



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

February 2024
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

As I review last month's Bethlehem Star, it strikes me that January is a month with many things completed: doctorates completed, Prostate removed, and the new study started" rooted." The small gray table in the sanctuary is the Church's new credence table for the placement of offerings.

The church year moves along on the wheels of time, and there is no stopping it. We start to look at the season of Lent with its highs and lows, and it is a real roller coaster.

The Widow's offering of 2 copper coins, the Signs of the End of the Age, Betrayal by Judas, the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with His Disciples, His trial, crucifixion, and death are significant events in which Jesus gives His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the communion of saints, Jesus' trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. This extraordinary communion brings us together with Jesus and ties us closer together with one another.

Overall, the upcoming season promises to be of great spiritual significance, and it is with deep reverence and respect that we anticipate the experiences that lie ahead.

Become an active part of the Bethlehem family-- our communion of Saints. Attend Wednesday evening's simple soup supper and worship with us as we follow the scriptures that lead through The passion of Christ.

As the church year progresses, it is crucial to acknowledge that time is an unrelenting force, and we must move forward with unwavering purpose. We are charged with making disciples, baptizing, and teaching everything we have been taught. We do this with love, caring, and kind examples, not with the sword.

The season of Lent, a period of profound spiritual significance, is imminent. This time, characterized by highs and lows, can be a challenging yet rewarding experience for those who participate.

In the weeks ahead, several momentous events will transpire, including the widow's offering of two copper coins, which represents a selfless act of generosity. Additionally, indications of the End of the Age will serve as a solemn reminder of the transience of our existence. The Betrayal by Judas, a tragic event that still resonates with many, and the Last Supper with His disciples, a poignant reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for us all, will also take place.

Overall, the upcoming season promises to be of great spiritual significance, and it is with deep reverence and respect that we anticipate the experiences that lie ahead. We will also make time for individual confession. This practice is not mandatory but can be helpful for anyone who is troubled. You may contact me to make an appointment; however, we are attempting to offer Confession before the 9:30 service.

May the good Lord grant each of you peace, *Blessings*, Pastor Abbott

Upcoming
2024 Holiday Church Schedule

February 14th – Ash Wednesday @6:30pm
 February 21st—Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm
 February 28th—Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm
 March 6th—Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm
 March 13th—Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm
 March 20th—Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm

March 24th—Palm Sunday @8:00am & 10:30am
 March 28th—Maundy Thursday @6:30pm (communion)
 March 29th—Good Friday @6:30pm
 March 31—Easter @9:30am only with brunch after service.



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 February 2024

CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE:

DESCRIPTION	12 MONTH ANNUAL BUDGET	DEC 2023 - MONTH			% VAR. ACTUAL vs. MONTHLY BUDGET
		BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFF.	
REGULAR OFFERINGS	\$283,650	\$24,300	\$32,245	\$7,945	32.70%
RENT AND MISC. INCOME	\$21,600	\$1,800	\$7,565	\$5,765	320.28%
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$305,250	\$26,100	\$39,810	\$13,710	52.53%
PAYROLL & BENEFITS	\$157,007	\$12,302	\$12,399	\$97	0.79%
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	\$9,832	\$13,101	\$3,269	33.25%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$305,250	\$25,217	\$28,167	\$2,950	11.70%
FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE)	(\$0)	\$883	\$11,643	\$10,760	

Presidents Post February 2024

I have a small Dachshund puppy. She will take a play toy and set it on my foot with the expectation that I will play with her. She looks up at me with the most loving eyes that my heart melts. However, if I don't respond quickly, she starts to bark. If I'm busy, I gently say NO and don't play. She never gives up. I was thinking that I do the same thing to God. I want and even expect that God will take care of my needs in my time. I get a little frustrated when it seems God has ignored my "needs" and has his own agenda. I read the bible and get reassured that we can't easily understand his ways. His ways are not our ways. My faith mostly keeps me content on this earth. I get reassured of his presence when I focus on how our planet has an intelligent design and like my puppy is a miracle beyond my comprehension. I pray for God's blessing on our church and school.

Marshall Henningsen President

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FINANCIALS: (Narrative/Comments)

MONTH:

- December Offerings of \$32,245 were \$7,945 more than budgeted. Offerings were \$11,666 more than last December. Giving Units were 69, 12 more than November and 13 more than last December.
- Misc. Income exceeded budget largely due to investment gain of \$5,368 on the NY Life Bond fund in the 4th quarter of 2023.
- Monthly income of \$11,643 exceeded budget by \$10,760.

Y-T-D:

- YTD Net Income of \$17,766 is now \$10,807 above budget. We are tracking ahead of our budgeted numbers almost completely because of exceptional performance in December.

BETHLEHEM WOMEN IN MISSION

Mite Box Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. A new member at Bethlehem asked me what are mites. Mites are the small coins that everyone collects in the small boxes in the narthex. The idea of mite collection is based on the Widow's offering found in Luke 21:1-4. The money collected is sent to the California, Nevada, Hawaii LWML District to help fund the mission projects. Bethlehem Lutheran Church sent the mites collected in January

help the Fort Wayne Seminary Food Co-op Concordia Theological Seminar, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Co-op is vital to the livelihood of many seminary students, providing 80-85% of the family's food and household needs at no cost. The seminary seeks to reduce some of the financial burden of the students via the Co-op. This grant is for the purchase of perishable food items and household needs for Seminary students and their families.

Now is the time to plan to attend the LWML CNH District Convention at the Holiday Inn Convention Hotel in Redding, CA. The theme is "Gifted to Serve by God's Grace" based 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." While at the convention attendees will discover and embrace their spiritual strengths and gifts; build their relationships through fellowship and servant events; and go from the convention to confidently serve God and others with a joyful heart. During the months of March and April we will be gathering items for the servant events. The list of needed items will be posted in March. Registration is due by March 29, 2024. Registration forms are available on the Bethlehem Women in Mission table in the narthex. If you are interested in attending, contact Bonnie so we can carpool.

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

Sunday February 11, 2024 the annual Chocolate Delight Bake Sale. The funds raised will be used to purchase a credence table that Pastor Maschke has requested for use in the chancel area.

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. Please join the study.

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month join other sisters in Christ for lunch. On February 14th at 11:30 the ladies of Bethlehem Church and friends will gather for the monthly luncheon at Panera Bread at 4881 Cochise St. 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**. Information is available in the narthex or talk to 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

Gentle and Lowly...Together

We are blessed to have a Pastor that is well educated and can preach the Gospel in a manner that the Spirit reaches listeners of all levels of Bible knowledge. This is an unusual gift and of great benefit to us. As he and his family face his upcoming surgery and recovery, we have an opportunity to come together as a congregation of believers to support them as well as keep the ball rolling at our worship services and outreach to our community via technology. Our online streaming of worship is one of those opportunities. Many thanks to the crew (Clay Soderstrom, Zach Kargas, Kamille Soderstrom, and Josiah Maschke) that prepares graphics and streams our services that benefit viewers at home whether it be due to weather, illness, health, or even curiosity. Their efforts have driven results that are abnormally positive in our current social environment. While most congregations are experiencing a general decline in attendance at worship services our attendance is on the upswing. The number of viewers that accessed our online programming averaged 120 per month a year ago; this past December we hit a high of 200 plus viewers. As the data indicates, our online outreach is a fantastic way to bless our congregation and community. One suggestion that may improve our online program...consider moving toward the front of the sanctuary at least a row or two. The camera is not capable of showing the back half of the sanctuary and although we may have a decent number of folks at the service it appears at times that we do not. In addition, a potential benefit to moving closer to the front can lead to a more meaningful worship experience. Our young families with children are important to see and hear during our worship. Curious young family viewers will be happy to see and hear children and babies and lead to them visiting.

The elders have decided to temporarily change worship service and Bible study times during Pastor Maschke's absence. This is to reduce the load on those leading our worship services and Bible study on Sundays. We have an opportunity to come together and serve our community showing our solidarity and participation in all services (including online streaming) while our pastor is away and recovering. Most folks, including me, are resistant to change at times. Our congregation endured many changes, some incredibly significant, since the outbreak of the pandemic. We endured them together and learned to adjust. As a result, I believe we are stronger for it. We have an opportunity to rally together again while we endure these temporary changes until our pastor returns.

Matthew 11:29, Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Jesus went to (key word "to") sinners both inside and outside of synagogues spreading the Gospel and responded to them in a balanced and sometimes emotional fashion. If I may suggest, one aspect of our modern version of going "to" is our online streaming of worship services. Online worship is a visual manifestation, and indicative of our time, which leads a new generation to our doors. As we experience these temporary worship service changes, perhaps we can learn from Jesus by genuinely exhibiting a gentle and lowly heart...together.

God bless you.
Eric Boyce

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, February 4th after service.

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 Peanut butter, canned corn, green beans and peas, pasta
sauce, canned fruit, chili and meats and Vienna sausages and toilet paper.**

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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



*Join us each Sunday as we learn the Word of God
and His love for us and others with Bible lessons,
songs, crafts, and prayer.*

NEW TIME: 8:30-9:15am**

***Change in start time while we have only one service.*

PLACE: Meet in Youth Room

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.

Bethlehem Lutheran School News
Grade Preschool through 8th grade

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

School Update

February 6th—Parent/Teacher Conferences—No School K-8th grade

February 9th—CPTL Parents Night Out 5:30pm—9:00pm

February 16th—Mission \$1 Dress Day

February 19th—President's Day—No School, Preschool, or Daycare

February 23rd—Chapel Family Color Dress and Competition

March 1st—Bunco 6:00pm—9:00pm

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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 February

Acolytes

Sun, Feb 4	9:30am	Noah Manning
Sun, Feb 11	9:30am	Logan Garrett
Sun, Feb 18	9:30am	Abi Maschke
Sun, Feb 25	9:30am	Jeb Bugg



Altar Flowers

Sun, Feb 4	Star Family
Sun, Feb 11	Spiker Family
Sun, Feb 18	??
Sun, Feb 25	??



Altar Guild

Janelle Davey

Elders

Sun, February 4th	Joshua Karges
Sun, February 11th	Jarvis Manning
Sun, February 18th	Bill Scott
Sun, February 25th	Bob Spiker

Ushers

Sun, Feb 4	9:30am	Jeff Bargmann, Stan Zuber
Sun, Feb 11	9:30am	Tom Ruhoff, Philip Broderick, Bill Egbert
Sun, Feb 18	9:30am	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
Sun, Feb 25	9:30am	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

*February 2 Joshua Karges
Zachary Karges*

February 4 Curt Drumm

*February 8 Alex Bernhard
Hal Martin
Lonnie Karges*

February 9 Gloria Voss

February 19 Bill Scott

February 20 Jarvis Manning

February 21 Pat Stevens

February 26 Brian Filter

February 27 Donna Chambers

February 28 Michael Harris

Anniversary

Years

February 23

Benjamin & Jessica Welter 11



REMINDER:

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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



Happenings in February 2024

	February 1	Groundhog Day!!
February 2	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.	
February 3	9:30am—Women's Bible Study.	
	10:30am Community Crafters.	
February 4	8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School	
	9:30am Divine Service (one service only)	
	Mite Sunday—We love your coins!	
February 5	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters.	
February 6	6:00pm Council Meeting	
February 9	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	
February 10	9:30am—Women's Bible Study.	
	10:30am Community Crafters.	
February 11	8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School	
	9:30am Divine Service (one service only)	
	BWM Chocolate Bake sale	
February 12	2:00—4:00pm Community Crafters	
February 14	11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Panera Bread—RSVP 775-882-5252	
	All ladies are invited to attend.	
	6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	
February 16	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.	
	Newsletter deadline.	
February 17	9:30am—Women's Bible Study.	
	10:30am Community Crafters.	
February 18	8:30am Bible Study	
	9:30am Divine Service (one service only)	
February 19	President's Day—Church and School offices closed.	
	NO Crafters	
February 21	11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome. Bring your own lunch.	
	5:30pm Lent Supper—Bring a dish to share	
	6:30pm Lent Service	
February 23	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.	
February 24	9:30am—Women's Bible Study.	
	10:30am Community Crafters.	
February 25	8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School	
	9:30am Divine Service (one service only)	
February 26	2:00-4:00pm Community Crafters.	
February 28	5:30pm Lent Supper—Bring a dish to share	
	6:30pm Lent Service	

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