



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

**July 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. Dr. 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

**From the Desk of Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Maschke**

For Kingdoms and Country This July 4th, we will once again celebrate our independence as a nation and give thanks to God for the citizenship we hold in our federal democratic republic, the United States of America. However, as Lutherans, we know that we are also citizens under God our Heavenly King in two distinct kingdoms or realms: the Left Hand Kingdom of society and government, and the Right Hand Kingdom of the Christian Church on earth. This Two-kingdom theology is essential to our freedom not only as Americans but also as Christians. In this month's newsletter article we will focus primarily on the Left Hand Kingdom and next month we will learn more about the Right Hand Kingdom.

As Christians, we are free to engage in both our community as citizens and our church as confirmed members. This two-kingdom theology provides order and justice for the world around us, and it bestows forgiveness and eternal life won by Christ for all who believe. Although both kingdoms are given by God and ultimately ruled by Him, they have different purposes and goals and use different tools. They are distinct from each other, yet they depend on each other. The Left Hand Kingdom is concerned with civil order, patriotism, and just government, while the Right Hand Kingdom is concerned with forgiveness, eternal life in Christ, and salvation.

While the Left Hand Kingdom's primary focus is civil justice and order, it does not exclude compassion and grace. However, in the Left Hand Kingdom, these are not made manifest in Christ's forgiveness but in daily kindness, mercy, and service to one's neighbor. Lutherans call this "civil righteousness." As with our spiritual blessings, God is the source of authority, delegating His authority to rulers and governors and civil servants to bring order and peace to society through well-reasoned and equitably enforced laws. Those who reward good and punish evil in their vocations do so with God's authority behind them.

The goal is to make society decent and just for all people, not just for Christians, and not for the purpose of making society "Christian." When the power of the government is employed for the purpose of "Christianizing" society, the result is an unscriptural "one-kingdom" theology that leads to theocracy. Just as it is wrong for Muslims to seek to govern all citizens by the Qur'an, it is also wrong and unjust for Christians to use the government to force non-Christians to live according to Biblical standards. Both are contrary to God's Word

*Continued on Page 2*

When the Left Hand Kingdom is operating at its best, it offers a fertile field for God's ultimate purpose: the eternal salvation offered in His Church. The state provides order and civility so that the Church is free to proclaim the Gospel. This is also where Christians who work for the government, whether in military or civil roles, can live out their vocations. In fact, Luther states it quite strongly:

*You are under obligation to serve and assist the sword (the governing authorities) by whatever means you can, with body, goods, honor and soul. For it is... very beneficial and essential for the whole world and for your neighbor. Therefore, if you see that there is a lack of hangmen, constables, judges, lords, or princes, and you find that you are qualified, you should offer your services and seek the position, that the essential governmental authority may not be despised or become enfeebled or perish.*

Government workers and military personnel, your work is beneficial and essential! You honor God by serving in these vocations! God works through your service just like He does through all godly vocations in both kingdoms.

As Christian citizens, we are also called to pay taxes (Matthew 22:21), to remind each other to be subject to rulers and authorities (Titus 3:1), and to pray and give thanks for all those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). When we feel patriotic and civic-minded, these are appropriate responses for the ways God has blessed our country and for the citizenship God has called us to in both kingdoms. So we can gladly show forth our patriotism as we wave our flags in celebration of our freedom and not only sing but also pray,

**“God bless America.”**

In Christ,  
*Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Maschke*

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School Employment Opportunity

Part time Business Administrator.

Kindergarten teacher.

Preschool & Daycare openings 2:30pm—5:30pm

Additional information and application forms are available on the [blcs.org](http://blcs.org) website on the School Page under Job Opportunities

## **President's Post**

Bethlehem Lutheran families, I'm introducing myself as the new congregational president. Jeff Davey will continue as a dedicated mentor.

I know many Bethlehem members, as my wife and I became members over thirty-eight years ago. I have witnessed many changes from the building of the new church sanctuary to the building of Luther Hall and all the classrooms.

The one thing that has stayed constant is that God is leading the church and school. We all have seen changes over the years, but the role of the church and school has never been more important. The school has produced many faithful servants that are contributing in so many areas of our society. My three children are examples of this. The church continues to support the school and offer a Christian home for so many of God's family.

I have personally been enriched to see new volunteers in our church. The elders, council and even the board of trustees has seen new faces. The Friday morning men's bible study has a strong, faithful group of men who weekly offer prayers for the church and school as they continue the never-ending study of God's word. The ladies Bethlehem Women in Mission have been very active in promoting volunteer events like bible studies, LWML convention, fellowship luncheons, and of course, the support of many Christian mission projects across the world.

As I move forward in this new role, I would encourage everyone to focus on the benefits a strong church and school provide to our earthly home and to pray for continued growth. We are all blessed in so many ways.

IN God's name and with his love; Marshall Henningsen, President.

**Attention Men!!!**

*What are you doing Friday, September 15 – Sunday, September 17, 2023?  
Come to the annual Men's Retreat!*

This year's theme: **Prayer-Staying in the Fight**

We know prayer is an integral part of our life and faith, yet most of us struggle with it through much of our lives. This weekend, you'll be given opportunities to grow in prayer, understand its purpose and power in your life, and have time to practice. You'll see through the Word of God and Christian history how men just like you saw God protect armies, deliver the poor and needy, restore marriages and families, and change hearts and minds through prayer.

At the retreat, we do a healthy balance of growing in faith and friendship, eating, recreating, and resting. We begin with dinner together on Friday night and leave after worship and brunch together on Sunday morning. Saturday afternoon is free to hit the beach, golf, hike, play horseshoes, go shooting or fishing, or whatever else you desire.

The annual Men's Retreat will be at the Redwood Christian Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Boulder Creek, California. Cost is \$225/guy for cabin housing (bring your own towels/linens/sleeping bag), or \$330 to stay in a cottage (nicer beds, linens provided, and shared living room). All meals are included. Let Pastor Maschke know if you are interested in coming. We will be carpooling.

For a brochure with more information, find one in the church narthex or go to [www.blcs.org](http://www.blcs.org) and click on the Church page and then "Life Together."

REGISTER ONLINE AT [HTTPS://STALC.CHURCHCENTER.COM](https://stalc.churchcenter.com)

CLICK ON "GIVE" and select "LCMS District Men's Retreat Registration"

*What's Happening in Carson City?*

Friends in Service Helping  
138 E. Long Street  
Carson City, NV 89706

We write to you today to share an update on the FISH Student Housing project you may have seen taking shape in downtown Carson City, NV. As of June 2023, the exterior of the two apartment buildings is 95% completed with side paneling, roofing, balconies, window installations, paint, and planted trees.

Today, we are getting ready to furnish each of the 36 apartments by the residential move date of late October 2023. Each apartment will come with bedding, bathroom amenities, storage, living room furniture, television, kitchen appliances, and kitchenware.

We are in search of community members and organizations to 'adopt' an apartment unit (or more) to help furnish the place so it feels like home for the new families who will move in during their enrollment at Western Nevada College. Each sponsor will have their name engraved on a plaque by each sponsored unit (if requested).

Each unit will be furnished for \$2,500. We expect to finish all furnishing purchases by late August 2023 and will be ready to install there soon afterwards.

Room furnishing donations and sponsorships can be made via [www.nvfish.com/donate](http://www.nvfish.com/donate) or via check to FISH 138 E. Long Street, Carson City, NV 89706.

In gratitude,

Nichole Schembre  
Marketing and Grant Manager

(copied from a letter received by the church)

## ***Bethlehem Women in Mission***

### **GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD EVENTS:**

There are several ladies' events being offered this summer.

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. **Registration is due by July 1.** Contact Kathy Jackson for more information.

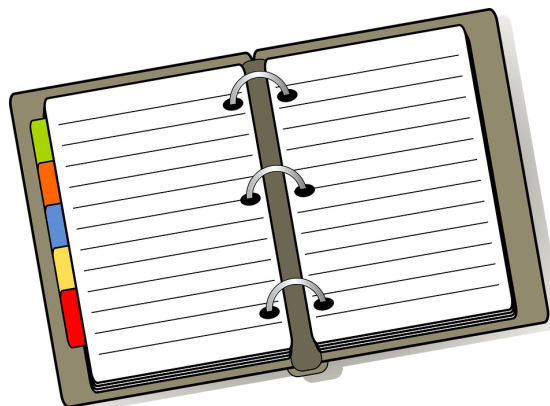
Friday August 25 – Sunday August 27. **Theme:** Unwrapping your Spiritual Gifts. **Location:** Episcopal Conference Center, Oakhurst, CA. Sponsored by the CNH LWML District. For more information, visit <https://www.lwmlcnh.org/lwml-cnh-retreat.html>

### **Mark your calendar now:**

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.**



July 2023 Newsletter Information

Bethlehem Women in Mission  
*Serving the Lord with Gladness*

**BWM LUNCHEON:** 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 sent the mites collected in June to be used to help fund *CNH District Cross Cultural Outreach Training \$2,500 POBLO International*. The mites collected in July will be used to fund *Spanish Devotions - \$7,500 Lutheran Heritage Foundation*



More than 475 million people in 20 countries worldwide speak Spanish as a first language, including millions in CNH District. According to recent census statistics, over 30,000 Hawaiians, and 625,000 Nevadans speak Spanish. In California the number skyrockets to over 10.7 million, more than 25% of the total populations. Unfortunately, daily devotions in the Spanish language are difficult to come by. A publishing house ceased their production of Spanish translation. As a result, there are no Confessional Lutheran daily devotions in Spanish. This grant proposal is for funds for Lutheran Heritage Foundation to write, edit, print and convert to digital format for e-readers daily devotions in Spanish for Lutherans throughout the world may walk daily with Jesus. The devotions are given free to churches, ministries and families.

## 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 Head Elder Bob Spiker 775-745-6316.

**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 are enjoying our 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.

***Come and attend this month!***

The next meeting is scheduled for

**Wednesday, 7/12 @11:30am**

**At Red's — 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 7/10** 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 \$12,200.00 to refresh our fellowship Hall. The cost for this refresh is approximately \$24,000.00 so we have to raise the additional cost—so here is the plan,

**If 100 church member families give \$120.00—we will make our goal.  
Please mark your donations fellowship hall refresh donation.**

**Thank you in advance to all who are assisting in this refresh.**

**We are getting close and probably starting to refresh the hall soon.  
We will be painting walls and replacing doors—anyone wishing to assist,  
please contact Bob Spiker for dates and times.**

*Open Monday  
2:00pm-4:00pm*



*Open Friday  
10:00am-12:00pm*

**Food pantry presently needs toilet paper and laundry detergent.**

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



## Sunday School News July 2023

As this year's Sunday School (2022-23) has ended, and the hustle and bustle of the school and church activities have ended, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect **in thankfulness** for this past year. We are truly blessed for God's character and the lessons He has taught us in His Word each Sunday. We are thankful to **everyone** who participated in the events this past year. We are thankful for the Teachers especially, who give of their time and talents to bless the families of Bethlehem each Sunday and for those who volunteered to aid and sub when teachers were absent. We are seeing the youth rise and apply their gifts and talents in the church as well as their community God has placed them in. This has been very exciting to watch. We are thankful for **those of you** in the congregation who have donated your time, resources, and talents to organizing, building shelves, serving at craft tables, printing, and copying fliers and newsletters, bringing food and goodies, decorating, stuffing eggs, packing bags, organizing games, musical talent, theatrical talent, and so much more! Our youth are blessed to have a congregation that supports them and their future. We look forward to a great 2023-2024 year and all that God has in store for us. If you have any ideas, talents, abilities that you would like to share with our youth and the Sunday School please do not hesitate to talk to us. Many people have said they are praying for the youth and the Sunday School teachers, and **we thank you!** Your support is paramount as God leads us into this new year. We thank God for His provision, for your support, and for the opportunity to serve the youth here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School.

Please see the August Newsletter for dates and details of future events.

God bless, Todd & Carrie

Ps. Please talk to Todd if you would like to join the Board of Christian Education and Carrie if you would like to serve in our youth program or Sunday School.

### **Philippians 1:3-6 NIV**

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## **Bethlehem Lutheran School News**

Grade Preschool through 8th grade

Information regarding the school may be found on the school website [www.blcs.org](http://www.blcs.org)

### **School Update**

Aug 9, 2023	Back to School Night 5:30—7pm
	Preschool & Kindergarten preview day 9am—11 am
Aug 14, 2023	First Day of School

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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](https://smile.amazon.com) to choose **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** as your designee for Amazon Smile.

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

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### **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](http://www.blcs.org) or call Sandy in the school office. Kindergartener must be 5 years old by August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### ***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***

**8/16, 17 & 18—1/2 day Student Retreat**

**8/21—First day of School**

**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 July*

### Acolytes

Sun, July 2	8:00am	Abi Maschke
	10:30am	Jeb Bugg
Sun, July 9	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, July 16	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Abi Maschke
Sun, July 23	8:00am	Jeb Bugg
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, July 30	9:30am	Jeb Bugg



### Altar Flowers

Sun, July 2	Garrett Family
Sun, July 9	Aviles Family
Sun, July 16	Ponscak Family
Sun, July 23	Bugg Family
Sun, July 30	Henningsen Family



### Altar Guild

Diane Drumm

### Elders

Sun, July 2	Bob Spiker
Sun, July 9	Eric Boyce
Sun, July 16	Joshua Karges
Sun, July 23	Jarvis Manning
Sun, July 30	Bob Spiker

### Ushers

Sun, July 2	8:00am	Zachary Karges, Alan Callanan
	10:30am	Mike Harris, Dave Richison
Sun, July 9	8:00am	Hal Martin Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	George Parmenter Tom Ruhoff
Sun, July 16	8:00am	Hal Martin Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	George Parmenter Tom Ruhoff
Sun, July 23	8:00am	John Monson Chris Soderstrom
	10:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, July 30	9:30am	John Monson, Chris Soderstrom

Called to *Serve*

# Happy Birthday!

July 1	Rev. Dr. Maschke
July 2	Clayton Jones
July 4	Gail Forland
July 5	Noah Manning
July 7	Kathy Jackson
July 11	Sally Allen
July 13	Radin Esmalli
July 14	Calvin Welter
	Delci Biagio
July 16	Paul West
July 17	Sherrie Poncsak
July 18	Kamille Soderstrom
July 19	Darlene McClurg
July 20	DeAnna McDaniel-Blomberg
July 24	Jonathan Welter
July 25	Jeffery Baughman
July 29	Melissa Asmamaw



## 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



# Happy Anniversary

## Anniversary

## Years

<b>July 3</b>	
Jedidiah & Anna Maschke	19
<b>July 7</b>	
Steven & Rose Jones	21
<b>July 9</b>	
Wayne & Sally Allen	46
<b>July 18</b>	
Duane & Pat Stevens	48
Lonnie & Ingrid Karges	42
<b>July 22</b>	
Lester & Caren Kipler	18
<b>July 29</b>	
Harry & Annette Swainston	38
Marshall & Mandy Henningsen	44
<b>July 31</b>	
Delbert & Heather Bugg	13



# ***Bethlehem Lutheran Church***

**1837 N. Mountain Street**

**Carson City, Nevada 89703**

**775-882-5252**

***www.blcs.org***



## **Happenings in July 2023**

<b>July 2</b>	<b>Mite Sunday—We love your coins!</b>
<b>July 3</b>	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Church Office Closed—Happy Fourth of July</b>
<b>July 7</b>	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— <b>All men are invited to attend.</b> 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 8</b>	10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>July 10</b>	2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 12</b>	<b>11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Red's Restaurant—RSVP 775-882-5252 All ladies are invited to attend.</b>
<b>July 14</b>	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— <b>All men are invited to attend.</b> 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 15</b>	10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>July 16</b>	<b>11:45am Bethlehem Lutheran Church— New Member Class—RSVP to the office ASAP.</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>July Newsletter deadline.</b> 2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 19</b>	<b>11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome.—Bring your own lunch to the Fellowship Hall.</b>
<b>July 21</b>	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— <b>All men are invited to attend.</b> 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 22</b>	10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>July 24</b>	2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community
<b>July 28</b>	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— <b>All men are invited to attend.</b> 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
<b>July 29</b>	10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>July 30</b>	<b>9:30am Divine Service—Potluck lunch after service in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share.</b>
<b>July 31</b>	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.

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