



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

December 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

“O Come, Emmanuel”

As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to invite you to join us for a special Advent worship series that will guide us through the O antiphons, illuminating who Christ is to us and the profound significance of His arrival for each one of us. Each week will focus on a different O antiphon that highlights a specific aspect of Christ that enhances our life in him. This series, “O Come, Emmanuel,” will span our midweek Advent services, as well as Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Epiphany Sunday, offering a unique opportunity for reflection and celebration. We are reminded in this series that Jesus is our Wisdom, our Lord, the Root of Jesse, the Key of David, our Dayspring, our Emmanuel and the King of Nations.

Midweek 1 (Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m.): Come, O Wisdom

In the first week of our Advent series, we delve into the “O Wisdom” antiphon, rejoicing in the guidance that Christ provides for us. His wisdom is the cornerstone of our faith, and we look forward to exploring this aspect of His divine nature.

Midweek 2 (Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.): Come, O Lord

During the second week of our series, we contemplate the “O Lord” antiphon. We will rejoice that Jesus is the great “I AM” who is all-holy and all-powerful, reinforcing our faith in Him.

Midweek 3 (Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.): Come, O Root of Jesse

In week three, we explore the “O Root of Jesse” antiphon and rejoice in the profound connection it represents. Through Jesus, we become part of God's family tree, tracing our spiritual lineage to Him.

Midweek 4 (Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.): Come, O Key of David

In the fourth week, we focus on the “O Key of David” antiphon. We rejoice that Jesus holds the key that unlocks the door to heaven for us, bringing us closer to God's eternal promise.

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Continued from Page 1

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24 at 5:00 p.m.): Come, O Dayspring

Join us on this holy night as we celebrate Christmas Eve and the “O Dayspring” antiphon. We reflect on how Jesus has brought the light of His love into our dark world of sin.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.): Come, O Emmanuel

On this special Christmas Day, we examine the “O Emmanuel” antiphon, rejoicing in the birth of Jesus, who is “God With Us” here on earth.

Epiphany (Sunday, Dec. 31 at 9:30 a.m.): Come, O King of Nations

In our Epiphany service, we take a closer look at the “O King of Nations” antiphon. We rejoice that Jesus is the gentle and forgiving King of Kings who urges believers to willingly live under His righteous rule and to make Him known.

We look forward to coming together during this Advent season, deepening our understanding of Christ's multifaceted nature and the profound impact of His arrival. Let us journey through these antiphons and discover the great joy and hope that Christ brings to each of us. May this series, “O Come, Emmanuel,” be a source of inspiration and growth as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Maschke

Thanksgiving Baskets



Thank you to all who assisted in the thanksgiving baskets. We have helped 8 families enjoy the holiday.

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

Presidents Post December 2023

God's blessing to all. This is a special time of the year. My family and I celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and Advent season. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many earthly blessings we receive, from food to our home, to living in a prosperous country where we are free worship our God without fear of persecution. I celebrate the Advent season with a thankfulness that I was raised in a Christian family from birth and having faith in Christ has never been difficult. I know that God wants me to be in Heaven one day despite my sins and shortcomings.

The church financials in October were improved. Our offerings were above the monthly budget but are still behind for the year. Thank you for your support of this church and school and its mission. I'm always glad to discuss any questions you may have regarding our church.

In Christ's love; Marshall Henningsen, President

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FINANCIALS: (Narrative/Comments)

MONTH:

- October Offerings of \$27,527 were \$4,127 more than budgeted. Offerings were \$2,684 more than last October. Giving Units were 64, unchanged from September but 3 less than last October.
- Increased offerings lead to income of \$5,958 for the month. Income exceeded budget by \$3,751.

Y-T-D:

- YTD Net Income of \$3,993 is now only (\$3,129) below budget. The increased offerings in October leave us much closer to being on budget.

CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE:

DESCRIPTION	12 MONTH ANNUAL BUDGET	OCT 2023 - MONTH			% VAR. ACTUAL vs. MONTHLY BUDGET
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFF.	
REGULAR OFFERINGS	\$283,650	\$23,400	\$27,527	\$4,127	17.64%
RENT AND MISC. INCOME	\$21,600	\$1,800	\$2,071	\$271	15.04%
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$805,250	\$25,200	\$29,597	\$4,397	17.45%
PAYROLL & BENEFITS	\$157,007	\$12,150	\$12,485	\$335	2.76%
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	\$7,760	\$8,488	\$728	9.38%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$305,250	\$22,993	\$23,640	\$647	2.81%
FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE)	(\$0)	\$2,207	\$5,958	\$3,751	

Bethlehem Women in Mission (BWM)

Mite Box Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. As of November Bethlehem members have contributed \$628.31 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 November to help fund *Matongo Seminary Chapel – sponsored by LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Region*. The mites collected in December will help fund *Gospel Outreach in Thailand* Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) sees a tremendous opportunity to share God's love reaching out with the Gospel to the people of Thailand. LHM-Thailand's work is rapidly expanding to all area of the country. Most of the population is non-Christian. LHM in Thailand has a variety of outreaches: radio programming, digital and social media, Bible correspondence courses, evangelism training seminars and special events. All these programs are done in the native language of Thailand as well as culturally appropriate ways for the various regions. The grant funds would be used for all the above outreach programs.

This thought message came in the monthly newsletter from CNH LWML District office and I wanted to share it with you.

Change

Cold, crisp nights; windy, cloudy days; there is no shortage of ways to see that summer has passed, fall is here, and winter is on the way. November has come and gone and the 'holiday season' will follow. Thanksgiving has given way to Advent. Advent will become Christmas, then New Year's Day and Epiphany.

Change is predictable in nature and throughout the various celebrations. We also see changes in our friendships, families, responsibilities, and even our own bodies and abilities. It has been said that change is inevitable. Often the changes bring sadness, sorrow, unwanted responsibilities, even the inability to do the things we love to do. We may not like it, but we must accommodate our lives to constant change.

The good news is that God knows all about changes. He has known since the beginning of time. Psalm 104:19 says, "He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting." He certainly knows about seasons and days. He also knows all about us and all our changes, both good and bad. He has provided a constant message of hope for eternity to see us through all the seasons of change. Jesus, our Savior, was given to us as a permanence in our lives, Someone Who never changes. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

No matter what the issue or change may be, no matter how hard or long it lasts, be it spiritual, physical, or emotional, Jesus is always at the ready, imparting His Gospel of hope and forgiveness every day in all circumstances.

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

Sunday December 3 at 2:00pm Advent Tea. A program based on the true "reason for the season" will be presented by the Sunday School children and adults at the family tea. Everyone is welcome. Please sign up for this event.

January Collect items for hygiene kits, assemble the kits, and then deliver to FISH for distribution to the homeless.

Sunday February 11, 2024 the annual Chocolate Delight Bake Sale.

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. We started the Bible study "Your Strong Suit: God's Armor" based on Ephesians 6:10-18 by Donna Pyle. We are still in lesson 1 so please join the study.

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month join other sisters in Christ for lunch. On December 13 at 11:30 the ladies of Bethlehem Church and friends will gather for the monthly luncheon at Bella Vita Bistro on 1304 Stewart St. Carson City. Please contact Lora if you plan to attend.

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

***61st Advent Tea***

will be held on December 3rd at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Sunday School children and children from Bethlehem Lutheran School will present the program. **The True Reason for the Season.** All members and friends are invited to start the Christmas season enjoying the program and a tea party. Tea sandwiches, cookies, tea and lemonade will be served. Please sign the sheet in the narthex by **November 26** if you plan to attend.

If you would like to assist with the tea party, please contact
Bonnie Krenz, Diane Drumm or Lora Spiker.

Elder Page

I am...the bright morning star. *Revelation 22:16*

The Morning Star

Down through the centuries, the word of the prophets has been made more certain to us. The Bible says, "In many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world" (*Hebrews 1:1-2*).

Today, many families will be exchanging Christmas gifts. Let us remember that God has carefully packaged His one perfect gift, His Son, as the Star of Bethlehem, who makes Himself known to us in this dark world. Jesus, the unending light that once permeated the dawn of creation, continues to shine in the darkness of our sin-filled world.

Jesus, the "bright morning star" of Bethlehem, has come to make a bed in the chambers of our hearts. The light of Christ shone in the manger, on the cross, and from the empty tomb; now it illumines our lives with Christ's love, driving away the darkness of our fears and sins. By faith, we believe that our Savior and our Lord, our Immanuel, our God, is with us forever. This is the morning star that rises in our hearts and guides us now and forever. Thanks be to God.

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming into this world to save us.

Illuminate us with Your grace and help us to shine like
stars for You in a world that needs Your love. *Amen.*

Elder, *Robert (Bob) Spiker*

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, - please contact Susan Misner if you are interested.

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 Choir—contact Susan Misner

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.

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, 12/13 @11:30am

At Bella Vita Bistro Restaurant (Carson City Mall) on 1304 Stewart Street, Carson City.

RSVP the church office please.

If you would like to be called or emailed for a reminder of this luncheon, please give Lora 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 12/11** to Lora, the church secretary.

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 canned fruit, soups, and spaghetti sauce.

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



Children's Sunday School December 2023

Join us at 9:15-10:15 am each Sunday to learn
and grow in our faith.*

PLACE: Meet in Youth Room for opening

We offer three classes from Pre-school to Highschool. We study the CPH curriculum to learn Enduring Faith and how to take A.C.T.I.O.N. by being an Ambassador for Christ, taking initiative for others now. Each lesson helps us to understand the Promises of God.

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday 12/3/23 @9:15-10:15 Sunday School Hour/& Christmas Program Practice

Sunday 12/3/23 @12:30pm-1:30 Kids Practice for Family Christmas Tea

Sunday 12/3/23 @2pm "Family Christmas Tea"

Saturday 12/16/23 @9:30 Christmas Program & Worship Service Practice

Pizza lunch following

Sunday 12/17/23 Time: TBD Christmas Program & Worship Service

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.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. The Hebrews 7:25

Bethlehem Lutheran School News

Grade Preschool through 8th grade

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

School Update

December 1st—Spelling Bee 1st—8th grades at 12:30pm
 December 8th—Christmas Program 9:00am and 6:00pm
 December 18th—Ugly Christmas Shirt/sweater & Movie Day
 December 20th—Geography Bee 10:30am
 December 21st—Teacher Workday—No School, Preschool or Daycare
 December 22nd—January 7th—Christmas Break—No School, Preschool, or Daycare

The staff at BLS is excited to help spread Christmas cheer to the community at the Washoe Lake State Park drive through Christmas light display in December. The past two years, they have had their Charlie Brown display, and this year will be adding a second site with the Grinch. Check it out.

Congratulations to Annie Munson, our of the schools 7th graders, for placing 2nd in the junior high division of the American Citizen Essay contest sponsored by the Carson City School District Board of Trustees. Way to go Annie!!!

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)

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 December

Acolytes

Sun, Dec. 3rd	8:00am	Abi Maschke
	10:30am	Jeb Bugg
Wed, Dec 6th	6:30pm	Jeb Bugg
Sun, Dec 10th	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Wed, Dec 13th	6:30pm	Noah Manning
Sun, Dec 17th	9:30am	Abi Maschke
Wed, Dec 20th	6:30pm	Abi Maschke
Sun, Dec. 24th	9:30am	Jeb Bugg
	5:00pm	Logan Garrett
Mon, Dec. 25th	9:30am	Noah Manning
Sun, Dec 31st	9:30am	Logan Garrett



Altar Flowers

Sun, Dec 3	Medlock Family
Sun, Dec 10	Poncsak Family
Sun, Dec 17	Bugg Family
Sun, Dec 24	Denison Family
Sun, Dec. 31	Avila Family



Altar Guild

Kathy Jackson

Elders

Sun, Dec. 3	Bob Spiker
Wed, Dec 6	Bob Spiker/Bill Scott
Sun, Dec. 10	Bob Spiker/Bill Scott
Wed., Dec 13	Jarvis Manning
Sun, Dec. 17	Jarvis Manning
Wed, Dec 20	Eric Boyce
Sun, Dec 24	Eric Boyce
5:00pm	Josh Karges
Sun, Dec 25	Bill Scott
Sun, Dec 31	Bob Spiker

Ushers

Sun, Dec 3th	8:00am	John Monson, Chris Soderstrom
	10:30am	George Parmenter, Tom Ruhoff
Wed, Dec 6th	6:30pm	Jeff Bargmann, Stan Zuber
Sun, Dec 10th	8:00am	Jeff Bargmann, Stan Zuber
	10:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Wed, Dec 13th	6:30pm	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, Dec 17th	9:30am	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
Wed, Dec. 20th	6:30pm	Zachary Karges, Alan Callanan
Sun, Dec 24th	9:30am	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
	5:00pm	Jim Gansberg, Lee Labahn, Bob Gebel
Mon, Dec. 25th	9:30am	Marshall Henningsen, Jeff Davey
Sun, Dec 31st	9:30am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning, Sam Radtke

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

December 15 Gayle Douglas
 December 16 Madelyn Monson
 December 19 Kellie Soderstrom
 December 20 Delbert Bugg
 December 21 Danielle Martinovich
 Harry Swainston
 Lee Labahn
 December 22 Christina Monson
 December 23 Priscilla Aviles
 December 29 Vern Smith
 December 31 Jacquelin Welter
 Skippy Allen



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

December 3 Earl & Dianne Medlock	41
December 11 Jimmy & Sherrie Poncsak	13
December 15 Jim & Donna Partington	36
December 17 Curt & Diane Drumm	47
December 19 Bill & Marsha Egbert	47
December 22 George & Barbara Parmenter	44
December 26 Mohammad Esmaeili sar baghi & Mahshid Azizi	7



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**1837 N. Mountain Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703
775-882-5252 www.blcs.org**



Happenings in December 2023

	December 1	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— All men are invited to attend.
	December 2	10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community. 9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
	December 3	Mite Sunday—We love your coins! 2:00pm 61st Advent Tea
	December 4	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
	December 5	NO Council Meeting—Council Party
	December 8	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— All men are invited to attend. 10:0—noon— Food bank Open to all church members and members of the community
	December 9	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
	December 11	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
	December 13	11:30am Ladies Luncheon at —RSVP 775-882-5252 All ladies are invited to attend.
	December 15	Newsletter deadline. 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.
	December 16	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
	December 17	8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service w/Christmas Program—All are invited to attend. No Sunday School.
	December 18	2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.
	December 20	11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome.—Main Course is ham. Bring a side dish to share to the Fellowship Hall.
	December 22	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— All men are invited to attend. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
	December 23	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
	December 24	8:30am Bible study 9:30am Divine Service No Sunday School 5:00pm Candlelight Service
	December 25	8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Christmas Day Divine Service School and Church office closed.
	December 29	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— All men are invited to attend. Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
	December 30	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
	December 31	No Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service w/potluck in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.