



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

**April 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.

**We the People of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School**

The opening words of the U.S. Constitution, "We the People," talk about bringing people together for a common purpose. Lutherans believe that unity in a local congregation should not be forced by rules or leaders but should come from shared faith, love, and service. Just as the Constitution aims to bring our nation together, the Church should be united by God's Word and Sacraments and the love believers show for one another. This is what we aim for at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School: "We joyfully proclaim Christ's Word and share His love through worship, education, and outreach." Martin Luther taught that true unity in the Church comes from faith in Jesus, not from church leaders or traditions. He disagreed with the idea that people needed to follow the manmade rules of the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope to be united. Instead, he said that the Church is made up of believers who trust in Jesus for their salvation. The authority of the Church comes from God's Word alone.

Luther believed that unity should be something that churches practice every day. He suggested several ways to build and maintain unity:

1. **Preaching and Teaching God's Word** – Unity comes from hearing and believing the truth of the gospel. In his *Sermon on the Two Kinds of Righteousness*, Luther said that churches should primarily teach about Jesus' righteousness, not human achievements. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, preaching Christ's Word is central to our worship and our mission. As Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

2. **Baptism and the Lord's Supper** – These sacraments are essential for the Church's unity. In his *Large Catechism*, Luther said that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are gifts from God that strengthen believers' faith. The Lord's Supper, in particular, reminds us that we are part of one body in Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13 states, "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Paul writes, "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

3. **Loving and Serving One Another** – Luther taught that unity is shown through love and service. In his *Treatise on Christian Liberty (The Freedom of a Christian)*, he wrote that Christians are free in Christ, but they should use that freedom to help others. A united congregation cares for one another, forgives, and supports those in need. At Bethlehem Lutheran Church, we follow this principle through our outreach and education programs. As Galatians 5:13 reminds us, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

4. **Unity of Mind** – While Christians do not all do the same work, Luther writes in his *Sermons on First Peter* that "there should be one mind and many works, one heart and many hands. All should not do one and the same work, but everyone should attend to his own duties." It is sinful to think of one person's work as better than another. When Peter writes, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind," (1 Peter 3:8) this means that before God, everything is equal. All work that is not a sin in itself is good in God's eyes.

*Continued on Page 2*

**5. Correcting Mistakes with Love** – Luther knew that people in the Church would sometimes make mistakes. He believed that those in the church should correct errors, not to exclude people, but to help them return to God’s truth. In his *Lectures on Galatians*, he explained that churches should discipline members in a loving way, always aiming for restoration. We maintain unity through faithful teaching and pastoral care. As Ephesians 4:15 says, “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”

Lutherans believe that a congregation should be united by faith in Jesus, not by human traditions or authority. True unity comes from preaching the gospel, receiving the sacraments, and loving one another. He also knew that keeping unity takes effort and requires patience, forgiveness, humility, and good teaching.

In Christ, *Pastor Maschke*

**2025 Holiday Church Schedule**

April 9<sup>th</sup> — Wednesday @6:30pm—Lent Supper @5:30pm

April 13<sup>th</sup> —Palm Sunday @9:15am

April 17<sup>th</sup> —Maundy Thursday @6:30pm (communion)

April 18<sup>th</sup> —Good Friday @6:30pm

April 20<sup>th</sup> —Easter @9:15am with brunch after service.

During Easter Brunch, Sunday School Students Jon Bugg and Noah Manning will be presenting an Easter program with Bonnie Krenz

**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

## The Purpose of Prayer

When we become friends with people, we often invite them into our home. Some are what we might call "living room guests." They are our friends. And we invite them over. But they never get past the living room. We don't want them to see the mess in the rest of the house, especially our closets, which are full of so much clutter!

But there are other friends who can go anywhere in our home, people we are so comfortable with that we say, "Make yourself at home!" They can even raid our freezer and eat all our chocolate ice cream. No problem!

Paul says that the purpose of prayer is for Christ to dwell in our hearts, to make our heart His home. That's because Jesus isn't a living room Lord. He wants to go to our office, turn on our computer, and look at the sites we have been visiting. Then He wants to see our kitchen, bedroom, and text messages. He wants to see what is at the bottom of the laundry basket or forgotten in the basement. What does Jesus see? Selfishness. Duplicity. Compromise. Sin.

What does Jesus do? He loves. He forgives. He points us to His cleansing blood. He gives us the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to get rid of everything that hurts Him and others. He is our faithful and forgiving friend.

*Jesus my heart is Yours. Clean and cleanse it to Your glory.  
Amen.*

Submitted by Bob Spiker



**Fund Raiser for the Youth Group**  
**Lets get our Youth to the National Youth Gathering in**  
**New Orleans 7/19—7/23/25**

***Ever hear of the 100 envelope challenge??***

There will be 100 envelopes with a dollar amount on them—numbered from \$1- \$100. If all envelopes are taken and returned, **the net result will be \$5,050.00.**

The church is challenging all our members to take an envelope and place that amount or more in the envelope and return it in the offering plate.

If you are interested in this challenge, please get an envelope from Lora in the office.

**YOUTH**

***Open Friday***

***10:00am-12:00pm***

**BLC Food Bank is in need of paper bags!!**



**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.

At the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Outreach Committee made plans for numerous events to be held during the next several months.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> The Spring Ladies' Day at Maurice's** is from 10:00am to noon. Come and help friends to choose a new outfit, play some games, and have fun with members from Bethlehem. Bring a friend or two. Husbands are welcome.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> CPTL is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt** with registration beginning at 1:30pm. There will be an egg hunt, crafts, and prizes. Bring a friend.

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Attention all men of the church.** Bethlehem is reforming their Usher teams and would like all men interested in Ushering to briefly meet following the service .

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter Service at 9:15am.** Following the service, the Elders will be cooking morning brunch and the Sunday School students will be sharing the Easter story through a radio program written by John Bugg and Noah Manning. The boys, with the help of Bonnie Krenz, have found the costumes, created the scenery, and directed the performance.

**April 27<sup>th</sup> Voters' Meeting.** Following the morning service, a Voter's Meeting will be held to approve the revised Constitution/Bylaws. Brunch will be served.

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Special Voters' Meeting.** Following the morning service, a Special Voters' Meeting will be held to approve the budget, reports will be given by each board, and any board member elections will be voted on. Brunch will be served.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day Tea.** Watch for more information.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> Help the youth attend the National Youth Gathering. There will be a Lunch Box Auction, silent auction, and a jar auction.** The auction items will be displayed in the Fellowship Room in early May. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**June 8<sup>th</sup> All the youth** attending National Youth Gathering from St. Luke, Trinity, Shepherd of the Sierra, and Bethlehem will be at Bethlehem to receive a send-off blessing and share their stories. Brunch will be served following the service. Stay and visit with the youth.

**The Outreach Committee is looking at developing a program to train Greeters.** The program will be available to everyone who would like to practice greeting a visitor to church or maybe even that person you don't know even though you both have been members at Bethlehem for some time. Maybe some of the skills will even help you share the love of God with a new neighbor or someone you meet when you are out for your daily walk. Watch for more information.

### April 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, 2025

**Time:** 9:00am to 12:00 noon

**Doors Open for Registration:** 8:30am

**Children:** Pre-K through 5th Grade

*Invite a friend or two!!*

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



Parents 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, Brunch, & Special Presentation on April 20th**

During Easter brunch, the 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 and scenery.

## 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 at 11:30am at various locations.



## 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 April will go to the project Tuition Assistance for Grace Christian School, Grace Lutheran Church & School, Visalia CA. \$10,150.

Grace Christian School of Visalia, CA, has been serving the community since 1977. The school currently teaches children in kindergarten through 8th grade. Due to variability in enrollment numbers and some policies that affect tuition, they are currently in need of additional funding to partially pay tuition for students so that they may continue their Christian education.



The BWM and Sunday School are working together during 2025 to fill 50 **Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes** through Samaritan's Purse. During the **month of April** please give a **cash donation** to help pay for the postage to ship the boxes. A person has donated 50 small stuffed animals that were to be the gift brought in April.



**April 13<sup>th</sup>** the Bethlehem Women in Mission will be holding their **annual Easter bake sale**. The funds raised will be given to the Advocates to End Domestic Violence. Please help this local need by donating a baked item or two and then visit the sale to purchase a sweet item for your Easter treat.

### Mark your calendar now:



**Every Saturday, 9:30-10:30am**, the Women's Bible Study meets 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.



On the **second Wednesday** of each month ladies from Bethlehem meet together for lunch at 11:30am. On April 9th all ladies are invited to the **Midtown Café (inside Old Hospital, 1755 Fleischmann Way)**. Please RSVP to Lora if you plan to attend. Bring a friend. We share friendly conversation with our fellow sisters in Christ.



On **Saturday, April 12, 2025, 1:00pm**, the St. Luke's Lutheran Ruth Guild/LWML in Reno and Zone 10 is hosting a **Princess Tea**. The theme is "**We Are Daughters of HIStory**". Women and girls of all ages are invited to attend. Each is asked to *bring a bunch of flowers and vase*. **Tickets are \$10** at the door. Please contact Bonnie Krenz if you plan to attend so that she can provide a **headcount** to St. Luke's; and also if you would like to **car pool**.



**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<sup>st</sup>. Visit [LWML.org/convention](http://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

**April 24-27, 2026** the California Nevada Hawaii LWML District Convention will be held at the Sacramento DoubleTree Hotel. **The theme is Jesus is our Passport.**



## **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**

April 1st—FACTS Grants & Aids deadline to apply, including all follow-up documents.

April 3rd—Spring Choir Program at 6:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

April 12-21st—Easter Break. **No School, Preschool, or Daycare.**

May 16th—Chapel with PreK & K promotion (**PreK & K Last Day**).

May 21st—8th Grade Graduation & Chapel (**1st-8th Grade Last Day**).

**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 April*

### Acolytes

Wed, April 2      Noah Manning  
Sun, April 6      Jeb Bugg

Wed, April 9      Abi Maschke  
Palm Sun, April 13      Shane Barry

Thursday, April 17      Noah Manning

Good Friday, April 18      Noah Manning

Easter Sun, April 20      Abi Maschke

Sun, April 27      Shane Barry

### Accompanists

Wed, April 2      Ingrid Karges  
Sun, April 6      Ingrid Karges

Wed, April 9      Ingrid Karges  
Palm Sun, April 13      Beverly Baumgartner

Thursday, April 17      Beverly Baumgartner

Good Friday, April 18      Beverly Baumgartner

Easter Sun, April 20      Mark Swanson

Sun, April 27      Beverly Baumgartner

### Altar Flowers



Sun, April 6      Jim Gansberg  
Sun, April 13      Bugg Family  
Sun, April 20      Randy McVinnie  
Sun, April 27      Kathleen Wigglesworth

Called to *Serve*

### Altar Guild



Randy McVinnie

### Elders

Wed, April 2      Bob Spiker  
Sun, April 6      Bill Scott

Wed, April 9      Bill Scott  
Palm Sun., April 13      Josh Karges

Thursday, April 17      Josh Karges

Good Friday, April 18      Jimmy Poncsak/  
Bob Spiker

Easter Sun, April 20      Jimmy Poncsak/  
Bob Spiker

Sun, April 27      Jarvis Manning

### Ushers

Wed, April 2      **Volunteers needed**  
Sun, April 6      Mike Harris,

Dave Richison,  
Gary Smith  
Wed, April 9      Tom Ruhoff,

Philip Broderick,  
Bill Egbert  
Palm Sun., April 13      Curt Drumm,

Todd Suessmith  
Thursday, April 17      Jim Gansberg,  
Del Bugg,

Bob Gebel  
Good Friday, April 18      Hal Martin,  
Jarvis Manning,

Lonnie Karges  
Easter Sun, April 20      John Monson,

Chris Soderstrom,  
Josh Karges

Sun, April 27      Jeff Bargmann,

Stan Zuber

## Happy Birthday!!

April 2 Logan Garrett

April 7 Kayla Soderstrom  
Pauletta McVinnie

April 8 Jim Gansberg  
Lori Goulart

April 16 John (Jeb) Bugg

April 22 Amanda Manning

April 25 Randy McVinnie

April 28 Colin Wigglesworth

## Happy Anniversary

### Anniversary

### Years

April 8  
Colin & Kathleen Wigglesworth 29

April 9  
Jeff & Susie Bargmann 42

April 19  
Randy & Pauletta McVinnie 45

*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



**1837 N. Mountain Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89703  
775-882-5252 [www.blcs.org](http://www.blcs.org)**



- April 2** 5:30 pm Soup Supper—Bring a dish to share!!  
6:30pm Lent Service.
- April 4** 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.
- April 5** 9:30am Women’s Bible Study—**All women are invited to attend.**  
10:00am Spring Ladies Day at Maurice’s.  
1:30pm Children’s Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, and prizes.
- April 6** 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.  
9:15am Divine Service.  
Interested in Ushering? All men are invited to attend a short meeting after Service.  
*Mite Sunday—we love your coins!!!*
- April 9** 11:30am Ladies Luncheon at Midtown Café, 775 Fleishmann Way, 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.
- April 11** 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.
- April 12** 9:30am Women’s Bible Study—**All women are invited to attend.**  
2:00pm Princess Tea at St. Luke’s, Reno.
- April 13** 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.  
9:15am PALM SUNDAY Divine Service.  
Easter Bake Sale after Service.
- April 15** 6:00pm Council Meeting—All church members are invited to attend.  
Newsletter DEADLINE for May.
- April 16** 11:30am Silver Lights—All over 50 welcome.  
Bring your own lunch and enjoy fun and fellowship with other Silver Light Members.
- April 17** 6:30pm HOLY MAUNDY THURSDAY Divine Service.
- April 18** 6:30am Men’s Bible Study & Prayer Breakfast—**All men are invited to attend.**  
6:30pm GOOD FRIDAY Service.
- April 19** 9:30am Women’s Bible Study—**All women are invited to attend.**
- April 20** 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.  
9:15am EASTER SUNDAY Divine Service.  
Easter Brunch & Special Presentation after Service.
- April 25** 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.
- April 26** 9:30am Women’s Bible Study—**All women are invited to attend.**
- April 27** 8:00am Bible Study/Sunday School.  
9:15am Divine Service.  
Voter’s Meeting after Service.