



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

February 2025
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/"

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

**Sacred Spaces and Spiritual Symbolism:
The Meaning Behind the Furnishings in Our Sanctuary**

As we gather for worship each week at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, we are surrounded by a number of sacred furnishings that not only serve practical purposes but also symbolize spiritual truths. This month, I would like to reflect on the meaning and significance of some of the key elements in our sanctuary: the altar, credence table, pulpit, lectern, communion rail, processional crucifix, paschal candle and eternal flame.

The Altar At the center of our worship space stands the altar, the large table-like object in the front and center of the chancel. The word "altar" comes from the Latin *altare*, meaning "a place for offering sacrifices." While no blood sacrifices are offered here, the altar is the location from which we receive the forgiveness for sin Christ earned for us through His sacrificial death once and for all. We receive this forgiveness in God's word and in the Lord's Supper, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come. For this reason, we only put objects on the altar that are used for sharing God's Word and sacraments.

The Credence Table This table serves as the place where our offerings are set apart before the service of the Sacrament. By placing these offerings on the credence table, we maintain a clear distinction between our acts of giving and the gift God graciously gives of Himself in Holy Communion. This separation underscores how the offerings we give are not worthy to be compared to the immeasurable gifts God gives us in Word and Sacrament. It would be improper for these to be associated because the Lord's Supper is a free and holy gift, not something we could ever earn or pay for through our giving.

The Pulpit and Lectern These are vital tools for proclaiming God's Word. The pulpit, from which the sermon is preached and the gospel is read, symbolizes the authority of Scripture. Its height and size helps to show the importance we place on proclaiming God's pure Word. The lectern, which comes from the Latin word *lectio*, meaning "reading," is used for reading the Scriptures and leading prayers.

The Communion Rail As we kneel at the communion rail, we are reminded of our humility before God and our need for His grace. This sacred space also calls to mind the fence that Moses was instructed to place around Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:12-13) to signify the holiness of God and the reverence required in approaching Him. Just as the Israelites were reminded of God's unapproachable majesty, the communion rail sets apart the "chancel," the holy space where Christ comes to meet us at the altar, offering His body and blood.

The Processional Crucifix The processional crucifix, carried during special services, reminds us of Christ's most important work: dying for our sake on the cross. When it is carried into or out of the sanctuary, we stand and face this cross that has the figure of Jesus' body attached to it, called a "corpus." We do this to honor our Lord and remember that He comes to be with us in His church in the Divine Service. This visual representation of Christ also reminds us that Jesus goes before us, guiding our steps and inviting us to take up our own crosses and follow Him.

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The Paschal Candle This large candle first appears in Advent and is lit from Christmas through the seasons of Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, until it is taken away at Ascension Day. It is sometimes called the Christ Candle, reminding us of Jesus' presence in the world. Now, through our baptism, we have been buried with Christ in His death and raised to new life through His resurrection. We light special candles from the Paschal Candle when we baptize new members of the church, both young and old, as a reminder to let your light shine with the light of Christ.

The Eternal Flame Finally, the eternal flame is a symbol of God's enduring presence. It recalls the pillar of fire that led the Israelites in the wilderness and reminds us of the light of Christ that shines in the darkness, which the darkness cannot overcome. This ever-burning flame assures us that God's promises remain steadfast and true, and He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8, Hebrews 13:5).

Each of these sacred furnishings contributes to the beauty of our sanctuary and helps us focus our hearts on God's grace and promises. The next time you are in our sanctuary, feel free to look closer at these items. As you reflect on their significance, let them help you to grow in your understanding of and devotion to the One who gave His life for us.

In Christ, *Pastor Maschke*

New Sunday Morning Bible Study -

Join us for a new study series starting **Sunday, February 2, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.**, led by Pastor Maschke. Together, we will delve into the **Augsburg Confession**, a cornerstone of Lutheran doctrine that boldly proclaims the truths of Scripture and our faith.

Studying the Augsburg Confession is not just a look at history—it's an opportunity to understand what we believe, why we believe it, and how it shapes our lives today. This confession of faith provides clarity on essential teachings such as grace, justification, and the sacraments, helping us grow in confidence as we live and share our faith in a complex world.

Copies of the Augsburg Confession will be available to take home for **\$8**. Whether you're new to Lutheranism or seeking to deepen your knowledge, this study is for you. We look forward to learning together!

Elder Page

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Talents in the Church

Paul uses an image in these verses that illustrates the importance of different individuals with different gifts in the church. The image he uses is the body. Different parts of the body cannot exclude other parts—or themselves—because they serve different purposes; that would be ridiculous. For a body to function well, its different parts need to do different things. Otherwise, there is a risk of limiting the capabilities of the body or preventing it from functioning at all.

Everyone has different skills, gifts, and capabilities. Someone might not approach life or ministry from the same perspective as we do, and so we might be tempted to exclude that person. Or we might look at other Christians and be tempted to exclude ourselves because we're not gifted in the same way they are. This passage reminds us that we are all parts of the Body of Christ and that God has gifted each of us in certain ways—but all with grace and intentionality according to His will for us. All the varied gifts of the church come together under the grace of Christ to proclaim His Gospel to the world.

Submitted by Bob Spiker, Head Elder

**Holy Spirit, lead us to use our gifts
For the good of Your kingdom.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Open Friday 10:00am-12:00pm



**BLC Food Bank is in need of:
Macaroni & Cheese, peanut butter, .**

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



Bethlehem Women in Mission

Serving the Lord with Gladness

MITE BOX SUNDAY: On the first Sunday of the month mite offerings are collected. The mites collected in February will go to the project “Enriching Young Hearts with Enduring Faith” \$5,000 sponsored St. Paul Lutheran Ministries, Merced CA. St. Paul Lutheran School aims to enhance the spiritual education of their students by beginning a project to provide the students with Bibles, Bible curriculum, and Confirmation materials and offer some scholarships to the school. By providing these resources, they hope to give these students the chance to receive a quality education grounded in Christian principles which will further God’s ministry.



The BWM and Sunday School are working together during 2025 to fill 50 Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes through Samaritan Purse. During the month of February please bring fashion accessories such as sunglasses, hair ribbons, baseball caps, necklaces, bracelets, etc. See the Operation Christmas Child needs list posted by the large yellow and black collection bin.

Mark your calendar now:

Each Saturday, 9:30-10:30am, the Women’s Bible Study meet in the Fellowship Hall. On September 21st the women started the study of “Peter ...from Fisherman to Fisher of Men” by Donna Pyle. New members are always welcome.

Sunday, February 9th, the annual Chocolate Delight bake sale is being held in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Please bring an item to sell, and then visit and purchase an item or two that a fellow member brought. The teens are baking to help raise money to attend the National Youth Conference.

The second Wednesday of each month, 11:30am, ladies from Bethlehem meet together for lunch. On February 12th all ladies are invited to Red’s Old 395 Grill at 1055 S. Carson St. Please RSVP to Lora if you plan to attend. Bring a friend. We share friendly conversation with our fellow sisters in Christ.

Saturday March 1st, 11:00am, anyone interested in helping to make sleeping mats for the homeless is invited to the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate supplies, we need 2 yards of denim material for each mat. Sally Allen, who has developed a relationship with the street people, will carry the mats in her car and give them out as needed. We have hygiene kits that will also be shared.

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

June 26-29, 2025, LWML National Convention, Omaha, NE. *Title:* “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, 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 Outreach committee did not meet in January as a committee but did meet with the youth planning to attend the National Youth Gathering in July. The committee is looking at ways to help the youth raise funds to attend. These are two ideas that were suggested for future event with the needed planning and date to be finalized.

- 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.

Sunday, February 16th, 5:00-7:00pm – Get Ready for a Night of Fun and Fundraising!

Bethlehem is excited to announce a **Mardi Gras Fundraising Event** on Sunday, February 16th, 5:00-7:00pm, to help raise money for our youth to attend the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

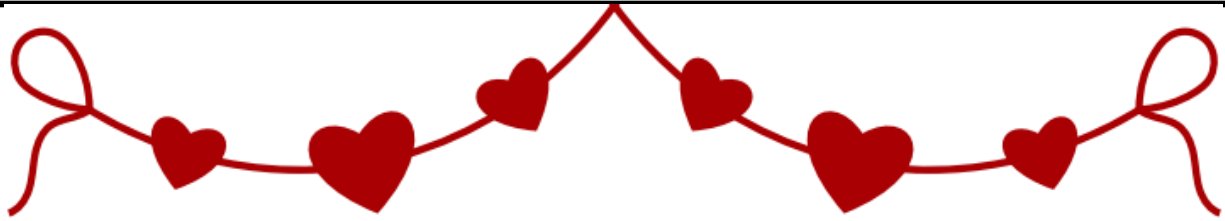
We are proud that seven (7) of our youth will be attending the summer event – Analise and Logan Garrett, Sofia Gilson, Caedmon Hoffman, Chase Tack and Josiah and Abi Maschke. The cost for each student to attend is \$1,600.

The adult event will be serving a **Cajun-Inspired Menu** that will be held in the Bethlehem Lutheran School Gym. Youth from Trinity in Gardnerville, and Shepherd of the Sierra and Bethlehem in Carson City will be serving the meal. The **tickets** for each meal are **\$30.00 per person** and can be **purchased by February 9th** from any of our youth who will be attending the summer gathering. Please come and attend an evening of fun and entertainment by purchasing a dinner ticket or making a donation. We would be grateful if you would spread the word about this event and encourage your friends and family to join in the fun.

The event will also be having a silent auction featuring a variety of items. Please notify Bonnie Krenz at (701) 789-0561, or Sally Allen at (775) -721-4629, or Marsha Egbert at (209) 815-1557 if you have an interest in,

- 1) **ADOPTING-A-BASKET** for the Silent Auction – Fill a basket with items. Be creative. **OR,**
- 2) **Making a DONATION towards BASKET ITEMS** for the Silent Action. **OR,**
- 3) **Making a DONATION toward the MARDI GRAS Centerpiece** (“fundraising theme”) that will be available to purchase during the February 16 event.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you on the day of the event!



Sunday School

February 2025

**Sundays
8:00 AM**

**GOD IS LOVE
1 JOHN 4:8**

Upcoming Events

Join us for a season of joy and growth with our inspiring Easter Program and an unforgettable Vacation Bible School this summer—fun and faith for the whole family! Contact Todd or Carrie if you'd like to volunteer and be part of the excitement!

JOIN US



Saturday March 1st, 11:00am – The Outreach Committee will help deliver sleeping mats being made by the Bethlehem Women in Mission. If you would like to help make the mats, please do, as many hands make for light work.

The next meeting will be in February. Please come and share ideas for the Outreach Committee's 2025 activities. If you can't attend the meeting share an idea with any of the committee members .

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, (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 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.blcs.org

School Update

February 3rd—Parent/Teacher Conferences—No School or Preschool

February 14th—Mission \$1 Dress Day

February 17th—Presidents' Day—No School, Preschool, or Daycare

February 20th—Open House 5:30—7:00pm

February 28th—Chapel Family Color Dress Day & Competition

***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 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 February

Acolytes

Sun, Feb 2 9:15am Shane Barry
 Sun, Feb 9 9:15am Noah Manning
 Sun, Feb 16 9:15am Jeb Bugg
 Sun, Feb 23 9:15am Abi Maschke

Elders

Sun, Feb 2 9:15am Joshua Karges
 Sun, Feb 9 9:15am Bob Spiker/
 Jimmy Poncsak
 Sun, Feb 16 9:15am Jarvis Manning
 Sun, Feb 23 9:15am Bob Spiker

Accompanists

Sun, Feb 2 9:15am Ingrid Karges
 Sun, Feb 9 9:15am Beverly Baumgartner
 Sun, Feb 16 9:15am Ingrid Karges
 Sun, Feb 23 9:15am Beverly Baumgartner

Ushers

Sun, Feb 2 9:15am Warren Coles,
 Charles Kihm
 Sun, Feb 9 9:15am Alan Callanan,
 Sam Radtke
 Sun, Feb 16 9:15am Marshall Henningsen,
 Duane Allen
 Sun, Feb 23 9:15am Mike Harris,
 Dave Richison



Altar Flowers

Sun, Feb 2 ?? Family
 Sun, Feb 9 ?? Family
 Sun, Feb 16 ?? Family
 Sun, Feb 23 ?? Family



Altar Guild

Kathryn Smith

Called to *Serve*

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

Anniversary

Years

- February 2 Joshua Karges
- February 4 Curt Drumm
- February 6 Desiree Westgate
- 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

February 23

Benjamin & Jessica Welter 11

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 February 2025

- February 1 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
February 2 **Happy Groundhog Day!**
8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
Mite Sunday—we love your coins!!!
- February 4 6:00pm Council Meeting—All church members are invited to attend.
February 7 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 8 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
February 9 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Service.
10:30am Chocolate Delight bake sale.
** Ticket purchase **DEADLINE** for Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner—\$30/person.
- February 12 11:30am Ladies Luncheon at **?TBD RESTAURANT?**, Carson City—RSVP 775-882-5252.
All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend or two.
Newsletter **DEADLINE** for March.
- February 13 **Happy Valentine's Day!**
February 14 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 15 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
February 16 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
** 5:00pm Mardi Gras Fundraiser Dinner.
- February 17 **Happy Presidents' Day!**—Church and School office closed.
February 19 11:30am Silver Lights—All over 50 welcome.
Bring your own lunch and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Silver Lights Members.
- February 21 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 22 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
February 23 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
- February 28 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..—Psalm 118:24.