



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

**November 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:
9:15 am**

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

Rev. Dr. Jedidiah Maschke
Pastor

Lora Spiker
Church Secretary

Mrs. Debra Winkelman
Principal

"Please follow us on
Facebook! [www.facebook.com/
blcscarsoncity/](http://www.facebook.com/blcscarsoncity/)"

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

The Hay Is in the Barn: Trusting God with Our Stewardship

I have spent many autumns of my life running cross country and later coaching the sport, so the cooler temperatures and changing colors of the leaves always remind me of the final weeks of the competitive season. There's a saying that cross country coaches have used for decades which comes from the book "Running with the Buffaloes," a classic telling of a tumultuous season with the University of Colorado's cross country team in the 1990s. In it, coach Mark Wetmore tells his athletes at the end of their season, "The hay is in the barn." It's a simple but powerful way of saying that all the preparation and hard work are complete—everything that can be done has been done.

In our Christian lives, we also have times where we've done our part and need to trust God for the results. Proverbs 16:3 encourages us: "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." We do the work God has given us, trusting that He will bring forth the harvest in His perfect time. Just like the farmer who prepares the fields and stores the hay in the barn, we are called to faithful stewardship—knowing that the fruit of our labor ultimately depends on God.

Galatians 6:9 reminds us: "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Whether in our giving, serving, or sharing the Gospel, we put in the effort, but it is God who brings about the results. We are stewards, not just of our resources but of the work we do for the kingdom of God.

Stewardship, then, is more than financial giving—it is about how we use all the gifts God has entrusted to us. Psalm 126:5-6 speaks to this beautifully: "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him." We may experience tough times in our lives, times when our giving means we are making sacrifices. We may not always see the immediate results of our efforts, but we trust that God will bring a joyful harvest in His time.

This fall, we are using the Consecrated Stewards program here at Bethlehem to explore what it means to be faithful stewards of everything God has given us. This program is a Spirit-led, free, and joyous response to God's grace through Jesus Christ. It's an opportunity for us to reflect on how we give our time, talents, and treasures to further God's mission in our church and school. Our program culminates with Consecration Sunday on November 10th. During our 9:15 a.m. divine service, we will gather to worship and make our voluntary pledges to the Lord, trusting Him to bless and multiply our efforts. After the service, we'll enjoy a catered luncheon to celebrate the ways God is working among us. We are excited to welcome District Vice President Matt Molinari from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund as our guest leader for this special day.

As we move through this fall season, I encourage you to join me in prayer, asking that God would use the Consecrated Stewards program to deepen our faith and to remind us that, just as the hay is in the barn, God is faithful to bring a harvest from all we do and give in His name.

In Christ, *Pastor Maschke*

Elder's Page

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.’”

All of us have experienced the aching pain of loneliness — days when the world seems to have passed us by and left us to our single, solitary selves. If only we had someone, preferably a friend, to talk to, to share our inmost thoughts, our hopes, our dreams, our fears!

As believers in Christ, we have such a friend. Again and again we are assured of His presence in our lives. The Lord has told us: “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” And Jesus assures us: “I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). We may be sure: He will never go back on these promises.

We may well ask ourselves: Have we cultivated this sense of nearness to our Lord? Do we walk and talk with Him? Do we share our thoughts with Him — not only in our formal prayers but also in those frequent quiet moments that occur through out the day?

There may indeed be moments in our life when we feel lonely. In those moments may we always remember: we are never left alone.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being our great Friend and sharing out troubles and fears. We thank you, Lord, for Your presence. Amen.

(Taken from “Words of Promise,” copyright 1996, Concordia Publishing House (out of print). For information on other devotional materials, call 1-800-325-3040.)

Your Elder, Jimmy Poncsak

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING!
Sunday, November 10th, 9:15 am

Mark that date on your calendar as a time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and commitment here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. November 10th at 9:15am will be "Consecration Sunday," the culmination of a biblically based stewardship education and commitment emphasis called *Consecrated Stewards* that focuses on raising people in Christian discipleship, not just raising money for the work of the church.

To understand the *Consecrated Stewards* approach, you need to know it is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development rather than on the need of the church to receive. It is not based on the budgetary needs of the church but on the desire to have each person grow in discipleship. Opportunity for growth in discipleship will take place during the Sunday before November 10th.

The personal witness of some of our members.

Encouragement and resources for prayer.

Celebration of the various ministries of our congregation.

A series of Bible studies on Sunday morning.

Consecration Sunday activities on November 10th including:

Opportunity to make a faith-based commitment during the worship service.

A special fellowship and Celebration Luncheon for all of our Bethlehem Lutheran Church family.

The encouragement to commitment on Consecration Sunday takes place within the context of the morning worship service.

Every attendee and member who completes a commitment card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We also urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. *Consecrated Stewards* works with people where they are and when they are ready. Members make their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in our *Consecrated Stewards* events.

Bob Spiker

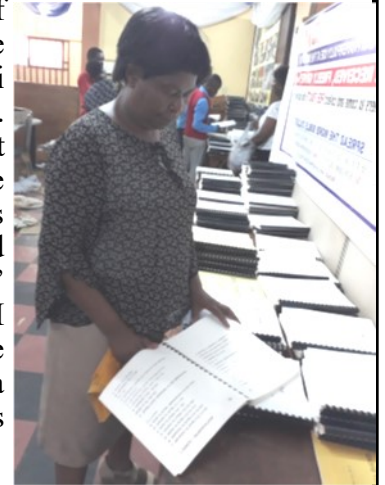
General Chair)



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 November mite offerings will help support

Seeing Christ's Light Amid Visual Darkness through the Lutheran Braille Worker. Visual impairment affects 32.2 million adult Americans and reduces their access to written Scripture. In California alone, 797,000 people are blind or have visual impairment. Through this grant, Lutheran Braille Workers' volunteers at the three ministry production centers within the LCMS CNH District will have the opportunity to share the Gospel with people who are visually impaired by producing and distributing free Christian materials in a Specialized Large Print format recipients can see and read. This grant purchases printing supplies.



The California, Nevada, Hawaii District retreat committee has released information about the 2025 retreat. It will be held August 1-3, 2025 at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. Lindsey Hausch from Rocklin, CA will be speaking on the theme **"Just as I Am"**. Mark your calendar, make plans to join this spiritually uplifting weekend, and save a little each month so cost is not at issue when registration time comes.

Thank You

Thank you to all who supported the bake sales. About \$200 was sent to help support seminary students at Concordia Seminary in St Louis. Thank you to all who attended the "Protect Yourself-Frauds and Scams" workshop. If you were unable to attend the handouts are available in Church.

Mark your calendar now:

Saturday 9:30-10:30 Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship room. On September 21st the women started the study of "Peter ...from Fisherman to Fisher of Men" by Donna Pyle. New members are always welcome.

2nd Wednesday of each month ladies from Bethlehem meet together for lunch at 11:30am. On November 13th all ladies are invited to Squeeze In 308 N Curry St., Carson City. Bring a friend. We share friendly conversation and get to know our fellow sisters in Christ better.

Sunday December 8 2pm. Annual Family Christmas Tea. The Sunday School children will provide the program.

June 26-29, 2025 LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE

August 1-3, 2025 CNH District Retreat St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista, CA



The Outreach Committee is composed of Chairman Sally Allen, and members Evelyn Williams, Lora Spiker, Jaydyn Radtke, and Bonnie Krenz. This may be the committee however every member of Bethlehem is involved in the outreach of the Church

The word OUTREACH for members of Bethlehem has a twofold action:

First to reach inside the church to both visitors and members to develop a relationship with the church.
Second to reach outside the church body into the community to develop an awareness of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

The chairman listed by each event will need help with the event to make it a success, so please volunteer if you can help.

October 20th was the Chili Cook-off Contest in the school gym. The best chili as voted by the amazing judges panel was Jimmy Poncsak for mild, Pastor Zoch for medium, and Suzanne Burns for spicy chili. There was \$285.00 raised through a free will offering for the youth attending the National Youth Conference in July 2025. Thank you to the youth who helped with set-up, judging, and clean-up. Their hands made for easy work for all. The Christian Parent Teacher League from Bethlehem School also held their annual trunk or treat. Fun was had by those giving the treats and the children who received them. The chili was great. Thanks to all who participated.

October 26 Nevada Day Parade. Curt and Diane provided Lutheran Hour Ministry bookmarks with church information on them were handed out. Thank you to all who walked in the parade and gave out the church information. Thank you to the students at Bethlehem who made the banners for the trailer and van.

During the month of November items for Thanksgiving baskets will be collected. The baskets will be packed on November 23th and delivered before Thanksgiving Day. A gift certificate will be included in each basket so the family can purchase the meat of their preference. **Chairman Sally**

December The Christmas Angle Tree gifts will be gathered this year. Sharon Richison will post the angel tags for the tree.

December 12th Bethlehem Lutheran School Christmas program. Show your support of the children and teachers by attending their program.

Next meeting of Outreach Committee is Monday, November 25th at 6pm. Please come and share ideas for activities to be held in 2025.

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.

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

Looking for committee members to make a decision on the flooring? Interested, contact Lora for the next meeting

Open Friday

10:00am-12:00pm



BLC Food Bank is in need of:

Macaroni & Cheese, Vienna sausages, top Ramen, Canned Fruit, Veg and Chicken Noodle soup, spaghetti sauce and noodles, cereal, instant oatmeal/reg oatmeal, jelly, canned peas, beans and carrots, and snacks.

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

Thanksgiving Baskets

Are you or someone you know in need for a thanksgiving basket this year?
If so, please fill out a slip from the church office with the appropriate information.

We will be packing the baskets on November 23rd and they will be ready for pick up or delivery before Thanksgiving Day.

Items needed are: stuffing mix, yams, instant potatoes, vegs—green beans and corn, dried onions, jello or pudding , canned gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls or bread mix, canned fruit or pie filling and ready made pie crust.

November

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY @ 8AM
TODDLER TO ADULT

PARENT & TODDLER | MRS. LAURA
BEGINNERS | MRS. JAYDYN &
MS. ANALISE
MIDLERS | MRS. MANDY
JUNIORS | MR. DAVID & MR. SAM

MUSIC | MRS. KARGES

ADULT CLASS | MR. JOSHUA KARGES

PARENTS: Pick up children's
registration form in the Narthex and
give to a Teacher.

Any ? contact Todd or Carrie Suessmith or email
BlcsSundaySchool@gmail.com



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

November 4th—CPTL at 6:00pm

November 8th—Football Dress Day

November 11th—Veterans Day—No School, preschool or daycare

November 15th—Chapel Family Color Dress & Competition Day

November 22nd—Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast—dismissal after feast

November 23rd—December 1st –Thanksgiving Break—No School, preschool, or daycare

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 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.

Serving the Lord in November

Acolytes

Sun, Nov. 3	9:15am	Noah Manning
Sun, Nov. 10	9:15am	Jeb Bugg
Sun, Nov. 17	9:15am	Shane Barry
Sun, Nov. 24	9:15am	Abi Maschke
Wed, Nov. 27	6:30pm	Noah Manning



Altar Flowers

Sun, Nov. 3	Westgate Family
Sun, Nov. 10	Poncsak Family
Sun, Nov. 17	??
Sun, Nov. 24	McDaniel-Blomberg Family

Accompanists

Sun, Nov 3	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Nov 10	Ingrid Karges
Sun, Nov 17	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Nov 24	Ingrid Karges
Wed, Nov 27	Beverly Baumgartner



Altar Guild

Faith Lee

Elders

Sun, Nov. 3	9:15am	Bob Spiker Jimmy Poncsak
Sun, Nov. 10	9:15am	Jarvis Manning
Sun, Nov. 17	9:15am	Bill Scott
Sun, Nov. 24	9:15am	Bob Spiker
Wed, Nov.28	6:30pm	Joshua Karges

Ushers

Sun, Nov.3	9:15am	Marshall Henningsen, Duane Allen
Sun, Nov. 10	9:15am	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning, Lonnie Karges
Sun, Nov. 17	9:15am	Mike Harris, Dave Richison Gary Smith
Sun, Nov, 24	9:15am	John Monson, Chris Soderstrom Josh Karges
Wed, Nov 27	6:30pm	Jeff Bargmann, Stan Zuber

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

November 2 Carin Kipler
 November 3 Jimmy Poncsak
 November 5 Rindi Fredlund
 November 6 Abi Maschke
 Loki Westgate
 November 9 Dan Ripsom
 Leo Gagen
 November 10 Jessica Welter
 November 14 Marshall Henningsen
 November 19 Warren Cole
 November 20 Alice Emory
 November 22 Duane Allen
 November 23 Clay Soderstrom
 November 25 Annette Swainston
 November 25 BreAnna Bernhard
 November 27 John Monson
 November 28 Sandy Aberle

<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Years</u>
November 1	
Michael & Judi Harris	44
November 5	
Paul & Tammy West	8
November 6	
Alex & Vanessa Bernhard	25
November 11	
Chuck Kihm & Susan Mousel	18
November 20	
Bill & Sonya Abbott	35
November 27	
Alan & Shane Callanan	43



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



Happenings in November 2024

- November 1 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.
- November 2 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- November 3 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**
9:15am Divine Service (New times)
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- November 8 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
- November 9 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- November 10 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**
9:15am Divine Service (New times)
Consecration Sunday Brunch after service today.
- November 11 **Happy Veterans' Day—Church and School Offices closed.**
- November 12 **6:00pm Council Meeting—all members are invited to attend.**
- November 13 **11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Squeeze In, Carson City—RSVP 775-882-5252**
All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend or two.
- November 15 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
- November 16 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- November 17 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**
9:15am Divine Service (New times).
Voter's Meeting & Veterans Appreciation lunch
Newsletter deadline for December.
- November 18 **11:30am Silver Lights Luncheon—All over 50 welcome. Bring your own lunch.**
- November 20 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**
- November 22 10:00am—12:00pm—**Food bank** Open to all church members and members of the community
- November 23 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- November 24 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**
9:15am Divine Service (New times).
- November 27 **6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve service**
- November 28 **Happy Thanksgiving Day—Church and School Office closed in celebration of Nevada Day!!**
- November 29 **Happy Family Day—Church and School Office closed in celebration of Family Day**

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