



We have seen His star in the east
and have come to worship Him.”
Matthew 2:2b

May 2023
Bethlehem Lutheran
Church & School

1837 Mountain Street
Carson City, NV 89703

(775) 882-5252
(775) 882-9278 Fax
www.blcs.org

Sunday Divine Services:
8:00am & 10:30am

Sunday School & Adult
Bible Study: 9:15am

Rev. Jedidiah Maschke
Pastor

Lora Spiker
Church Secretary

Mr. Lonnie Karges
Principal

"Please follow us on
Facebook! [www.facebook.com/
blcscarsoncity/](https://www.facebook.com/blcscarsoncity/)"

MISSION STATEMENT:

To proclaim the Gospel of our
Lord Jesus Christ through witness,
mercy, and
Christian education

True Discipleship

In 2019, the LCMS National Convention passed a resolution declaring the theme of the current triennium (which was extended by an additional year, thanks to COVID) to be "Making Disciples for Life." I found it interesting that the resolution never really defined what "making disciples" means, but as part of my doctoral project that I am finishing this month, I have done some reading and research about what discipleship actually is that I would like to share with you.

Pastor Ernie Lassman gives us some direction when he writes that discipleship "is not simply head knowledge, although that is included, but this teaching involves the whole person; intellect, heart, and will. Such teaching includes the good news of Jesus Christ as savior from sin, death, and damnation. But, of course, such teaching involves learning to live 'a life worthy of the gospel' (Philippians 1:27). To be a disciple of Jesus Christ includes both what to believe and how to live."

One of the benefits of doing my doctoral work was that I got to meet Karen Kogler, who wrote a thesis for her masters degree in 2009 called "Disciples in the First Century." She found that the Greek concept of discipleship originated with groups of learners like those who followed the philosopher Socrates. Discipleship, for them, was about having a personal relationship with the master, committing to both be with him and to learn from him. Discipleship wasn't simply being committed to a body of knowledge or a set of beliefs; discipleship meant committing one's whole life to the cause of the master. What begins with commitment to an individual would grow into a commitment to carry on the work that person was doing. This accords with the Lutheran Cyclopedia, which defines disciple as "One who receives instruction from another, accepts doctrines of another, and implements and spreads them."

Lutherans are distinctive in our approach to discipleship for a number of reasons. The biggest is that we do not rely on emotional manipulation or persuasion or techniques of behavior modification to make disciples. Instead, we put our trust in the power of God's Word. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to make disciples.

When disciples are made, a community is established called the church. That is where the disciples receive the grace given in the proclaimed gospel and administered in the sacraments. Since the church exists in God's truth and generosity, the mission of the church consists in sharing this truth and generosity with others. God's Word works! As St. Paul reminds us, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). If we lose confidence in the power of God's Word to work, we try to replace it with manipulation and intimidation and behavior modification. But when we trust the Word to do what God says it will do, it brings forth good fruit. God cannot be dealt with or known by any means apart from His Word. Instead of being motivated by the law, we are changed by the gospel. Justification happens through the Word, just as Paul notes in Romans 1:16: the gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith."

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God's Spirit-infused, gospel-powered Word is the means by which disciples are made. Sometimes the Word changes us even without our awareness or realization of what is happening. That is why it is important for pastors and teachers to tell people repeatedly what God is doing in them through His Word and what God expects of them as they live a life of good works towards God and one's neighbor. And it is just as important for people to hear this over and over again in Bible Study, devotions, and worship. In a world that consistently points to what we do and do not do, true discipleship is a gift from God that points us back to what He has done for us through Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Pastor Maschke

May Church Schedule

May 7 8:00am Divine Service
9:15 Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30am Divine Service

2:00pm Mother's Day Tea—bring your own teacup.

May 14 8:00am Divine Service
9:15 Bible study/Sunday School
10:30am Divine Service

Happy Mother's Day

May 18 6:30pm Ascension Day Service

May 21 8:00am Divine Service
9:15 Bible Study—NO Sunday School
10:30am Divine Service
Confirmation Sunday

May 28 8:00am Divine Service
9:15 Bible Study—NO Sunday School
10:30 am Divine Service
Happy Memorial Day Weekend!!

May 29 church office closed for Memorial Day!!

May 2023 Newsletter Information

Bethlehem Women in Mission

Serving the Lord with Gladness

BWM LUNCHEON: In May instead of a luncheon we will have the Mother's Day Tea on Sunday May 7 2pm – 4pm. **Bring your special tea cup and share it's story.** The Sunday luncheon will begin again in August. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the beauty God has created for us.

MITE BOX SUNDAY: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. The mites are sent to the California, Nevada, Hawaii LWML District to help fund the mission projects. Bethlehem Lutheran Church has sent the mites collected in April to help fund *Be Thou My Vision-Eyeglass and Evangelism - \$6,000 MOST Ministries, (Mission Opportunities Short Term), Ann Arbor, Michigan.* The mites collected in May will be used to fund *Spanish Braille Bibles, So. America through Lutheran Braille Workers*



The mission of Lutheran Braille Workers is to provide the message of salvation to people who are blind or visually impaired. It is impossible to reach people in other countries without the Word of God in their language. Recently, LBW was approached by the United Bible Society with an order for 1,000 complete Braille Bibles in Spanish. The Argentine Bible Society asked for 500 from the order. The grant is to fund the purchase of resources and materials to produce Spanish Braille Bible for free distribution, primarily to the Bible Societies in South and Central America over the next two years.

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GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD EVENTS: There are several ladies events being offer this summer.

Saturday June 3 from 11am – 3pm. **Theme:** Bloom Where You Are Planted. **Location:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church. After COVID do you need to start blooming with God again. Please join this special gathering to celebrate how you are blooming. **Special Guest:** LWML District President Roxan Schwab will be here to share how she is blooming. Contact Bonnie Krenz for more information.

Friday July 21 - Saturday July 22. **Theme:** Fruit That Lasts! **Location:** Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church. **Guest Speaker and Bible Study Leader:** Cindy Steinbeck. There will be Bible study time, music, worship time, activities and fellowship. Contact Kathy Jackson for more information.

Friday August 25 – Sunday August 27. **Theme:** Unwrapping your Spiritual Gifts. **Location:** Episcopal Conference Center, Oakhurst, CA. Sponsored by the CNH LWML District. For more information, visit <https://www.lwmlcnh.org/lwml-cnh-retreat.html>

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE: Hannah Krenz has been chosen to represent Zone 10 as the delegate to the LWML National Convention in Milwaukee this summer. She will be seated with the other delegates from the CNH district and vote for future projects and the new national officers. Hannah will also participate in the National Mite Walk to support several of the national projects. If you would like to support her on the mite walk, you may place your gift in the Mite Box in an envelope and label it Mite Walk. Please pray that the Lord may guide her voting and for safe travel.

Information about guest speakers, candidates and the mission grant proposals can be viewed at <https://www.lwml.org/2023-convention>.

Mark your calendar now:

May 7 Mother's Day Tea Event—2:00pm—4:00pm

June 3 LWML Re-Connecting Rally Bethlehem Lutheran Church 11am – 3pm
Theme: **Bloom Where You Are Planted**

June 22-25 National Convention Milwaukee, WI
Theme: **Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.**

July 21-22 Women's retreat to be held locally with women for sister congregations.
Theme: **Fruit that Lasts!**

August 25-26 LWML CNH District Retreat at Episcopal Conference Center - Oakhurst, CA
Theme: **Unwrapping our Spiritual Gift**

April 19-21, 2024 LWML CNH District Convention at Holiday Inn, Redding, CA
Theme: **Gifted to Serve by God's Grace.**

Get involved at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Church needs:

Video Recording Staff for Sunday and mid-week services:

Contact Clay Soderstrom, (775) 883-1035, or any of the elders if you are interested.

Ushers: Contact Jeff Davey 775-790-1964.

Board of Outreach is looking for members: Contact Sally Allen, (775) 721-4629.

Board of Christian Education is looking for members.

Questions? Contact Carrie Suessmith, (775) 720-8797.

Altar Flower Sign Ups: see chart in narthex.

Church Greeters (no hand shaking and/or hugs).

Choir Members, Handbell Choir Members and Handbell Choir Director.

Altar Guild: Contact Janelle Davey, (775) 721-5686.

Fund raisers (school and church)

Buy a brick and help a child: check with the school, or church secretary.

Groups you can join:

Sunday School teachers and helpers needed for the upcoming Sunday School year,

Questions? Contact Carrie Suessmith, (775) 720-8797.

Church singers/musicians - soloists, duets, etc.—Contact Jeanne Denison, (775) 220-4082.

Handbell choir participants and leader:

Contact church secretary, Lora Spiker, (775) 882-5252.

Silver Lights: meets monthly on 3rd Wednesday at 11:30am **We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall in the church.** All over 50 are welcome to attend.

BWM (formerly LWML) All ladies are welcome. Contact Bonnie Krenz for questions.

Men's Bible study: meets weekly on Fridays at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall, BYO breakfast.

Women's Bible study: meets weekly on Saturdays at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Luncheon group—held on the second Wednesday of the Month @ 11:30am.

Contact Debbie 775-430-0808 or Lora Spiker (775-220-0639) to RSVP.

Attention Ladies!!!

Our members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church have started a new women's monthly social lunch group. The group consists of members of our church and also any friends you would like to invite along with you. Everyone is welcome! We are meeting for lunch for fellowship, the enjoyment of getting to know one another, and delicious food.

We have been having a wonderful time!

The next meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, 5/10 @11:30am

At the Bella vita—at the Carson Mall. RSVP the church office please.

If you would like to be called or emailed for a reminder of this luncheon, please give Lora or Debbie your email address and/or phone number. Also, if you need transportation, we can assist you with that also.

If you would love to be a part of our lunch group,
please **RSVP by 5/8** to Lora, the church secretary,
or to Debbie at (775) 430-0808.

We hope you will join us!!!!



Refreshing the Fellowship Hall

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is in the process of raising funds for painting and new flooring for the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to some wonderful people and donations and our fund raiser, we now have \$12,000.00 to refresh our fellowship Hall.

Anyone interested in assisting with this project, please chat with Lora, church secretary.

We are looking for painting and flooring contractors to assist with quotes and the process of getting this work completed. If you know of anyone you think may be interested, please contact Lora, church secretary.

Open Monday
2:00pm-4:00pm



Open Friday
10:00am-12:00pm

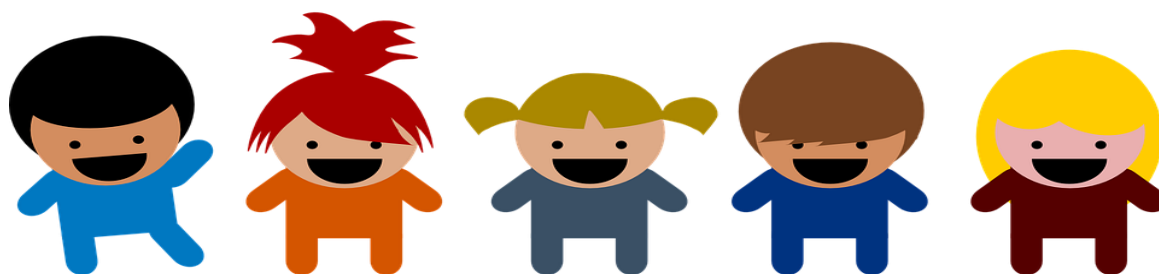
Food pantry presently is in need of canned vegetables, peas, corn and green beans, small jars of peanut butter, canned spaghetti-O's, canned fruit, canned baked beans.

There have been requests for items such as toothpaste and small containers of laundry detergent.

Please donate the 16oz. size of food items as most of those using the food pantry are single people. Some are living in a motel and only have a microwave for cooking.

Thank you for your generous support of our community.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the food pantry!



Children's Ministry News
May 2023

Join us Sunday's @ 9:15am

Last Day of Sunday School will be May 14th, 2023.

We will be taking a summer break.
Check the newsletter for upcoming dates.

Thank you to all the teachers
and families!!

Contact Carrie Suessmith or Lora Spiker if you have
any questions.

Bethlehem Lutheran School News

Grade Preschool through 8th grade

Information regarding the school may be found on the school website www.blcs.org

School Update

May 5th May 12th May 19th May 23rd May 24th June 12-16th	Friday—Bike-a-thon—Cinco de Mayo theme. Speech/Drama Program @6:00pm. —Chapel with Kindergarten & PreK Promotion at 8:30am and their last day of school. Field Day and BBQ for student's 1st—8th grade. Closing chapel with 8th grade graduation 8:30am. Camp Invention.
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Please consider choosing Bethlehem Lutheran Church as your Amazon Smile donation.

For every eligible item that you order through Amazon Smile, the school gets 0.5%.

Please go to smileamazon.com to choose **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** as your designee for Amazon Smile.

Box Tops for Education—Please place your box tops in the cereal box in the narthex.
They will be used by the school for rebates for the school to use.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

1837 Mountain Street, Carson City, NV 89703 (775) 882-5252, ext. 100

Bethlehem Lutheran School provides an alternative to public education. We offer an academic environment coupled with Christian principles and values fostered by Christian faculty members. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about our academics and daily routine. Now enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year in our Preschool thru Eighth grade. Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten enrollment ages 3-5. **Please check us out at www.blcs.org or call Sandy in the school office. Kindergartener must be 5 years old by August 1st**

Buy a Brick and Help a Child by Leaving a Legacy—Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund

Bethlehem Lutheran is excited to announce that it has established an Endowment Fund with the purpose of funding future scholarships for students. We are seeking donations for this worthwhile project. As an Endowment your contribution will be used year after year supporting student scholarships.

Will you please consider donating to this Fund? Your gift of any amount will be appreciated.

How can I leave a legacy with an Alumni/Supporter Brick?

*One of the most exciting ways in which you can make a gift to Bethlehem Lutheran School and leave your name or the name of a loved one, on campus is to purchase a brick. Your name will be engraved on a brick which will be installed either in the cross in front of the school entrance for a \$250 donation or on the back field walk area (The Bethlehem Byway) for \$150. Brick Color is Regimental Red. **Stop in or call the school to donate to this fund.***

Sierra Lutheran High School 2022-2023 year Theme: Love

SLHS-WNC Dual Credit - Sierra Lutheran is excited to continue partnering with Western Nevada College on the dual credit program offered between the schools. The two institutions allow the students to enroll in WNC—If you have any questions, please contact SLHS.

Parents in Prayer —All staff and parents are welcome to Thursday morning prayer group where we pray over SLHS and each student individually.

We meet in Room 116 between 7:15 and 7:45am.

Serving the Lord in May

Acolytes

Sun, May 7	8:00am	Abi Maschke
	10:30am	Jeb Bugg
Sun, May 14	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Josiah Maschke
Thurs, May 18	6:30pm	Abi Maschke
Sun, May 21	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, May 28	8:00am	Jeb Bugg
	10:30am	Josiah Maschke



Altar Flowers

Sun, May 7	Parsons Family
Sun, May 14	Volunteer Needed
Sun, May 21 -	Volunteer Needed
Sun, May 28	CPTL—School



Altar Guild

Janelle Davey

Elders

Sun, May 7	Bob Spiker
Sun, May 14	Jeff Davey
Thurs, May 18	Jeff Davey
Sun, May 21	Colin Wigglesworth
Sun, May 28	Eric Boyce

Ushers

Sun, May 7	8:00am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	George Parmenter, Tom Ruhoff
Sun, May 14	8:00am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	George Parmenter, Tom Ruhoff
Thur, May 18	6:30pm	Jeff Bargmann Stan Zuber
Sun, May 21	8:00am	John Monson Chris Soderstrom
	10:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, May 28	8:00am	John Monson Chris Soderstrom

Called to *Serve*



Happy Birthday!

May 5 Ivy Logan
Pierce Lamprecht

May 7 Dianne Medlock

May 8 Bonnie Krenz

May 11 Todd Suessmith

May 14 Aiden Fredlund

May 15 Joe Chambers

May 21 Benjamin Welter

May 25 Susie Bargmann

May 26 Samantha Martinovich
Shirley Kincheloe

May 31 Lora Spiker
Vanessa Bernhard

Happy Anniversary

Anniversary

Years

May 10
Jim & Gail Parsons 48 years

May 19
Joe & Donna Chambers 61 years

May 28
Mike & Lynn Tappan 46 years

May 31
Bob & Julie Gagen 24 years

***A successful marriage requires falling
in love many times, always with the
same person.***



REMINDER:

Please feel free to submit articles or information for the weekly bulletins and/or newsletter. Input is due in the church office by **Wednesday at noon** each week.

Thanks, Lora Spiker, Church Secretary
Phone: (775) 882-5252, Email: lspiker@blcs.org



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1837 N. Mountain Street

Carson City, Nevada 89703

775-882-5252

www.blcs.org



Happenings in May 2023

- May 1 2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 3 8:15 am School Chapel Service**
- May 5 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
10:00—12:00 Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 6 9:30am Women's Bible Study.
10:30am Community Crafters.
- May 7 Mite Sunday—We love your coins!**
Mothers Day Tea—2:00pm—Bring your own teacup!!
- May 8 2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 9 6:00pm Church Council meeting. All members are invited to attend.**
- May 10 8:15 am School Chapel Service**
11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Bella Vita—Carson Mall—All ladies are invited to attend.
- May 12 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
10:00—12:00 Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 13 9:30am Women's Bible study.
10:30am community crafters.
- May 14 Happy Mother's Day**
- May 15 2:00-4:00pm Crafters.
Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 16 June Newsletter deadline.**
- May 17 8:15 am School Chapel Service**
11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome.
—Bring your own lunch to the Fellowship Hall.
- May 18 6:30pm Ascension Service.**
- May 19 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
10:00—12:00 Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 20 9:30am Women's Bible study.
10:30am Community Crafters.
- May 21 Confirmation Sunday**
- May 22 2:00—4:00 pm Crafters.
Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 24 8:15 am School Chapel Service**
- May 26 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
10:00—12:00 Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- May 27 9:30am Women's Bible study.
10:30am Community Crafters.
- May 29 Memorial Day—Church Office closed.**

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it..”—Psalm 118:24.