in the Nest Lunch. Join us in the conference room for lunch and good fellowship.

Saturday, January 13th at noon Sons of Norway meets in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about the Norwegian culture.

Sunday, December 14th
Our annual congregation meeting begins at 11am. We will approve the budget, vote in our new council, and hear about plans for 2024.



Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10:00am We will celebrate Pastor Nikki's installation as our permanent pastor. After the service, there will be a lunch reception in the social hall.



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, Jeff Rodrigues, Bary & Janice Schlieder, Kurt Weisel, Rich Williams, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

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



1/2

Beverly Koenen

1/5

Bary Schlieder

1/7

Kristine Trost

1/9

Matthew Green

1/16

Linda McGee

1/18

Kathy Klute-Nelson

1/20

Marvin Moon

1/24

Rob Randig

1/27

Mark Ennen

1/27

Samia Hack

1/27

Garrett Latiolait

We pray for the ongoing work of:

+ Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia

+ First responders who provide safety, security, and care



Hoping your 2023 was filled with special memories and this year ahead brings you new joys!

Your Christ Lutheran Staff—

Pastor Nikki, Kim Croes, Roger Halvorson, Kim Philips and Brad Croes

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!

February Newsletter Deadline: January 15

Life In Christ
Is the newsletter of

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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