



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

March 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.

"The Kingdom of the Crucified Christ"

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent this coming week, you are invited to journey with us through the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke. This year's theme is "The Kingdom of the Crucified Christ." We will read and meditate on Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, revealing the paradoxical nature of His kingdom—a kingdom established not by power or might, but through the weakness and scandal of the cross. Through His suffering and death, Christ offers life and salvation to all who believe.

For centuries, Lent has served as a 40-day season of restraint and repentance in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter. It is a time to break sinful habits and to practice virtues like generosity, reconciliation, and self-control.

In our worship services, we refrain from alleluias and the Gloria in Excelsis. While these are concrete reminders of the solemn nature of the season, we keep our focus on Christ.

Our Midweek Lenten services will begin at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday and we will meet for a potluck dinner beforehand at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall beginning on March 12th.

Ash Wednesday—March 5th: "Unless You Repent, You Will All Likewise Perish" (Luke 13:1-9)

We begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday with a call to repentance. Jesus' words remind us that without turning to God, we perish. Yet, in His mercy, He grants us time to bear fruit.

March 12th: "A Final Declaration of Love" (Luke 22:31-38)

Jesus prepares His disciples for His impending betrayal and suffering, declaring His love and promising His presence in the midst of their failures.

March 19th: "The Power of Darkness" (Luke 22:39-53)

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus confronts the power of darkness, submitting to the Father's will and drinking the cup of wrath for our salvation.

March 26th: "Truth Scorned" (Luke 22:54-71)

As Jesus stands trial, He is denied, mocked, and rejected. Yet, He remains a faithful witness to the truth, even as He is scorned.

April 2nd: "Humanity at Its Worst" (Luke 23:1-31)

The crowd chooses Barabbas over Jesus, revealing the depth of human sin. Yet, even in this rejection, Christ's kingdom is revealed as one of mercy and forgiveness.

April 9th: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (Luke 23:32-43)

On the cross, Jesus extends His kingdom to a repentant thief, demonstrating that His reign is one of grace and salvation for all who turn to Him in faith.

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You are also invited to join us for our Holy Week services, also beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday—April 17th: “Our Lord’s Last Will and Testament” (Luke 22:7-20)

Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper, establishing the new covenant in His blood and inviting us to His table as heirs of His kingdom.

Good Friday—April 18th: “The Power of the Cross” (Luke 23:44-56)

As Christ breathes His last, the temple curtain is torn, and the centurion declares, “Surely this was a righteous man.” The cross becomes the throne from which He reigns.

Finally, we finish our series on Easter Sunday with our Divine Service at 9:15 a.m. with the theme:

“Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?” (Luke 24:1-12)

The empty tomb proclaims the victory of the Crucified King. He is risen, and His kingdom is eternal! Join us each week as we walk this sacred journey together, culminating in the joy of Easter.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

In Christ, *Pastor Maschke*

New Sunday Morning Bible Study -

Join us for a new study series **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**Home Plate Standard**

Do you know how wide baseball's home plate is? It is seventeen inches. It's 17 inches at all levels. It's the same for T-Ball, Little League, Girls Softball, High School, College, and the Major Leagues.

In 1996, Coach John Scolinos, a former baseball coach who coached at Pepperdine University and Cal Poly Pomona from 1946-1991. He spoke to about 4000 baseball coaches about compromising standards. He held a home plate up and reminded them it was the same 17 inches for little leaguers as it was for the professionals, the same in Babe Ruth's day as it is today. When a Major League pitcher cannot throw the ball over the plate, he goes back to the minors. What coaches don't say is, "Ah, that's okay Jimmy. If you can't hit the 17 inches, we'll make 18 or 19 inches for you. Maybe 20 inches if that is what it takes." Then he asked the coaches, "What do you do when your star player shows up late for practice, or walks in the locker room unshaven when team rule forbids facial hair? Do you hold him accountable, or do you change the rules to fit him? Do you widen home plate?"

He went on to say, "The standard is the word of God, scripture the Truth. Joshua was told, "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." - Joshua 1:7. And Jesus said, "All you need to say is simply "yes" or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." - Matthew 5:37. Dads are to honor the Standard personally, in marriage, in the home and beyond."

At the end of his talk Coach Scolinos turned the home plate around with the point up. He had drawn windows and a door on it to make it look like a home. He went on to say, "This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriage, with the way we parent our kids, with the way we discipline—we do not teach accountability to our kids, there is no consequence for failing to meet the standard. We just widen the plate." There is a lot of "widening the plate" going on today, longtime standard being compromised.

Enough already! The Standard is the word of God.

Hebrews 13:8—New International Version

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Submitted by Joshua Karges



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 March will go to the project Construction Zone: LINC Youth Ministry Training \$7,500 LINC Bay Area. Hayward, CA. Children of immigrants often don't see how they fit in the church of their parents. This grant will expand LINC Bay Area's efforts to train 15 local immigrant churches to run effective children's and youth ministries so that in the future, these children won't leave the church, they'll lead it. (LINC Bay Area continues the work of planting churches that are led by culturally diverse leaders ministering to immigrant families from the same culture and language group.).

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 March please bring WOW items such as dolls, hobby kits, vehicles for children, large toys etc. The gift must fit in the shoe box. See the Operation Christmas Child needs list posted by the large yellow and black collection bin. Thank you to all who helped make the Chocolate Bake Sale a success. Over \$500 was raised to help with the cost for youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July. Without the support of the church members this would not have been possible. Thank you who provided the bake items and those who purchased the baked items.



Mark your calendar now:

Saturday 9:30-10:30am 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.

The **second Wednesday of each month ladies** from Bethlehem meet together for lunch at 11:30am. On March 12th all ladies are invited to Eve's Eatery 402 N. Carson St. Please RSVP to Lora if you plan to attend. Bring a friend. We share friendly conversation with our fellow sisters in Christ.

St. Luke's LWML Ruth Guild and Zone 10 will be hosting a Princess Tea: Daughters of HIStory on Saturday April 12, 2025 at 2pm. Women and girls of all ages are invited to attend.

May 10 Ladies Tea Time. Time and theme to be set. Watch for more information.

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. Online registration begins March 1. Visit LWML.org/convention to register and to find more information. 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 California Nevada Hawaii LWML District Convention will be held April 24, 2026 through April 27, 2026. It is being held at the Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel. The theme is Jesus is our Passport.

Open Friday 10:00am-12:00pm

BLC Food Bank is in great shape right now.



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



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 met February 24th as a committee to do some planning. The committee is looking at ways to help the youth raise funds to attend the National Youth Gathering.

April 5 Ladies Pamper Day at Maurice's

April 20 Easter Brunch following the morning service. The Elders are cooking and the Sunday School students will provide the entertainment. So, mark your calendar now.

May 10 Mother's Day Tea

May 18 Boxed Lunch auction following the church service. Everyone bring a boxed lunch that will then be auctioned off with the funds raised helping to support youth attending the 2025 National Youth Gathering.

CPTL will hold an Easter Egg hunt on April 5th. Candy will be needed. There will be a box for donated candy in the narthex.

On February 16th the youth from Trinity, Gardnerville, Shepherd of the Sierra, and Bethlehem served a Cajun Dinner for adults in the Bethlehem School Gym. A group of women help with this event by decorating and setting the tables and packing auction baskets with items donated by the members of the congregation. The funds raised will help those attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

The Outreach Committee met on Saturday March 1st to sew sleeping mats for the poor. These mats will be delivered to the homeless for use. Thank you for any help you were able to give. The next meeting will be Monday, March 17th at noon. 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

March News from the Board of Christian Education

Vacation Bible School—The Board of Christian Education is excited to announce they are offering Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. The board will be inviting children to go on an “epic Australian Adventure—An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus” at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Children will be encountering amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life and a wondrous wilderness.

VBS will be offering Bible Exploration with Science, Crafts, Games, Singing and Snacks. And most importantly, children will be guided by our Savior, Jesus, who tells us, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” which is the theme verse, **John 14:6**.

Summer Vacation Bible School

Dates: Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20

Time: 9am to 12 noon

Children: Pre-K through 5th Grade

**** Registration information will be coming soon.**

Parent and adults interested in helping with the summer VBS program, please contact Carrie Suessmith at (775-720-8797 or Marsha Egbert at (209) 815-1557.



Mark Your Calendar—Easter Service and Brunch on April 20th

During Easter brunch, Sunday School students will be presenting an Easter program. The program has been written and directed by John Bugg and Noah Manning with assistance from Bonnie Krenz, including creating their own costumes.

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.

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Bethlehem Lutheran School News

Grade Preschool through 8th grade

Information regarding the school may be found on the school website www.bles.org

School Update

March 7th—end of 3rd quarter—Minimum Day—Dismissal at 12:00pm

March 12th—Dad's & Donuts and Chapel starting at 7:45am

March 19th—Spring Photos Free Dress Day

March 21st—Teacher Inservice Day—No School or Preschool

March 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 March

Acolytes

Sun, March 2	Shane Barry
Wed., March 5	Shane Barry
Sun, March 9	Noah Manning
Wed., March 12	Noah Manning
Sun, March 16	Jeb Bugg
Wed., March 19	Jeb Bugg
Sun, March 23	Abi Maschke
Wed., March 26	Abi Maschke
Sun, March 30	Shane Barry

Accompanists

Sun, Mar 2	9:15am	Ingrid Karges
Wed, Mar 5	6:30pm	Mark Swanson
Sun, Mar 9	9:15am	Ingrid Karges
Wed, Mar 12	6:30pm	Ingrid Karges
Sun, Mar 16	9:15am	Mark Swanson
Wed, Mar 19	6:30pm	Mark Swanson
Sun, Mar 23	9:15am	Beverly Baumgartner
Wed, Mar 26	6:30pm	Beverly Baumgartner
Sun, Mar 30	9:15am	Beverly Baumgartner

Altar Flowers

Sun, Mar 2	V. Smith Family
Sun, Mar 9	Theiss Family
Sun, Mar 16	Krenz Family
Sun, Mar 23	Egbert Family
Sun, Mar 30	?? Family



Altar Guild

Kathy Jackson

Elders

Sun, March 2	Bill Scott
Wed., March 5	Bill Scott
Sun, March 9	Joshua Karges
Wed., March 12	Joshua Karges
Sun, March 16	Bob Spiker/ Jimmy Poncsak
Wed., March 19	Bob Spiker/ Jimmy Poncsak
Sun, March 23	Jarvis Manning
Wed., March 26	Jarvis Manning
Sun, March 30	Joshua Karges

Ushers

Sun, March 2	Tom Ruhoff, Philip Broderick, Bill Egbert,
Wed., March 5 6:30pm	Curt Drumm, Todd Suessmith
Sun, Mar 9	Jim Gansberg, Del Bugg, Bob Gebel
Wed, Mar 12 6:30pm	Hal Martin, Jarvis Manning, Lonnie Karges
Sun, Mar 16	John Monson, Chris Soderstrom, Joshua Karges,
Wed, Mar 19 6:30pm	Jeff Bargmann, Stan Zuber
Sun, Mar 23	Warren Coles, Charles Kihm
Wed, Mar 26 6:30pm	Zachary Karges, Alan Callanan, Sam Radtke
Sun, Mar 30	Marshall Henningsen, Duane Allen

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary

Anniversary

Years

March 4 Hannah Krenz
Sue Farcello

March 13 Christopher
Soderstrom

March 18 Carrie Suessmith

March 24 Cora Manning
Marilyn Maruca

March 26 Bob Spiker
Dan Zuber

March 28 Diane Drumm

March 29 Marcia Egbert

March 17

David & Renee Downs 2 years

March 21

Gary & Kathryn Smith 44 years

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 March 2025

- March 1 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
- March 2 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
Mite Sunday—we love your coins!!!
- March 4 6:00pm Council Meeting—All church members are invited to attend.
- March 5 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
- March 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.
- March 8 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
- March 9 Daylight Savings Time—Spring forward!!
8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Service.
- March 12 11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Eve's Eatery, Carson City—RSVP 775-882-5252.
All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend or two.
5:30 pm Soup Supper—Bring a dish to share!!
6:30pm Lent Service
Newsletter DEADLINE for April.
- March 13 6:30am Men's Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—All men are invited to attend.
- March 14 10:00am-12:00pm Food bank—Open to all church members and members of the community.
- March 15 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
- March 16 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
- March 17 *Happy St. Patrick's Day!*
- March 19 11:30am Silver Lights—All over 50 welcome.
Bring your own lunch and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Silver Lights Members.
5:30 pm Soup Supper—Bring a dish to share!!
6:30pm Lent Service
- March 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.
- March 22 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
- March 23 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
9:15am Divine Service.
- March 26 5:30 pm Soup Supper—Bring a dish to share!!
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- March 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.
- March 29 9:30am Women's Bible Study—All women are invited to attend.
- March 30 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.
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