



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

**August 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:**  
**9:15 am**

**Sunday School & Adult**  
**Bible Study: 8:00 am**

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

**Taking the Host in the Hand**

Every so often, I get asked if it's okay for someone to receive communion by me placing the host, the consecrated wafer of bread, directly in their mouth instead of in their hand. I'm always hesitant to give an immediate yes or no answer because, like a lot of things, there's a complicated history behind why we do what we do in the church.

Catholic scholar Elizabeth Klein points out in an article she wrote for Church Life Journal that receiving communion in the hand was the common practice of the Church for the first eight centuries after Christ, and this is attested to in places as far as England, France, Spain, North Africa, as well as Turkey, Rome, and Jerusalem. Klein gives 28 different examples from the early Church Fathers and declares "this list is by no means exhaustive."

Then from the 9th century through the 16th century, there is a nearly universal change to receiving the host in the mouth. As far as I can tell, this seems to begin when a local church council at Rouen, France mandated that only the consecrated fingers of the priest were allowed to touch the host. Another concern was trying to stop those who received the host from keeping some or all of it as a good luck charm. A final worry, which has been consistent throughout the history of the Church, was to avoid dropping even a crumb of the host. Thus, receiving the host directly on the tongue or in the mouth became the universal practice of the Roman Catholic Church over the next few centuries. When Thomas Aquinas came along in the 13th century, he gave the definitive reasoning for why the host should never be touched by unconsecrated hands.

In the 1540s, when receiving the host directly in the mouth was practically universal, Martin Luther was asked about followers of the radical reformer Andreas Karlstadt who refused to take the host in the mouth and will only accept the host in their hands. Some of them were using the excuse that since Jesus says, "take and eat" in the words of institution, what they receive is not a valid eucharist unless they physically use their hands to take the host. However, Luther dismantles this argument by showing that Scripture also says that Jesus takes and drinks the sour wine from the sponge when He is on the cross, and there was no way He could have used His hands as they were nailed to the cross at that point. So, Luther says, someone cannot declare that communion is invalid for this reason.

On the other hand, Luther says that it was practically impossible to rule out receiving the host in one's hand from any scriptural argument, so the means by which Christians receive the host has to be left in the realm of adiaphora, those things that are neither commanded nor prohibited by Scripture. That said, Luther refused to change the practice at his church in Wittenberg and continued to serve the host directly into the mouth of his communicants.

So what should we do?

In recent years, some Lutherans have taken to defending receiving the host on the tongue by emphasizing the passive nature of this way of receiving the host. Martin Luther had no problem with this mode of reception and neither do our Lutheran Confessions, so neither do we. I have had situations where I have done this out of necessity, like for a mother with her hands full trying to wrangle two of her small children at the altar rail, or when I communed a man who was quadriplegic.

*Continued on page 2*

However, there is a much richer history of receiving the host in the hands, so this is what I teach new communicants to do. Several of the early church fathers, including Cyril of Jerusalem, John Chrysostom, John of Damascus, and Theodore of Mopsuestia give instructions to catechumens to place the right hand on top of the left hand to make a cross on which to receive the body of the Lord in the bread we receive. So do I. Mar Narsai, an Assyrian poet and theologian who lived in the 5th century, says, “In the form of a cross the receiver joins His hands, and thus He receives the Body of our Lord on a cross. Upon a cross our Lord Jesus was made nothing, and on the same cross He was exalted to the heavens above. ... [When the communicant] takes it in his mouth, he hides the Leaven of life in the temple of his body, that his body may be sanctified by the reception of the Body of our Lord.”

Martin Luther writes, “A Christian should know that there is nothing more holy on earth than God’s Word, for even the sacrament itself is constituted and sanctified and consecrated through God’s Word, and all of us have received our spiritual birth from that Word and were consecrated as Christians by it. The Word sanctifies everything, and is above the sacrament (insofar as the sacrament admits of being grasped with the hands). If a Christian nevertheless embraces that Word with his mouth and with his ears and with his heart, yes, with his whole life, why should he not dare also to touch that which is consecrated by the Word? Or should he refrain from touching himself? For he is sanctified by the Word as well as the sacrament is.”

Ultimately, we want to prioritize practices that prevent the dropping of the host and which point us to the kind of life we are called to live and for which we are sanctified by God’s Word and our baptism. Let me leave you with John Chrysostom’s words of instruction for those who receive Holy Communion. Think of what you receive in your hand and never lift it to strike another and never disgrace with the sin of assault the hand that has been honored with so great a gift. Think of what you receive in your hand and keep it clean of all greed and theft. Consider that you not only receive this gift in your hand, but that you also bring it up to your mouth, and keep your tongue clean of all disgraceful and outrageous words, blasphemy, perjury and all other sins of this sort. For it is a deed fraught with destruction to take the tongue which serves such awesome mysteries, which has become dyed red with a blood so precious, which has become a sword of gold and to change its course to rude banter, insults, and vulgar jokes. Have reverence for the honor which God has bestowed upon it, and do not lead it down to the vileness of sin.

In Christ,

*Pastor Maschke*

***NOTE: Starting August 4th, Bible Study will be at 8:00am and Divine Service will be at 9:15am. Sunday School starting August 25th will also be at 8:00am . Thanks for all your input in the surveys. The Elders and Pastor Maschke perused the information given and have made their decision per the information on the surveys.***

## August 2024 Newsletter Information



Bethlehem Women in Mission  
*Serving the Lord with Gladness*

**MITE BOX SUNDAY:** On the first Sunday of each month, mite offerings are collected. The mites are sent to the California, Nevada, Hawaii LWML District to help fund the mission projects.

The mites collected during August will be used to help fund Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Monterey, CA, and Faith Lutheran Church in Seaside, CA, who are working together to establish and build a Youth Ministry program to serve the youth of the four Lutheran churches of the Monterey Peninsula. Youth ministry has been absent for the past 25 years. The grant will enable these two organizer churches to hire a part time Youth Director for three months, fund technology and space needs, and provide for expenses of monthly meetings, outreach events, Bible/Catechism material, and family activities, so that youth and families hear the Gospel and enter into fellowship with church members. Youth ministry plays a critical role in developing the church leaders of tomorrow. This program is in the pilot stages and needs grant funds to keep developing the program.



**Mark your calendar now:**

Saturday 9:30-10:30 Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship room. We are studying the armor of God and the protection it offers. In September will begin the study of Peter ...from Fisherman to Fisher of Men by Donna Pyle.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month ladies from Bethlehem meet together for lunch at 11:30am. Watch the bulletin for the location.

Sunday September 29 following the Jubilee Sunday meal the BWM will be holding a workshop on Fraud – text message, phone calls, and email. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday October 6 is BWM Sunday. There will be a bake sale before and after the service. The funds raised will be used to support local missions either through Bethlehem Church or in the community.

Sunday December 8 Annual Family Christmas Tea.

**Attention Men!!!**

*What are you doing Friday, August 23rd—Sunday, August 25th, 2024?  
Come to the annual Men's Retreat!*

At the retreat, we do a healthy balance of growing in faith and friendship, eating, recreating, and resting. We begin with dinner together on Friday night and leave after worship and brunch together on Sunday morning. Saturday afternoon is free to hit the beach, golf, hike, play horseshoes, go shooting or fishing, or whatever else you desire.

The annual Men's Retreat will be at the Redwood Christian Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Boulder Creek, California. Cost is \$255/guy for cabin housing (bring your own towels/linens/sleeping bag), or \$360 to stay in a cottage (nicer beds, linens provided, and shared living room). All meals are included. Let Pastor Maschke know if you are interested in coming. We will be carpooling.

For a brochure with more information, find one in the church narthex or go to [www.blcs.org](http://www.blcs.org) and click on the Church page and then "Life Together."

REGISTER ONLINE AT [HTTPS://STALC.CHURCHCENTER.COM](https://stalc.churchcenter.com)

CLICK ON "GIVE" and select "LCMS District Men's Retreat Registration"

The Outreach Committee would like to share their purpose and some events that are planned for the future. The committee is composed of Chairman Sally Allen, and members Evelyn Williams, Lora Spiker, Jaydyn Radtke, and Bonnie Krenz.

**The purpose is:** 1) to reach inside the church to both visitors and members to develop a relationship with the church. 2) to reach outside the church body into the community to develop an awareness of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

**These are the activities** being planned through the end of the year. The chairman is responsible the activity. The chairman will need help, so if you would like to help with an event contact the chairman and volunteer.

a. **August 17 Ladies' Pamper Day** at Maurice at 10am is planned - come anytime between 10:am and 12:pm. The store will provide treats and games starting at 10:30am. Look for an invitational pamphlet in your church mailbox. Chairman Lora.

b. **September 8 Church Picnic** will be held at Mills Park. Chairman Lora.

c. **October 26 Nevada Day Parade.** There is a need for people who are willing to walk. The van must be decorated this year. If you have decoration ideas or are willing to walk please contact either of the chairmen. Chairman Sally and Jaydyn.

d. **October 13 A Chili Contest** is being planned for that Sunday. Members will be asked to make their favorite chili. There will be three divisions – mild, medium, hot with a prize given to each winner. Chairman Bonnie.

e. **November will be Thanksgiving baskets collection.** The baskets will be packed on November 23 and delivered before Thanksgiving Day. A gift certificate will be included in each basket so the family can purchase the meat as needed. Chairman Sally.

f. **December has several events planned.** Angel Christmas Tree project is held. December 8 Christmas Family Tea with Sunday School children. The BWM will chair this event. December ? Potluck meal following the children's Christmas program. Chairman Bonnie.

It has come to the attention of the committee that there are members of our congregation who need help with household chores. If you could help please contact Sally or Jayden. A form will be developed that the needed person could give to an elder, pastor, or an outreach committee member. The chairman will then ask congregational members for the needed help.

If you have ideas for activities, please share the information with an outreach committee.

## 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).

**Organist:** Can you play or do you know anyone who can? Chat with Pastor.

**Handbell Choir Members and Handbell Choir Director.**

**Altar Guild:** Contact Kathy Jackson 775-691-6144.

**Fund raisers (school and church)**

**Buy a brick** and help a child: check with the school, or church secretary.

### Groups you can join:

**Sunday School teachers and helpers needed for the upcoming Sunday School year.**

Questions? Contact Carrie Suessmith, (775) 720-8797.

**Church singers/musicians - soloists, duets, etc.**—Contact Lora Spiker @church office  
(775-882-5252).

**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.

Bring your own lunch.

**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 at various locations.

## **Refreshing the Fellowship Hall**

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

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*



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

**Today, Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @5:30pm you are invited to the installation service of our new head of school Pastor Micah Glenn which is being held at S.O.S., Shepherd of the Sierra Church, Carson City, NV. It will be a regular church service with a reception to follow at the church. Please come and welcome our new Head of Sierra Lutheran School.**

**Next Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to the installation of Rev. James Cleland at Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church in Carson City at 5:30pm. There will be a reception following the service.**



# **AUGUST**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **WELCOME BACK**

**JOIN US AUGUST 25, 2024  
FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 8AM  
& CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER  
8TH FOR FAMILY GAMES & FUN**

WE ARE ADDING A TODDLER AND PARENT CLASS  
THIS YEAR! MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

**Pick up registration in  
Narthex at church. Any ?  
Contact Todd or Carrie  
Suessmith**

## 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

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Aug 12—PreK & K Preview day	9:00am—11:00am
New Family Orientation	9:15am—10:00am
Back to School Night	5:30pm— 7:00pm
Aug 14 First Day of School	

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***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 2024-2025**

*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)*

**Currently accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. You can apply online at [slhs.com](http://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.**

#### First Day of School—August 19th, 2024

**Every day is an open house at Sierra Lutheran High School**

**Submit your application at [slhs.com](http://slhs.com)**



## *Serving the Lord in August*

### Acolytes

Sun, Aug 4	9:15am	Abi Maschke
Sun, Aug 11	9:15am	Noah Manning
Sun, Aug 18	9:15am	Logan Garrett
Sun, Aug 25	9:15am	Shane Barry



### Altar Flowers

Sun, Aug 4	Suessmith
Sun, Aug 11	Spiker
Sun, Aug 18	Smith
Sun, Aug 25	Krenz

### Accompanists

Sun, Aug 4	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Aug 11	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Aug 18	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Aug 25	Ingrid Karges



### Altar Guild

Kathy Jackson/Analise Garrett

### Elders

Sun, Aug 4	9:15am	Jarvis Manning
Sun, Aug 11	9:15am	Bill Scott
Sun, Aug 18	9:15am	Josh Karges
Sun, Aug 25	9:15am	Bob Spiker/ Jimmy Poncsak

### Ushers

Sun, Aug 4	9:15am	Jim Gansberg, Del Bugg, Bob Gebel
Sun, Aug 11	9:15am	Zachary Karges, Alan Callanan, Sam Radtke
Sun, Aug 18	9:15am	Josh Karges, Lonnie Karges
Sun, Aug 25	9:15am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning

Called to *Serve*

*Happy Birthday!*

*Happy Anniversary*

August 1 Joclaira Lehmann  
 August 5 Alan Callanan  
 August 6 Debra Winkelman  
 August 10 Renee Downs  
 August 11 George Parmenter  
 Tom DuBos  
 August 13 Dillon Winkelman  
 Olivia Monson  
 Stan Zuber  
 August 15 Ann Wagner  
 August 19 Susan Mousel  
 August 20 Ted Lehmann  
 August 21 Bob Gagen  
 August 22 Rose Jones  
 August 27 Alex Garrett  
 Sharon Gebhard  
 August 28 Kathleen  
 Wigglesworth  
 August 30 Jim Farcello

Anniversary

Years

*August 1*  
 Bill & Alice Emory 55  
  
*August 7*  
 Todd & Carrie Suessmith 20  
  
*August 12*  
 Bob & Lora Spiker 29  
  
*August 15*  
 Daren & Debra Winkelman 37

*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. Input is due in the church office by Wednesday at noon each week.

Newsletter articles are due NO LATER than the 15th of the month previous to the 1st of the next month. (example: August newsletter articles were due by July 15th.) If articles for the newsletter are submitted after the 15th, there is a possibility of your article not being included in the next month's newsletter.

Any questions, please contact Lora, 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 August 2024**

- August 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.
- August 3 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- August 4 **8:00am Bible Study/NO Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service (New times)**  
**Mite Sunday—We love your coins!**  
**5:30pm—S.O.S—Install of Principal Micah Green.**
- August 6 **6:00pm Council Meeting—all members are invited to attend.**
- August 7 **11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Cucina Lupos restaurant, 308 N. Curry St, Carson City—RSVP 775-882-5252**  
**All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend or two.**
- August 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
- August 10 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- August 11 **8:00am Bible Study/NO Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service (New times)**  
**5:30pm SOS—install of Rev. James Cleland**
- August 12 **5:30-7:00pm Back to School Night**
- August 14 **Bethlehem Lutheran School starts**  
**11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome. Bring your own lunch.**  
**Newsletter deadline for September.**
- August 15 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
- August 16 10:00am—12:00pm Food Bank Open to all church members and members of the community.  
9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- August 17 **10:am-12:00 noon—Maurice's Department Store event—all ladies welcome. Bring a friend or two!!**
- August 18 **8:00am Bible Study/NO Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service (New times)**
- August 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
- August 24 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- August 25 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service (New times).**
- August 30 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
- August 31 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.