



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

April 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/"

MISSION STATEMENT:

To proclaim the Gospel of our
Lord Jesus Christ through witness,
mercy, and
Christian education

A Patient Spirit

A few months ago, I shared that one of my goals for this year is to listen to the Bible in chronological order. I'm about a third of the way through and this past week, I finished the reign of King David and moved on to Solomon. Now I'm reading from what's called "Wisdom Literature," namely the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The book of Job also fits into this category.

I am also a couple of months past having surgery to remove my prostate and the cancer that was found inside of it. I am thankful that I have made significant strides in terms of my recovery and I am not in any sort of pain. But there are still regular reminders that I am not back to where I was before. I am finding that I need more rest than I did before my surgery, and at times I feel my patience wearing thin. I wish I could be completely recovered already.

When I came across Ecclesiastes 7:8, the words kind of jumped out at me. "Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Our nation values and celebrates pride, but we don't do much to celebrate patience. However, in the kingdom of God, patience trumps pride every time.

Martin Luther shares some insight into these words in his commentary on Ecclesiastes. First, what he writes is a reminder that in many ways, even across centuries, people are basically the same. "We Germans are especially subject to criticism on account of this vice, that we are lustful for new things," he says. "We begin many things, but we do not continue or persist in anything. This affects us above all in the area of doctrine, where every day we embrace new ones. But this is the fickleness of the human heart." Some things never change.

Luther continues with some profound advice. "In human affairs it is required that one consider the end. What is needed for this is not a proud spirit, which changes immediately because it wants everything to be done at once and does everything with a certain force, but a patient spirit, which overcomes with patience and forbearance the evils that occur and hinder it."

We see this in Jesus' life. In Luke 13, some Pharisees come to Jesus and warn Him that Herod wants to kill Him. Jesus responds by saying "Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my course." Jesus always seems to have that goal, the end in mind. In fact, Matthew's gospel records Jesus telling His disciples about His suffering, death, and resurrection no less than three different times. He's trying to get them to see the goal, too. Eventually, after He completes all this, they see and remember what He had told them, and they believe. But Jesus always acts with patience, never rushing into any situation or trying to force people to bend to His will, but simply preaching God's Word and patiently letting that message work in the hearts and minds of whomever God wills.

Continued on Page 2

Next month will mark eight years of serving as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School, longer than anywhere I've been called in my adult life. There is still much work to be done. Luther sums up some good advice that has been meaningful to me: "See to it, then, that you persevere. You will suffer slander on account of your wisdom; you will experience ingratitude; people will forget your acts of kindness; they will disparage your best advice and will return evil for good. If one's spirit has been unsure, this will cause it to quit. But you, continue bravely and persevere, because God will eventually grant you the fruit of your work."

In late April, I will have a follow-up appointment with my doctor, and I will find out if the surgeon was able to completely remove the cancer or if I have to undergo further treatment, which would likely be radiation. There are some important decisions to be made that are significantly impacted by my health, not least of which is the question of whether we offer one Divine Service or two on Sunday mornings.

It's hard to be patient, especially when the things we have been proud of are taken away. However, God has filled the Scriptures with wisdom to teach us His way. As Luther says,

It is not how you begin that matters, but how you follow through. It is much better to have reached the end than to have attempted the beginning. Do not praise anyone before the Last Day. Not he who has begun, but "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

May God grant us a patient spirit, that we may persevere until our work is done.

In Christ,

Pastor Maschke

NOTE: The Elders and Pastor Maschke have decided to extend the 9:30am service through April.

Pastor Maschke will be serving with assistance from the elders.

Elder Page by Bill Scott

An early creed?

Creeds have been important to the Christian church down through the ages. They summarize what Christians believe based on the truths taught in Scripture. In 1 Tim 3:16 is found what appears to be a very early Christian creed:

'And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.' (1 Tim 3:16, KJV)

Let's unpack the assertions here and see where these truths come from:

'And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness'

What is this mystery? It is Christ, and there are six things mentioned about Christ, which make up this mystery.

'God was manifest in the flesh'

John 1:14 tells us that 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father).

'Justified in the Spirit'

1 Peter 3:18 tells us that 'For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.'

'He was seen of angels'

The angels attended His birth (Luke 2:10-14; His temptation (Matt 4:11) His agony and death (Luke 22:43); His resurrection (Luke 24:4-6); His ascension (Acts 1:10,11).

'He is preached unto the Gentiles'

For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have appointed you as a light to the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' (Acts 13:47)

'He was believed on in the world'

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

'He was received up into glory'

..when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high..(Heb 1:1-3)

(Adapted from Matthew Henry's commentary on 1Tim 3:16)

Presidents Post April 2024

Blessings to all;

On April 21, we are having a voter’s meeting and at that meeting we will have elections for the church boards and council. I’m asking every member to consider how your talents can be used to benefit our church and school. If being elected to a board feels like too much of a commitment, then just attend and see what the needs of our church are. As one example, our board of trustees needs helpers to paint, fix windows and doors and even help with planning. You can consider helping without being on a board. The bible tells us that each person is graced with different gifts. God tells us to use our gifts to help his kingdom on earth. Our school is changing the lives of nearly 150 children every year. Our school is blessed but this beautiful school requires many things to function. Please ask how you may help. Our church and school is a family that depend on each other for assistance.

In God’s love; Marshall Henningsen , President

CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE YEAR TO DATE

| DESCRIPTION | 12 MONTH ANNUAL BUDGET | JUL 2023 - FEB 2024 (YTD) | | | % VAR. ACTUAL vs. ANNUAL BUDGET |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| | | BUDGET | ACTUAL | DIFF. | |
| REGULAR OFFERINGS | \$283,650 | \$188,350 | \$198,158 | \$9,808 | 5.21% |
| RENT AND MISC. INCOME | \$21,600 | \$14,400 | \$19,784 | \$5,384 | 37.39% |
| TOTAL OPERATING INCOME | \$305,250 | \$202,750 | \$217,942 | \$15,192 | 7.49% |
| PAYROLL & BENEFITS | \$157,007 | \$102,507 | \$103,080 | \$573 | 0.56% |
| SCHOOLS SUPPORT (BLCS & SLHS) | \$42,000 | \$29,664 | \$27,167 | (\$2,497) | -8.42% |
| INSURANCE | \$16,000 | \$0 | \$83 | \$83 | 0.00% |
| OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE | \$90,243 | \$58,539 | \$65,037 | \$6,498 | 11.10% |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE | \$305,250 | \$190,710 | \$195,366 | \$4,657 | 2.44% |
| FINANCIAL INCOME/(EXPENSE) | (\$0) | \$12,041 | \$22,576 | \$10,535 | |

BETHLEHEM CHURCH FINANCIALS: (Narrative/Comments)

MONTH:

- February offerings of \$27,752 were \$4,352 more than budgeted. Offerings were \$8,542 more than last February. Giving Units were 60, 10 more than January and the same as last February.
- Monthly Income of \$6,456 exceeded budget by \$3,409.

Y-T-D:

- YTD Net Income of \$22,576 remains above budget by \$10,535. We are tracking ahead of our budgeted numbers although fluctuating greatly from month to month.



BETHLEHEM WOMEN IN MISSION

Mite Box Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. Mites are the coins that everyone collects in the small mite boxes in the narthex. The idea of mite collection is based on the Widow's offering found in Luke 21:1-4. March is the last month for collecting mites for the 2022-2024 California, Nevada, Hawaii LWML District mission projects. At the district convention in April new mission projects will be selected. The mites collected district wide as of February 29, 2024 totaled more than \$105,000 funding sixteen of the seventeen projects selected at the last convention. When the mites collected in March are received the last project should be funded also. Thank you to everyone who have faithfully supported these mission outreach projects. The new list of Mite Mission projects for 2024-2026 will be available in May.

Bonnie Krenz, the delegate from Bethlehem, will attend the LWML CNH District Convention at the Holiday Inn Convention Hotel in Redding, CA April 19-21. 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." She has already voted for the mission projects to be funded for the 2024-2026 biennium. 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. From April 1st through April 17th, Bethlehem members can help others in need by gathering the following items to be taken to the convention: Baby items such as diapers, wipes, clothes, booties; children and adult socks; and hand or bath towels. There is a box in narthex to place your items.

The Board of Trustees has asked the women of the church to clean and maintain the kitchen area of the church. The Bethlehem Women in Mission Board met and decided that the cleaning would be held one Saturday of each month for those who wish to help—11:00am. The refrigerator was cleaned in March with old items being discarded. The cupboards will be cleaned as time permits with items being sorted and items no longer needed taken to a place where they can be used. We plan to spend about an hour each time we meet. Plan to join the cleaning crew on April 13 at 11:00am.

April 6th the Bible Study will be meeting at Kathleen Wigglesworth's home at 9:30am to watch and discuss the video that is part of this Bible Study. If you have missed some of the lesson the video is a good way to catch up.

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 April 10th at 11:30 the ladies of Bethlehem Church and friends will gather for the monthly event at Red Hut at 4385 S Carson St. Carson City.

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

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.

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, April 7th after service.

Thanks to some wonderful people and donations we are working towards refreshing the fellowship hall.

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 replaced.**

What kind of flooring would you like to see in the Fellowship Hall?



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

**Food pantry presently needs
refried beans jellies and jams, and chicken ramen.**

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 songs, crafts, & Bible study.

TIME: 8:30-9:15am (currently)

PLACE: *Meet in Youth Room*

Thank you to ALL who participated in our Palm Sunday Service celebrating Our Lord & Resurrected Savior!!

May 19, 2024 is our last day of Sunday School for the Summer Break.

***REMINDER:** Sunday School is not held on Jubilee Sunday, 5th Sunday of the month

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:5-6 KJV

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

April 8th—CPTL Meeting.

April 18th—@ 6:00pm Spring Choir and Chapel Band Program.
Raffle tickets will be sold for supporting a BLCS student
to the Script National Spelling Bee—**Contact the school for more information.**

***Enrollment/reenrollment**—Students will be accepted on a “first come, first serve basis” along with new families that are applying to Bethlehem. If you have questions about enrollment, please call the school office.*

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.

Currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. You can apply online at slhs.com or call our offices at 775-267-1921 for more information. Schedule a family tour or a student shadow day where your student can see what it is like to be a falcon for a day.

Every day is an open house at Sierra Lutheran High School

Submit your application at slhs.com

Serving the Lord in April

Acolytes

Sun, April 7 9:30am Noah Manning
Shane Barry

Sun, April 14 9:30am Logan Garrett

Sun, April 21 9:30am Abi Maschke

Sun, April 28 9:30am Jeb Bugg

Elders

Sun, April 7 9:30am Bill Scott

Sun, April 14 9:30am Joshua Karges

Sun, April 21 9:30am Bob Spiker
Jimmy Poncsak

Sun, April 28 9:30am Bob Spiker



Altar Flowers

Sun, April 7 Gansberg Family

Sun, April 14 Bugg Family

Sun, April 21 Star Sunfate Family

Sun, April 28 Wigglesworth Family

Ushers

Sun, April 7 9:30am John Monson,
Chris Soderstrom,
Josh Karges

Sun, April 14 9:30am Mike Harris,
Dave Richison,
Gary Smith

Sun, April 21 9:30am Jeff Bargmann,
Stan Zuber

Sun, April 28 9:30am Tom Ruhoff,
Philip Broderick,
Bill Egbert

Altar Guild



Faith Lee

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

- April 1 Sharon Richison*
- April 2 Logan Garrett*
- April 4 Mahshid Azizi*
- April 7 Kayla Soderstrom
Pauletta McVinnie*
- April 8 Jim Gansberg*
- April 16 John (Jeb) Bugg*
- April 22 Amanda Manning*
- April 25 Randy McVinnie*
- April 28 Colin Wigglesworth*

Anniversary *Years*

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----|
| | <i>April 2</i> | |
| <i>Lee & Kathy Labahn</i> | | 58 |
| | <i>April 8</i> | |
| <i>Colin & Kathleen Wigglesworth</i> | | 28 |
| | <i>April 9</i> | |
| <i>Jeff & Susie Bargmann</i> | | 41 |
| | <i>April 19</i> | |
| <i>Randy & Pauletta McVinnie</i> | | 44 |

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.



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 March 2024

- April 2** 6:00pm Council Meeting—all members are invited to attend.
April 5 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.
- April 6** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
April 7 8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service (one service only)
Mite Sunday—We love your coins!
- April 10** 11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Red Hut restaurant—RSVP 775-882-5252
All ladies are invited to attend.
- April 12** 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
- April 13** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
April 14 8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service (one service only)
New Member Class after service (lunch will be provided). Please RSVP to the church office.
Newsletter deadline.
- April 16** 11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome. Bring your own lunch.
April 17 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
April 19 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.
9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- April 20** 8:30am Bible Study
April 21 9:30am Divine Service (one service only)
Voter's meeting after service, all members are invited, munchies will be served.
- April 26** 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
- April 27** 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
April 28 8:30am Bible Study/Sunday School
9:30am Divine Service (one service only) Palm Sunday.

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