



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

October 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

Mrs. Debra Winkelman
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

Prostate Cancer: A Pastor's Perspective

In December of last year, my doctor noticed an abnormal reading in one of my routine tests. This set in motion a number of procedures over the past several months that culminated in the recent news that I have prostate cancer. This diagnosis came as a shock, but the silver lining is that it was caught very early and has not spread to any other parts of my body.

After careful consideration and consultation with our medical team, we have decided that the best course of action for my long-term health and well-being is to undergo surgery, having a prostatectomy in January. Thankfully, the cancer is slow-growing, so waiting a few months allows me to serve you through the holiday season with virtually no risk to my health. We believe that this surgery is the most appropriate course of action and I expect to make a full recovery. Odds are that I will. Over 99% of men diagnosed with prostate cancer will not die of it, and the odds of living another 15 years or more are very good.

One of the things I have going for me is that I have age on my side. Only 10% of prostate cancer diagnoses are in men under the age of 55. I'm still 10 years away from that, which means it is likely that I will recover faster and more completely than the average prostate cancer patient.

Even more importantly, I have God on my side. King David, the Psalmist says that the Lord "heals all your diseases." (103:3) Jesus shows His power by healing diseases multiple times in the gospels. Cancer, like all sickness and death, was never God's plan for the world He created and called "good." I know that God has a way of turning bad things into blessings, and He can work through even the challenging and painful times of our lives to strengthen our faith. I'm not looking forward to the challenges and pain that will inevitably come my way when I have my surgery and recovery, but I trust that God will use my experiences to help others in the future.

Continued of Page 2

My family and I know that this journey will have moments of uncertainty and fear, but we also believe in God's power to heal and we are thankful for the support of our church family. Your love, prayers, and encouragement have been a source of strength and joy for our family throughout the past seven-plus years, and we are truly grateful to have such a caring congregation by our side.

In the coming months, we may need to reduce our involvement in church activities temporarily as I focus on my recovery and healing. I know our elders and Pastor Abbott are ready to step up and help in my absence. We kindly request your understanding and patience as we navigate this journey together. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you would like to offer your support in any way.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Maschke

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School Employment Opportunity

Part time Business Administrator.

Additional information and application forms are available on the blcs.org website on the School Page under Job Opportunities

President's Post October 2023

August 2023

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FINANCIALS: (See below for any narrative/comments)

CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE:

DESCRIPTION	12 MONTH ANNUAL BUDGET	AUG 2023 - MONTH			% VAR. ACTUAL VS. MONTHLY BUDGET
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFF.	
REGULAR OFFERINGS	\$283,650	\$23,400	\$21,451	(\$1,949)	-8.33%
RENT AND MISC. INCOME	\$21,600	\$1,800	\$1,878	\$78	4.34%
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$305,250	\$25,200	\$23,329	(\$1,871)	-7.43%
PAYROLL & BENEFITS	\$157,007	\$12,150	\$12,137	(\$12)	-0.10%
SCHOOLS SUPPORT (BLCS & SLHS)	\$42,000	\$3,083	\$2,667	(\$416)	-13.50%
INSURANCE	\$16,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	\$90,243	\$6,384	\$9,171	\$2,787	43.65%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$305,250	\$21,617	\$23,975	\$2,358	10.91%
FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE)	(\$0)	\$3,583	(\$646)	(\$4,229)	

Happy Autumn. Schools are in session. I'm so thankful for Bethlehem Lutheran School and Sierra Lutheran High School. Our teachers and staff are providing a learning environment that includes both required academics and a Christian foundation. Our young students today are pulled in so many directions and God's love and mercy are so important for their futures. Please continue to pray and offer support for the church and school with your offerings and, of course, a helping hand. Below is last month's financial summary of our church with the treasurer's comments.

In Christ's love;

Marshall Henningsen President

AUGUST 2023:

- August Offerings of \$21,451 were \$1,949 less than budgeted. August Offerings were also \$2,122 less than last August. Giving Units were 63, a decrease of 10 from July and 2 less than last August.
- Other Operating Expense was \$2,787 over budget, largely due to spending on property maintenance.

Y-T-D:

- Good performance in July was more than offset by poor performance in August. YTD Net Income of \$283 is only (\$1,452) below budget. Timing and a slow down in late summer may explain the variation these first two months of the year.

Trunk or Treat

Bethlehem Lutheran Christian Parents and Teachers League (CPTL) and Church are very excited to host our first joint *Trunk or Treat.*

Please join us in the church/school parking lot on
Friday October 20th from 6-8pm.
Trunk decorating starts at 5pm.

The event will provide an opportunity for BL Church and School families to enjoy a FREE, safe and family-friendly trick or treating experience with us.

We are graciously asking for your help in making this a memorable event. Please see the list below for items needed. If you would like to sign up to decorate your vehicle, there is a sign up sheet in the church narthex.

Items needed:

Bags of candy
Other goodies to pass out
Cases of small waters
Hot cocoa
Variety box of chips

All donations can be left in the collection bin at the front of the school. We are thankful and grateful for your donations and participation.

If you have any questions please email blscptl@blcs.org

Bethlehem Women in Mission
Serving the Lord with Gladness

MITE BOX SUNDAY: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. As of August, Bethlehem members have contributed \$608.31 to the District projects. 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 September to help fund *Hope for the Hopeless sponsored by LCMS*. The mites collected in October will help fund *Connecting Mercy & Church Planting in Latin America sponsored by LCMS Office of International Mission in Latin America and the Caribbean Region*.



The Latin America and Caribbean region of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed to have Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic. The seminary is serving 47 Seminary students (residential and on-line) in 12 countries throughout the region. The Seminary's Deaconess Formation program serves 140 women in 5 countries. The seminary invests in the practical formation of pastors and deaconesses by supplementing classroom learning with hands-on field work. This grant requests funds to help provide scholarships for students attending the seminary in person and on-line.

Bethlehem Women in Mission sponsored happenings for all members of the congregation and friends:

On November 5th, the BWM is sponsoring a tour of Life Choices to learn their mission in our community. There will a lunch after the 10:30am service and then the group will leave for a 12:45pm tour.

Sunday December 3rd at 2:00pm is the Advent Tea. With the Sunday School children presenting the program, the Advent tea will be a family event this year.

Sunday February 11th, 2024 the annual Chocolate Delight bake sale. Closer to the date a recipient of the funds raised will be determined.

March date TBD, BWM with the Carson City Senior Center will sponsor a workshop on Internet Safety: Information on email, text messaging, and telephone scamming, how to protect your personal information and bank account.

Mark your calendar for happenings to grow with your sisters in Christ:

Saturday mornings 9:30-10:30 Bible Study. The ladies Saturday morning Bible study began on September 9th at 9:30am. The ladies are studying women of the New Testament. The women to be studied are Syrophoenician Women, Women who anointed Jesus' feet, Tabitha, Lydia, Priscilla, and others.

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, join other sisters in Christ for lunch. On October 11th at 11:30am the ladies of Bethlehem Church and friends will gather for the monthly luncheon at Bethlehem Church. Sonja Abbott offered to prepare a special lunch that day. Watch the bulletin for the location in future months.

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

Submitted by Bonnie Krenz

Elder Page

Grace Upon Grace, by John W. Kleinig, published by Concordia, is a gem of a book on Lutheran spirituality. Here's an excerpt to pique your interest:

‘Christian spirituality is, quite simply, following Jesus. It is the ordinary life of faith in which we receive Baptism, attend the Divine Service, participate in the Holy Supper, read the Scriptures, pray for ourselves and others, resist temptation and work with Jesus in our given location on earth. By our practice of Spirituality, we are not raised to a high plane above the normal, everyday, bodily life, but we receive the Holy Spirit from Christ so that we can live in God’s presence each day of our lives as we deal with people and work, sin and abuse, inconvenience and heartbreak, trouble and tragedy.’ (P.23)

Liturgy Note: We use a ‘common cup’, which is another term for the Chalice. If you look closely, you’ll see a cover over the Chalice. That cover is called a ‘Pall’. And the fine linen that the sacramental vessels are placed is called a ‘C corporal’. (From the book ‘Exploring Our Lutheran Liturgy, p.20, 21)

Scripture: 1 Tim 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Internet Resource: Pastor Bryan Wolfmeuller, of St. Paul and Jesus Deaf Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas has both a website and a YouTube channel. The YouTube channel is Bryan Wolfmueller, there’s dozens of ideas exploring the Lutheran faith. The website is <https://wolfmueeller.com> where there are blog posts and free downloads of many books on the Lutheran faith and theology.

Elder, *Bill Scott*

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. **(Flowers are needed for 12/31 this year)**
watch for the calendar for 2024.

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, 10/11 @11:30am

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall — 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.

If you would love to be a part of our lunch group this month,
please **RSVP by 10/9** 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 still 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 have finished painting the walls—the ceiling has been repainted, and the doors are getting replaced—anyone wishing to assist, please contact Bob Spiker for dates and times.



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

Food pantry presently needs cereal, canned peas, beans and corn.

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

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Join us as students learn the wisdom and knowledge of God and His creation along with song, crafts, and fun as they develop spiritual grounding that leads them through life.

TIME: 9:15-10:15am*

PLACE: Meet in Rock Room

We look forward to a fun year of learning about Jesus and growing in our faith!

Contact Todd or Carrie Suessmith if you have any Questions or would like to join us and work with our youth.

***REMINDER:** Sunday School is not held on Jubilee Sunday's (5th Sunday of the month) throughout the year.

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

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

October 8th—4th and 5th grade choir sings at Bethlehem Church during the 10:30am service

October 12th—Moms and Muffins at 7:45am

Mission \$1 Dress Day

October 13th—teacher work/meeting day—no school k-8th grade.

October 23rd—November 3rd—ITBS testing 2nd—8th grades

October 27th—Nevada Day—no school, preschool or daycare

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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 year Theme: The Beatitudes

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12)

Are You Smarter Than a Falcon?

The "Are You Smarter Than a Falcon?" event will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at 6 pm. This is an evening of fun where teams of six people (this can be family members, friends, church groups, etc.) enjoy a friendly, Jeopardy style competition. There is a \$30 team fee to help support our Academic Olympic team. Individuals are also welcome to sign up for \$5 and you will be placed on a team.

SLHS-is excited to formally begin its 22nd academic year! By God’s amazing grace, SLHS welcomed over sixty new students to the first day of classes for what we know will be another sensational school year.

Serving the Lord in October

Acolytes

Sun, Oct 1	8:00am	Abi Maschke
	10:30am	Jeb Bugg
Sun, Oct 8	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, Oct 15	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Abi Maschke
Sun, Oct 22	8:00am	Jeb Bugg
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, Oct 29	9:30am	Noah Manning



Altar Flowers

Sun, Oct 1	V. Smith Family
Sun, Oct 8	Hartley Family
Sun, Oct 15	Richison Family
Sun, Oct 22	Jackson Family
Sun, Oct 29	Bugg Family



Altar Guild

Janelle Davey and Susan Misner

Elders

Sun, Oct 1	Bill Scott
Sun, Oct 8	Eric Boyce
Sun, Oct 15	Bob Spiker
Sun, Oct 22	Bob Spiker
Sun, Oct 29	Josh Karges

Ushers

Sun, Oct 1	8:00am	Jeff Bargmann Stan Zuber
	10:30am	George Parmenter, Tom Ruhoff
Sun, Oct 8	8:00am	Jeff Bargmann Stan Zuber
	10:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, Oct 15	8:00am	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
	10:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, Oct 22	8:00am	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
	10:30am	Jim Gansberg Lee Labahn
Sun, Oct 29	9:30am	Jim Gansberg Lee Labahn

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

October 3	David Krenz
October 4	Lynn Tappan
October 6	Carol Frith
	Lester Kipler
October 7	Julie Gagen
October 9	Basliel Asmamaw
October 12	Heather Bugg
October 15	Josiah Maschke
October 19	Randy Roach
October 22	Anthony Westgate
	Dave Richison
October 23	Andrew Martinovich
October 25	Bill Egbert
October 27	Pam Czyz
October 30	Faith Lee
October 31	Ingrid Karges
	Jeff Bargmann
	Katlin Garrett



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

October 4	
John & Christina Monson	20
October 14	
Dave & Sharon Richison	51
October 19	
John & Delci Biagio	9
October 26	
Gale & Kathy Jackson	48



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1837 N. Mountain Street

Carson City, Nevada 89703

775-882-5252

www.blcs.org



Happenings in October 2023

- October 1** Mite Sunday—We love your coins!
NO Bible Study—LWML slide show with breakfast munchies. All are invited to attend.
- October 2** 2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
- October 3** **6:00pm Council Meeting**—All church members are invited to attend.
- October 6** 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- October 7** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study
10:30am Community Crafters.
- October 8** **11:45 am New Member Class**—Lunch is included—RSVP to church office.
- October 9** 2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
- October 10** **8:am—5:00pm—Life Line Screening**
- October 11** **11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Fellowship Hall**—RSVP 775-882-5252
All ladies are invited to attend.
- October 13** 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- October 14** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study
10:30am Community Crafters. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- October 16** 2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.
Newsletter deadline.
- October 18** **11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon**—All over 50 welcome.—Bring your own lunch to the Fellowship Hall.
- October 20** 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
- October 21** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study
10:30am Community Crafters.
- October 23** 2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.
- October 27** **Office and school closed for Nevada Day!!**
6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
Food Bank closed.
- October 28** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study
10:30am Community Crafters.
- October 29** **9:30am Divine Service with potluck luncheon**—bring a dish to share. All are invited.
- October 30** 2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.
- October 31** **Happy Nevada Day**

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