



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

**January 2025**  
**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:**

We joyfully proclaim Christ's  
Word and share His love through  
worship, education, and outreach.

**Worship Together: Guided by God's Hand**

In January of last year, Bethlehem Lutheran Church moved to a single Sunday worship service. At the time, this decision was practical, as I was recovering from prostate cancer surgery. However, over the past year, it has become clear that God was using this season to guide us toward a deeper theological understanding of worship and its role in the life of our congregation.

In October, our church leaders and school staff met for a retreat where we created a new mission statement that helps us understand our main priorities as a church and school. "We joyfully proclaim Christ's Word and share His love through worship, education, and outreach."

Worship is at the core of who we are as a congregation. Hebrews 10 reminds us, "Let us not neglect meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another." Worship is not a spiritual service provided to individual consumers for the sake of conveniently meeting people's individual preferences. If we believed that, it would contradict Scripture and our doctrine. We do not believe that the church is created by people, based on shared interests or mutual affinity.

Instead, we believe that God is the one who creates the church. That is what we confess in the explanation to the third article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism: *The Holy Spirit... calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.* Our Divine Services each Sunday and at other times of worship are the joyful gathering of God's people to receive His gifts, proclaim His Word, pray, praise, and give thanks as we encourage one another in faith.

Consider this: A family reunion wouldn't feel right if members attended in shifts and some never saw each other. Similarly, the church, as God's family, thrives when it gathers together. Over the past year, we have seen how uniting in one service has enriched our congregation. The sanctuary is filled with the voices of God's people singing together, proclaiming Christ's Word in one harmonious voice. We've grown closer as a church family, fostering deeper fellowship and stronger bonds. We have a common education time before the Divine Service, and a common time for fellowship, meals together, and occasional meetings after the service. This unity in worship reflects the unity we have in Christ and strengthens our mission to share His love.

God has blessed us with a powerful reminder that worship is not just something we do; it is who we are as the body of Christ. This journey has also taught us to trust God's guidance, even when change feels challenging. By embracing one service, we're taking a stand against the mindset of convenience and consumerism and embraced worshipping together as one community. It has strengthened our sense of purpose and prepared us for greater opportunities to live out our mission in education, especially through Bethlehem Lutheran School and Sierra Lutheran High School, and outreach to our community.

As we begin our second year of worshipping together in one service, let us celebrate what God is doing among us. Let us joyfully proclaim Christ's Word as we gather each Sunday. Let us share His love in the ways we teach, serve, and reach out to our neighbors. And let us give thanks for the unity we've experienced, trusting God to continue gathering us and leading us as His Church here in Carson City.

Thank you for walking this journey together. I am grateful for each of you and for the blessings God has poured out on Bethlehem this past year.

In Christ, *Pastor Maschke*



## Bethlehem Women in Mission

### *Serving the Lord with Gladness*

**MITE BOX SUNDAY:** On the first Sunday of the month mite offerings are collected. In 2024 members of Bethlehem gave \$1235.46 for the mite projects. Thank you for all the support you have given this past year. The January mite offerings will help the “Wrap Them in God’s Love” project sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA. for \$3,100 Grace Lutheran Church of San Mateo, CA, has had a quilt ministry since 1924, providing quilts to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (RSO) and adult and baby quilts to Seminary and Deaconess students. Costs are high to send the quilts out, and this grant would fund some shipping, as well as augment the funds for fabric, backing sheets, batting, and thread, so that the quilting group can continue this ministry.



The BWM and Sunday School are working together during 2025 to fill 50 Operation Christmas Shoe boxes through Samaritan Purse. See the Operation Christmas Child project information pages in the newsletter.

#### **Mark your calendar now:**

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

The second Wednesday of each month ladies from Bethlehem meet together for lunch at 11:30am. On January 8th all ladies are invited to Basil Thai Restaurant 311 N. Carson St. Carson City. Please RSVP to Lora if you plan to attend. Bring a friend. We share friendly conversation with our fellow sisters in Christ.

January 12<sup>th</sup> following the church service the members of Bethlehem Women in Mission will meet to make plans for events to be held during February through May.

The annual Chocolate Delight bake sale will be held on Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>. Start thinking about if there is an item or two that you could donate for the sale. The money raised will help support the youth attending the National Youth Conference.

St. Luke’s LWML Ruth Guild and Zone 10 will be hosting a Princess Tea: Daughters of HIStory on Saturday April 5, 2025. Women and girls of all ages are invited to attend.

June 26-29, 2025 LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE “Growing in God’s Grace.” Scripture Verse: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18). Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory. Registration and more information should be available soon. Contact Bonnie or Hannah if you are interested in attending.

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.

**Thank you to food pantry supporters.** Those who have donated supplies and those who have worked are greatly appreciated. Without your support and care, Bethlehem Lutheran Church would not be able to help those in need within our congregation as well as community members. The food pantry supports as many as 10 family units each month.

The Outreach would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Thanksgiving basket. Thank you to the Bethlehem Women in Mission who purchased the grocery gift certificates included in each basket. The church was able to give out 15 baskets with your help. Fifteen families were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

Thank you to those who took a tag or two from the Christmas Angel Tree. All the tags were taken and gifts were distributed. Thank you, Sharon Richison, for taking charge of this project.

Pamper Day at Maurice's on December 1st was enjoyed by numerous ladies. Several enjoyed purchases while attending. Some ladies even had their husbands attend and help with making decisions. Outreach will plan another Pamper Day for spring. Come join the fun and see the new spring fashions. Lora Spiker your helping to organize this event is greatly appreciated.

The Annual Christmas program presented by the Sunday School children and adults was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> during the morning service. The potluck finger food brunch was enjoyed by many members. Thank you to all who brought a plate to share.

At the Outreach Committee in December the following activities were suggested with no date set.

A movie night with popcorn and other snacks. A donation will be taken to help the youth attending the National Youth Conference.

Lunch Box auction at noon on a Sunday following a church service. Games will be offered between service time and the auction. The funds raised will help support youth attending the 2025 National Youth Gathering.

Pamper Day at Maurice's.

The next meeting will be January 27th. Please come and share ideas for activities to be held in 2025. If you can't attend the meeting, share an idea with any of the members of the committee.

## Get involved at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

### Church needs:

**Video Recording Staff** for Sunday and mid-week services:

Contact Pastor 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 2025 is up and ready for signing)**

**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.**

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.



The Christian Parents Teachers League is sponsoring a family movie night on January 17, 2025. The doors of Bethlehem School gym will open at 5:30pm with the movie *Shrek* starting at 6:00pm. Hot Dogs, Hot Chocolate and Popcorn will be available for a freewill donation. Soda will be sold. Mark your calendar and join in a fun evening.

*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



Thank you to everyone who contributed and assisted with the Thanksgiving Baskets. We helped 13 families this year with holiday food.



The BWM and Sunday School are working together during 2025 to fill 50 Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes through Samaritan Purse. To help spread the cost of filling the shoe boxes, each month a needed item will be collected and stored until we hold a “Pack the Christmas Shoe Box” party in November 2025. There is a poster available in the church office listing the type of item being collected each month. Each month the item will be shared during the mite reading. A special collection box will be placed in narthex. For example, in August when school supplies are on sale, the items collected will be school supplies. Below are suggested items by age groups. We suggest you select an age group and either boy or girl and purchase your item each month for that child. This will mean that we will have full shoeboxes. Remember that the items will need to fit inside the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox on the BWM table in the narthex. Prayers that God blesses the success of this project are the most important items. Please pray for the project.

### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gift Suggestion

Girl or Boy age 2-4: “WOW” item, hygiene items, clothing & accessories, crafts & activities, toys

Girl or Boy ages 5-9: “WOW” item, hygiene items, school supplies, clothing & accessories, crafts & activities, toys

Girl or Boy ages 10-14: “WOW” item, hygiene items, school supplies clothing & accessories, crafts & activities, toys

Depending on the age of the child you wish to support some months you may need to purchase different items or no items that month. Donations of cash will always be accepted to help cover the handling fee or items that may be needed to complete a box.

Suggestion by type of items: WOW ITEMS: Doll, small purse, hobby kits, deflated soccer ball with pump; large toy. PERSONAL CARE ITEM: toothbrush, washcloth, comb or brush, nail clipper, water bottle, flashlight. SCHOOL SUPPLIES: pencils and sharpener, erasers, pens, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, construction paper, scissors, ruler. CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES: flipflops, sunglasses, hat, costume jewelry, hair accessories, clothing and undergarments, winter cap, scarf or mittens. GAMES AND ACTIVITIES: puzzles, coloring books, musical instruments, chalk, jump rope, stickers, games. TOYS: small ball, building blocks, Lego sets, slinky or yo-yo, plastic animals, magnets, finger puppets, other small toys or figures.

Items that cannot be sent are candy, toothpaste, gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

## Bethlehem Lutheran School News

Grade Preschool through 8th grade

*Information regarding the school may be found on the school website [www.blos.org](http://www.blos.org)*

### School Update

December 21st—January 5—School Closed for Holiday Break  
 January 6th—Back to School—January 17th—CPTL Family Movie Night@5:30pm.  
 Hot Dogs, Hot Chocolate and Popcorn will be available for a free will donation.  
 Soda will be sold.  
 January 22—26th—National Lutheran Schools Week

**A Big thank you to all who donated to Toys for Tots.  
 The school collected and delivered over 450 items**

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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. 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.

**Serving the Lord in January**

**Acolytes**

|             |        |              |
|-------------|--------|--------------|
| Sun, Jan 5  | 9:15am | Shane Barry  |
| Sun, Jan 12 | 9:15am | Noah Manning |
| Sun, Jan 19 | 9:15am | Jeb Bugg     |
| Sun, Jan 26 | 9:15am | Abi Maschke  |

**Elders**

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun. Jan 5  | JimmyPoncsak/<br>Bob Spiker |
| Sun, Jan 12 | Jarvis Manning              |
| Sun, Jan 19 | Bob Spiker                  |
| Sun, Jan 26 | Bill Scott                  |



**Altar Flowers**

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Sun, Jan 5  | Aberle Family |
| Sun, Jan 12 | ?? Family     |
| Sun, Jan 19 | ?? Family     |
| Sun, Jan 26 | ?? Family     |

**Ushers**

|             |        |  |
|-------------|--------|--|
| Sun, Jan 5  | 9:15am | Jim Gansberg,<br>Del Bugg,<br>Bob Gebel            |
| Sun, Jan 12 | 9:15am | Hal Martin,<br>Jarvis Manning,<br>Lonnie Karges    |
| Sun, Jan 19 | 9:15am | John Monson,<br>Chris Soderstrom,<br>Joshua Karges |
| Sun, Jan 26 | 9:15am | Jeff Bargmann,<br>Stan Zuber                       |

**Accompanists**

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Sun, Jan 5  | Beverly Baumgartner |
| Sun, Jan 12 | Ingrid Karges       |
| Sun, Jan 19 | Beverly Baumgartner |
| Sun, Jan 26 | Ingrid Karges       |



**Altar Guild**

**Kathy Jackson**

Called to *Serve*



*Happy  
Birthday!*

*Happy Anniversary*

Anniversary

Years

January 5 Charles Gagen

January 8 Sarah Tapia  
Ramona Baxter

January 14

January 17 Diane DuBos  
Tom Ruhoff

Sam & Jaydyn Radtke 1

January 18 Gwenn Ruhoff

January 19 Bill Abbott

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

January 23 Sonya Abbott

January 24 Karen Larson  
Mohammad Esmaeli  
sar baghi

January 30 Chuck Kihm



**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 January 2025**

- January 1** **Happy New Year.**  
January 3 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.
- January 4 NO—Women's Bible Study.  
**January 5 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service**
- January 6 Epiphany**  
**January 7 6:00pm—Council Meeting—All church members are invited to attend.**  
**January 8 11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Basil Thai, Carson City—RSVP 775-882-5252**  
**All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend or two.**
- January 10 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
- January 11 9:30am—Women's Bible Study resumes.  
**January 12 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**  
**9:15am Service**
- January 15 11:30am Silver Lights —All over 50 welcome.**  
**Bring your own lunch and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Silver Lights Members.**  
**Newsletter deadline for February.**
- January 16 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.**  
January 17 10:00am—12:00pm—**Food bank** Open to all church members and members of the community  
9:30am—Women's Bible Study.
- January 18 **8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**  
**January 19 9:15am Divine Service .**
- January 20 Martin Luther King Day—Office and school office closed.**  
January 24 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
- January 25 9:30am—Women's Bible Study.  
**January 26 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School**  
**9:15am Divine Service.**
- January 27—31—Lutheran Schools Week  
January 31 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

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