A person smiling at the camera

Description automatically generatedThe 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.