



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

**January 2024**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran**  
**Church & School**

1837 Mountain Street  
Carson City, NV 89703

(775) 882-5252  
(775) 882-9278 Fax  
[www.blcs.org](http://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

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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

*Looking Back, Looking Ahead*

*Last January, I wrote in my newsletter article about how I had begun listening to the Bible each morning as I exercised by walking on a treadmill in our garage. I am pleased to report that over the course of the year, I made it through the whole Bible, finishing up in late October. So, in November, I started over, this time with a reading plan that goes through the Bible in chronological order.*

*It has been interesting to read through the Bible again from this perspective, even if some things are not in the order that I am used to. One example is that since Job lived around the same time as Abraham, this plan reads through his book immediately after finishing Genesis. There are also random bits of the genealogy from 1 Chronicles interspersed among the genealogy in Genesis. The chapters detailing the ceremonial law and sacrifices in Leviticus and Numbers are still a challenge, though, especially when there is a lot of repetition.*

*However, I have noticed that it has made a big difference for me. I really do feel more comfortable and familiar with the Bible as a whole and I am finding that I am making connections between different texts that I had never noticed before. It's well worth it, and to be honest, listening to the Bible is really not that hard. Maybe reading through the Bible would be a great resolution for you in 2024! I'm using the "YouVersion Bible App +Audio" from Life.Church, if you're wondering.*

*The biggest goal I achieved this past year was finishing my doctorate and having my final project published online. (It's been downloaded 55 times as of the last week of December.) I wrote about that in a previous newsletter, and I'm thankful that I will be able to officially receive my diploma at the graduation ceremony next May at Concordia seminary in St. Louis. As it turns out, I will get my diploma a week before Ali graduates from Sierra Lutheran High School. Our family is looking forward to making the trip to St. Louis for this momentous occasion.*

*But before that, on January 17th, I get to have surgery to remove my prostate, along with the cancer that is growing inside of it. Again, I am thankful that it has been caught so early. Tests have indicated that the cancer is completely contained, limited to a couple small spots inside of my prostate and it has not metastasized to the bones or any other parts of my body. Prostate cancer itself is the most survivable form of cancer, with 99% of men who get it dying from something else. My biggest concerns lie with how I will recover afterwards and what kinds of long-term effects will remain after the surgery. It is a huge blessing to know that I have so many people and churches praying for me.*

*Continued on Page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

*Another thing I'm thankful for is that I have complete confidence in the people who will be leading the ministry here at Bethlehem during the weeks that I am recovering. Our elders, led by Bob Spiker, will be making sure that things continue to run smoothly in my absence, especially regarding worship and care for our members.*

*Pastor Bill Abbott will be filling in as our pastor not only at worship, but also for visits and any on-call emergency needs. If you have an emergency, please give him a call on his personal cell phone at 310-344-3439. Feel free to leave a message if he is not able to answer immediately,*

*Also, we will be taking a break from our study of Romans during the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study hour for a few months. Starting on January 7th, Lonnie Karges, our recently retired principal from Bethlehem Lutheran School, will be leading a study called "Rooted" during that time. This study will be looking at the life of the early church in Acts 2 and what we can learn from these early Christians to help us connect with God, the Church, and our purpose.*

*Finally I want to thank everyone who gave Christmas cards and gifts to my family and me. We feel very loved and affirmed at Bethlehem and are grateful to be a part of this community of faith.*

In Christ's love, *Pastor Maschke*

Dear Bethlehem Members;

As you may remember, Pastor Maschke's surgery is scheduled January 17th and he will be unavailable during his recovery which is anticipated to end mid-late February. The Elders are scheduling one service temporarily during his recovery at 9:30am with Bible Study and Sunday School at 8:30am. Upon Pastor's return, we will resume observing two services at 8:00am and 10:30am on Sundays with Bible Study at 9:15am. Reminder announcements will be released prior to the temporary change. Thank you and God Bless.

Head Elder, Bob Spiker

## ROOTED—"THE LUTHERAN EDITION"

### Our Goals in Rooted:

1. To create an environment that promotes authentic discussions.
2. Deeper biblical understanding.
3. Lifestyle transformation within the group.
4. A renewed passion for
  - a. A relationship with Jesus.
  - b. Living a lifestyle consistent with our faith.
  - c. Knowing and hearing God's voice through His Word.
  - d. Being a part of the body of Christ and fulfilling our role within the church, (Bethlehem).
  - e. An open and intimate prayer life.
  - f. Daily/weekly devotions.
  - g. Does the community, your neighbors, know you are a follower of Jesus?

This Bible Study beginning January 7th will be led by Lonnie Karges

## Presidents Post January 2024

God's blessing to all as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The evening Advent services are special as we enjoy the soup suppers and attend the services with the two beautiful trees sparkling with white lights. Our church and school are a blessing to so many families.

As we head into this next year, the council approved a reserve fund committee to identify, forecast and prioritize building expenditures for maintenance and improvements not currently in the school or church budget. We will meet monthly to develop a plan to present to the voters in the spring. Our committee would love to get input and ideas from school families and church congregation.

In Christ's love;  
Marshall Henningsen President.

### CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE:

DESCRIPTION	12 MONTH ANNUAL BUDGET	NOV 2023 - MONTH			% VAR. ACTUAL vs. MONTHLY BUDGET
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFF.	
REGULAR OFFERINGS	\$283,650	\$23,650	\$25,670	\$2,020	8.54%
RENT AND MISC. INCOME	\$21,600	\$1,800	\$2,812	\$1,012	56.22%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$305,250</b>	<b>\$25,450</b>	<b>\$28,482</b>	<b>\$3,032</b>	<b>11.91%</b>
PAYROLL & BENEFITS	\$157,007	\$17,199	\$16,986	(\$213)	-1.24%
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	\$6,214	\$6,700	\$486	7.82%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$305,250</b>	<b>\$26,496</b>	<b>\$26,353</b>	<b>(\$143)</b>	<b>-0.54%</b>
<b>FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(\$0)</b>	<b>(\$1,046)</b>	<b>\$2,129</b>	<b>\$3,175</b>	

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FINANCIALS: (Narrative/Comments)

#### MONTH:

- November Offerings of \$25,670 were \$2,020 more than budgeted. Offerings were \$4,148 more than last November. Giving Units were 57, 7 less than October but unchanged from last November.
- Misc. Income exceeded budget largely due to \$750 memorial contribution. Monthly income of \$2,129 exceeded budget by \$3,175.

#### Y-T-D:

- YTD Net Income of \$6,122 is now \$46 above budget. We are tracking very close to our budgeted numbers.



### **Bethlehem Women in Mission (BWM)**

Mite Box Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. In 2023 Bethlehem members have contributed \$844.47 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 December were given to help Gospel Outreach in Thailand sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries. The mites collected in January will help fund Indonesian Hymnal Project sponsored LCMS Office of International Mission, Asia Region The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) Office of International Mission and the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) have been coordinating on the development of an explicitly Lutheran service book in Indonesian since October 2017. To date there is no quality service book available in Indonesian, let alone a quality Lutheran service book. The Indonesian Hymnal Project will open rich musical heritage in liturgy and hymns to all Indonesians; train congregations to think, sing, and speak theologically in Indonesian native tongue while strengthening their Gospel Proclamation in their communities, and be a vial tool for parents/grandparents to pass down the faith to their children and grandchildren. Funds from this grant will help in publishing the Indonesian Hymnal.

### **ATTITUDE: Old and New**

Let's talk about attitudes. What is an attitude? ATTITUDE is a settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behavior. How you feel about someone or something (usually someone!) affects how you treat them, behave around them, and even what you say to or about them! Let's face it, there is always someone who is hard to like because of their actions, beliefs, and words. We are not required to like everyone, only to love them with God's love. Be very careful about what you say. James 5:9 says, "Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door." Oops, God is there watching and listening. Ugh! Luke 6:37 tells us, "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."

I have often had issues with the way others do things and have held it against them in many ways. I finally learned to ask God for a new attitude! Guess what? It works! In Philippians 4:11, when St Paul said, "I have learned, in whatever situation, I am to be content," I know he was not just talking about food and clothing...he was in jail! And then it hit me! I had been asking God for the wrong attitude. Yes, my new prayer is "God, give me YOUR attitude about this person or situation". If I am to have the mind of Christ, I also need His heart. That way I know I have the right attitude! "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 4:6 It's awesome that God sent His son, Jesus, to be light to the world, to give us an example of how to live, and to put His mind of love into our hearts. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

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

- This month we are collecting the following items for hygiene kits: Bath towel and wash cloth, bar soap, tooth paste and tooth brush, shampoo, comb, shaving lotion and razor. The items will be assembled into the kits, and then deliver to FISH for distribution to the homeless. The items may be placed in the labeled tote in the narthex.
- 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 scamming via email, text messaging, and telephone, how to protect your personal information, your credit card, 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 January 10th at 11:30 the ladies of Bethlehem Church and friends will gather for the monthly luncheon at La Capital Café and Grill 1795 E College Parkway #100, Carson City. Please contact the church office 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.

Submitted by *Bonnie Krenz*

Anyone interested in joining BWM, please contact Bonnie Krenz for time and place of monthly meetings. We would love some new faces with great ideas.

**Elder Page****Circumcision and Name of Jesus****Read Matthew 1:18-25 Psalm 8**

**When He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel  
before He was conceived.**

**Luke 2:21**

**Son of David**

Parents often spend a lot of time discussing what to name their newborn. Joseph and Mary needed no discussion. The Lord's angel told them that His name was to be Jesus. Jesus is called by several other names. Notably, He is called the Son of David in many verses of the New Testament, in fulfillment of God's promise to David (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

Of the thousands of characters in the Bible, there is only one David. We are told more about him than anyone else in the Old Testament. Paul wrote that "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). "All Scripture" included Davidic stories. In this month's devotions, we survey what the Holy Spirit teaches through David's life and faith.

A review of David's story points us to another shepherd and king: Jesus. Gabriel says the Son will be called Jesus, He will be given the throne of His father David, and He will reign forever (Luke 1:32-33). There is power in the name of Jesus. True man and true God. Jesus. At one name, all shall bow and confess Him as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). That name was given on the eighth day when the shedding of His blood at circumcision foreshadowed His crucifixion and His body and blood, given for you! Eat. Drink. Jesus is Lord!

**Lord, teach me to trust, like David, in the name of Jesus. 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. **(Calendar for 2024 is in the narthex)**

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

**Praise 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.

**Praise 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.

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

With a new year coming in just a few days, let's explore our annual dream, goal and vision!

A dream written down with a date becomes a goal.

A goal broken down into steps becomes a plan.

A plan backed by action becomes reality."

Have you started dreaming and goal setting for 2024 yet??

I challenge you to carve out time to dream and create your 2024!

**This is your affirmation:**

"I am **RELEASING** whatever in the past has caused discouragement or disappointment. I am **OPEN** to new ideas, activities, and relationships. Each day I will work with a **LASER FOCUS** on income producing activities. 2024 will be filled with optimism, joy, and enthusiasm! This **will** be my **BEST YEAR EVER!**"

What would you like to see as your Biggest Triumph in 2024?

What advice would you like to give yourself in 2024?

What major change are you willing to make to improve your finances in 2024?

What would you most like to change about yourself in 2024?

What are you looking forward to in 2024?

What are you looking forward to learning in 2024?

What would be your biggest risk to take in 2024?

What undeveloped talent are you willing to explore in 2024?

## **Refreshing the Fellowship Hall**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church is still raising funds  
for new flooring for the Fellowship Hall.**

**Next meeting to decide on flooring will be Sunday, January 21st after service.**

0Thanks 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 Spaghetti noodles, canned chicken, jellies, canned fruit,  
saltine crackers, laundry detergent, dish soap and hand soap and paper bags.**

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



# CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Happy New Year!! Join us each Sunday as we learn the Word of God and His love for us and others with songs, crafts, and CPH Enduring Faith curriculum. \*\* PLACE: Meet in Youth Room

**\*\*Sunday School Starts: JANUARY 7, 2024 at 9:15am**

**\*\* \*\* NEW TIME: starts January 21st@ 8:30am**

**DUE TO ONLY ONE SERVICE**

**Until end of FEBRUARY or further notice.**

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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.blos.org)***School Update**

December 22nd—January 7th—Christmas Break—No School, Preschool, or Daycare

*A BIG thank you to all who donated to Toys for Tots. The church and school collected and delivered about 600 items for them to distribute. The people at Toys for Tots were very appreciative of all they received. We are thankful to our church and school families for helping with this worthwhile cause.*

*We will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week, including the schools annual Penny Wars, January 22nd—26th*

*The staff at Bethlehem wishes you a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year.*

*May Christ watch over you and yours during this Christmas Season.*

**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 January*

### Acolytes

Sun, Jan 7	8:00am	Abi Maschke
	10:30am	Jeb Bugg
Sun, Jan 14	8:00am	Noah Manning
	10:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, Jan 21	9:30am	Abi Maschke
Sun, Jan 28th	9:30am	Jeb Bugg



### Altar Flowers

Sun, Jan 7	Bargmann Family
Sun, Jan 14	??
Sun, Jan 21	??
Sun, Jan 28	??



### Altar Guild

Kathy Jackson

### Elders

Sun, January 7th	Bill Scott & Bob Spiker
Sun, January 14th	Eric Boyce
Sun, January 21st	Jimmy Ponscak & Bob Spiker
Sun, January 28th	Bob Spiker

### Ushers

Sun, Jan 7	8:00am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	Josh Karges, Lonnie Karges
Sun, Jan 14	8:00am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning
	10:30am	Josh Karges, Lonnie Karges
Sun, Jan 21	9:30am	John Monson, Chris Soderstrom
Sun, Jan 28	9:30am	Mike Harris, Dave Richison, Gary Smith

Called to *Serve*



Happy  
Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

January 3 Susan Misner  
 January 5 Charles Gagen  
 January 8 Ramona Baxter  
 January 15 Janelle Davey  
 January 16 Jeff Davey  
 January 17 Tom Ruhoff  
 January 18 Gwenn Ruhoff  
 January 19 Bill Abbott  
 January 23 Sonya Abbott  
 January 24 Jake Medlock  
 Karen Larson  
 Mohammad Esmaelli  
 sar baghi  
 January 30 Chuck Kihm

Anniversary

Years

January 12

Jeff & Janelle Davey 39



**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](http://www.blcs.org)**



## **Happenings in January 2024**

January 1	Church Office closed for New Year's Day. Happy New Year!
January 5	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.
January 6	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>January 7</b>	<b>Mite Sunday—We love your coins!</b>
January 8	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.
<b>January 9</b>	<b>6:00pm Council Meeting</b>
<b>January 10</b>	<b>11:30am Ladies Luncheon at La Capital Café and Grill—1795 E College Parkway #100</b> <b>—RSVP 775-882-5252</b> <b>All ladies are invited to attend.</b>
January 12	6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast— <b>All men are invited to attend.</b> 10:00am—12:00pm— <b>Food bank</b> Open to all church members and members of the community
January 13	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
January 14	8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible study/Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service
January 15	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters. <b>Newsletter deadline.</b>
<b>January 17</b>	<b>11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome. Bring your own lunch.</b>
January 19	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.
January 20	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>January 21</b>	<b>8:30am Bible Study</b> <b>9:30am Divine Service (one service only)</b>
January 27	9:30am—Women's Bible Study. 10:30am Community Crafters.
<b>January 28</b>	<b>8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School</b> <b>9:30am Divine Service (one service only)</b>
January 29	2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.

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