



April 1, 2026

Volume 1, Issue 3

# CEWC NEWS

## Truth for the Journey

Bishop Alvarado stirred our hearts with the declaration, "This is your season for access." In *Romans 5:1-2*, we are reminded that through faith in Jesus Christ we are justified, brought into peace with God, and granted access into the grace in which we now stand. That grace becomes our foundation—sustaining us through trials and producing perseverance, hope, and a confident assurance in God's promises. Bishop Trotter further illustrated that access also requires the right posture. In *John 13:1-9*, Jesus demonstrates that true Kingdom leadership is not defined by titles or position, but by a willingness to take up the towel and serve with humility. As Bishop Designate Conner continues teaching through *The Shepherd and the Sheep* series from *Psalm 23*, we are both challenged and encouraged to deepen our vision of God and place greater trust in the Good Shepherd, who faithfully leads, provides for, and cares for His people.

## WE ARE IN PREPARATION FOR GREATNESS

*He is Risen! A Resurrection Celebration.*  
**PRAYER, PRAISE & WORSHIP**  
 to commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

as a collective body, to experience what is more than a holiday.

**DATE: Saturday, April 4**  
**TIME: 8:00 AM**

NOTE: \*In lieu of our Saturday Churchwide meeting.\*

BISHOP CAREY & LADY TIFFANY CONNER  
 S E R V I C E L E A D E R S  
 WWW.CEWCVEGAS.ORG

Join Us for a Refreshing Morning of Grace and Joy.  
**WWW.CEWCVEGAS.ORG**

**ROAD TO CONSECRATION**  
 Atlanta CITY LIMIT

ACCOMMODATIONS

- HOLIDAY INN & SUITES ATLANTA AIRPORT NORTH  
 RATES STARTING AT \$189/ PER NIGHT
- EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON ATLANTA AIRPORT  
 RATES STARTING AT \$169/ PER NIGHT
- MARRIOTT GATEWAY - ATLANTA AIRPORT  
 RATES STARTING AT \$209/ PER NIGHT

GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE SERVICE - PROVIDED BY CEWC

CAREY CONNER M.D.  
 BISHOP DESIGNATE  
**JULY 29 - AUG 1**

The Grace Communion of Churches International

BISHOP *Isidoro C. ALVARADO*  
 PRESIDING PRELATE

BISHOP *Ronald C. BRACKETT*

REV. DR. *Shirley ALVARADO*

**BIENNIAL SYNOD**  
 SAVE THE DATE

**JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2026**

REGISTRATION OPENS | MARCH 9, 2026

LODGING: Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway  
 2020 Convention Center Concourse  
 Atlanta, GA 30337

Services held at Grace Church International 6558 Fielder Rd Rex, GA 30273

## The History and Purpose of Hymns in the Church

The history and purpose of hymns in the church—especially within the Black Church—are deeply connected to theology, worship, community identity, resistance, and spiritual survival. Hymns have functioned not only as songs of praise but also as powerful tools for teaching, encouragement, and cultural expression.

**Biblical Origins of Hymns-** The word *hymn* comes from the Greek word **hymnos**, meaning a song of praise to God. Hymns are rooted in Scripture. The **Psalms** served as the hymnbook of ancient Israel, while the New Testament includes early Christian hymns such as **Mary's Magnificat** (Luke 1), **Zechariah's Benedictus** (Luke 1), and the **Christ hymn** in **Philippians 2:5-11**. In **Acts 16:25**, Paul and Silas sang hymns while imprisoned.

From the beginning, Christians used hymns to teach doctrine, Praise God and strengthen believers during persecution

**The Purpose of Hymns in Worship** - Historically, hymns have served several important functions in Christian worship:

**Teaching Theology** – Before widespread literacy, hymns helped believers learn biblical truth and doctrine through song.

**Corporate Worship** – Hymns unite congregations, allowing believers to worship together and declare their faith collectively (Colossians 3:16).

**Spiritual Encouragement** – Hymns provide comfort and strength during suffering, grief, persecution, and hardship.

**Hymns in the Black Church** - In the Black Church, hymns hold profound historical, cultural, and spiritual significance shaped by the experiences of slavery and oppression.

**Origins in Slavery** - Enslaved Africans encountered Christianity through slaveholders and missionaries but reshaped Christian music through African musical traditions such as call-and-response, rhythmic expression, improvisation, and emotional intensity. From this fusion emerged the **Negro Spirituals**, which often carried dual meanings—expressing both spiritual salvation and coded messages about freedom.

**Songs of Survival and Hope** - Hymns became expressions of endurance and faith. Songs such as *Amazing Grace*, *Precious Lord*, *Take My Hand*, and *How I Got Over* became pillars of Black worship.

**Influence on the Civil Rights Movement-** During the Civil Rights era, hymns inspired courage and protest. Songs like *We Shall Overcome*, *This Little Light of Mine*, and *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around* became freedom songs rooted in church worship.

**Distinctive Characteristics of Black Church Hymn Singing**

Black church hymnody often includes unique worship practices such as: **Lined Hymns (Dr. Watts Tradition)** – A leader sings a line and the congregation repeats it.

**Congregational Participation** – Worship often includes hand clapping, improvisation, vocal embellishment, and strong emotional expression. Common themes include: deliverance from oppression, faith through suffering, community solidarity and hope in God's ultimate justice

**Influential Hymn Writers** - Several hymn writers have shaped Christian worship and influenced the Black Church tradition, including: **Charles Wesley**, who wrote over 6,000 hymns, **Thomas A. Dorsey**, composer of *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, **Fanny J. Crosby**, who wrote more than 8,000 hymns including *Blessed Assurance*

**Why Hymns Still Matter Today** - Despite the rise of modern gospel and praise music, hymns remain important because they: Preserve church history, Teach deep theology, Connect generations of believers, Anchor worship in Scripture and Carry the spiritual legacy of the Black Church. In many ways, hymns are **theology set to music, history carried through song, and faith expressed in community**.

### “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

**Theological Theme** The hymn expresses a **deep personal desire for spiritual closeness with Jesus** and reflects themes such as **Humility and dependence on Christ, Faith during life's difficulties, Spiritual perseverance and Walking daily with God**. The central idea comes from passages such as **Micah 6:8** — “Walk humbly with your God.” and **Galatians 5:16** — “Walk in the Spirit.”

**Structure of the Hymn-** Most hymnals present the song with **four verses and a repeating chorus**. The verses generally follow this spiritual progression **Human weakness and dependence on Jesus, Prayer for daily guidance and faithfulness, Desire to follow Christ through life's journey and Hope for eternal fellowship with God after life ends**.

*I Am Weak But Thou Art Strong;  
Jesus, Keep Me From All Wrong;  
I'll Be Satisfied As Long  
As I Walk, Let Me Walk Close To  
Thee.*

*Just A Closer Walk With Thee,  
Grant It, Jesus, Is My Plea,  
Daily Walking Close To Thee,  
Let It Be, Dear Lord, Let It Be.*

*Thro' This World Of Toil And Snares,  
If I Falter, Lord, Who Cares?  
Who With Me My Burden Shares?  
None But Thee, Dear Lord, None But  
Thee.*

*When My Feeble Life Is O'er,  
Time For Me Will Be No More;  
Guide Me Gently, Safely O'er  
To Thy Kingdom Shore, To Thy  
Shore.*

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

### ✿ The Power of Positive Thinking Through Faith

Positive thinking isn't just a mindset—it's a spiritual posture. When you choose to see life through the lens of God's promises instead of your problems, something inside you shifts. Hope rises. Strength returns. Peace settles in places where worry once lived. Be careful of your thoughts, your thoughts become your words. Be careful of your words, your words become your actions. Be careful of your actions, your actions become your habits. Be careful of your habits, your habits become your character. Be careful of your character, your character becomes your destiny.

✦ **Faith Shapes Your Thoughts** - Scripture reminds us, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" (Prov 23:7) What we meditate on becomes the atmosphere of our lives. When we consistently focus on gratitude, hope, and solutions, the brain becomes more skilled at noticing opportunities instead of obstacles. When your thoughts align with God's truth—His goodness, His faithfulness, His plans for you—your mind becomes a place where your mental well-being can be cultivated. We can constantly be renewed with a fresh mental and spiritual attitude.

✦ **Positive Thinking Builds Resilience** - Life will bring storms, but faith-filled thinking helps you stand firm. It doesn't deny reality; it declares that God is greater than the reality you're facing. This kind of thinking strengthens your spirit, widens your lens of hope, maintains motivation during difficult times, and helps you bounce back with clarity and confidence.

✦ **Positive Thoughts Strengthen Community** - A positive, faith-rooted mindset changes how you show up for others. It makes you more patient, more compassionate, and more willing to believe the best. Your hope becomes contagious, lifting the people around you, radiating optimism and encouragement.

✦ **It Transforms Daily Life** - Choose positive thoughts to create a partnership with God. It's choosing to say: **Today, I affirm** "I am too blessed to be stressed." **Today, I affirm** that "the Lord is my strength and my shield, I will trust in Him and I am helped. (Ps 28:7), **Today, I affirm** "That in all things God works for the good of those who love him. who have been called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28). There are many declarations in God's word that can become an affirmation of faith. They create a life that feels lighter, steadier, and more aligned with His peace.

**Positivity Is a Practice, Not a Personality Trait** - You don't have to be naturally cheerful or endlessly upbeat. You simply have to be willing to redirect your thoughts—again and again—toward what strengthens you instead of what drains you. Positive thinking is a daily choice. A spiritual discipline. A mental habit. A quiet revolution happening inside your own mind. And when you choose it consistently, your life begins to reflect the power of that choice.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### EASTER & SPRING FUN

FREE Easter Egg Hunt

**April 5, 3-6 pm**

Silverado Ranch Park  
(egg hunts for all ages, music, food trucks & the Easter Bunny!)

Hippity-Hop Egg Hunt

**April 4, 10am-2pm**

Whitney Ranch Recreation Center, Henderson | Carnival games, bounce houses & age-divided egg hunts (ages 1-10) — just \$5!

Sin City Church Easter Egg Hunt /Free Pancakes

**April 5, 9 am**

50 N. Stephanie St., Henderson | FREE! Jump houses, food trucks & egg hunts for ages 1 through Grade 5

Green Valley Ranch Egg Hunt

**April 5, 10am-3pm**

The District at Green Valley Ranch

Hop & Shop

**April 4, 10am**

Town Square Las Vegas

### JOBS & HIRING EVENTS

Las Vegas Job Fair

**April 8, 11:00 AM**

Boulevard Mall

(20+ employers hiring NOW!)

Career & Resource Fair

(Adults & Teens!)

**April 18, 12:00 PM**

SEIU Nevada Local 1107

HAAS Automation

(Henderson)

Expanding & looking to hire

### BIG COMMUNITY EVENTS

Clark County Fair & Rodeo

**April 8-12**

Logandale Fairgrounds (rides, rodeo, live music & more!)

Tacos & Tamales Festival

**April 11-12**

Desert Breeze Park (food, lucha libre, live music!)

FREE Centennial Hills Concert

**April 11, 11 AM-7 PM**

Centennial Hills Amphitheater (bring your lawn chairs!)

Reggae in the Desert

**April 22**

Clark County Amphitheater (Steel Pulse, Collie Buddz & more!)

## A MENTAL HEALTH MOMENT

### An April Affirmation for the Day

This morning I rise wrapped in divine favor.

The breath in my body is a testament that grace still covers me.

I walk in peace, clothed in purpose and anointed for victory.

What's ahead is blessed because God goes before me.

I will not fear,

I will not faint

I am kept, chosen, and covered.

# REMEMBER TO VOTE

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

The first step in exercising your right to vote is registering.

**To register, you must**

- be at least 18 years old by election day (or 17 if pre-registering)
- have U.S. citizenship
- continuously resided in Clark County for at least 30 days before the next election
- continuously have resided in your precinct for at least 10 days before the next election, and
- no court has declared you to be mentally incompetent

**NOTE: You must have:**

- A current and valid Nevada Driver's License **OR**
- A current and valid Nevada DMV-issued State Identification Card **OR**
- A current and valid Nevada Tribal Identification **OR**
- If you register to vote using a paper Registration Application form, you also have the option of providing the last four digits of your Social Security Number

To register, check your registration, or to learn more, scan this QR code or visit [https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/elections/services/voter\\_registration/](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/elections/services/voter_registration/)

Please check the website for information regarding currently incarcerated or detained individuals. Persons released from prison, regardless of their felony, automatically have their voter rights restored.

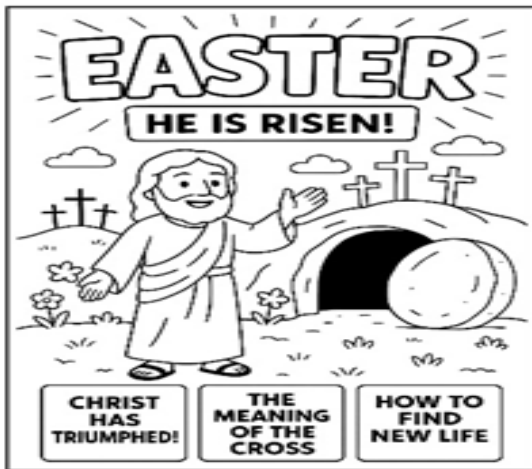
**Refuse to be silenced.**

Field Registrars will be available before and after Sunday Service at CEWC to register adults who are, or will be, 18 years of age by election day!

Stay tuned for CEWC's voter registration dates.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE

# CHILDRENS CORNER



## Memory Verses

**Luke 24:6:** "He is not here; He has risen."

**John 11:25:** "I am the resurrection and the life."

**1 Thessalonians 5:17:** "Rejoice always."

# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation (Application opens April 1, 2026)**

<https://thekappafoundation.org/scholarships/>

**Bold.org (various)**

[https://bold.org/scholarships/by-demographics/minorities/black-students-scholar-](https://bold.org/scholarships/by-demographics/minorities/black-students-scholarships/?adgroupid=&utm_campaign=23532897757&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_content=&utm_term=&hsa_acc=2705994872&hsa_cam=16981992649&hsa_grp=&hsa_ad=&hsa_src=x&hsa_tgt=&hsa_kw=&hsa_mt=&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23523226443&gbraid=0AAAAA05EGo-YTgROpMLlwj8zo7Tn2zGMd&gclid=CjwKCAjw687NBhB4EiwAQ645dmd8cDjwn-L6OJqWl3suJuQxiVfU56vbhpXKQOMKVuYEqA110VGOHBoC4sEQAvD_BwE)

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**Zeta National Educational Foundation**

<https://www.znef.org/znef-general-scholarships>

**Big Future (closes April 15, 2026)**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships/las-vegas-chapter-scholarship>

**NAACP-Las Vegas Branch (closes April 5, 2026)**

<https://www.naacpllasvegas.org/scholarships>

**Scholarships Available at CSN**

**CSN Mission Graduation Scholarship (Spring 2026 application deadline April 15th, 2026)**

**CSN Bright Start Scholarship (Spring Application available from 03/26/2026 to 05/01/2026 (or when funding is exhausted)**

**CSN Campus Engagement Scholarship (Spring Application available from 03/26/2026 to 05/01/2026 (or when funding is exhausted)**

**CSN Encourage Youth Scholarship (Students who meet the criteria will be selected by October 10th, 2026. No application required)**

**CSN First Time Bachelor's Scholarship (Students who meet the criteria will be selected by September 10th, 2025. No application required)**

**UNLV Financial Aid and Scholarships**

<https://www.unlv.edu/finaid/scholarships>

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this newsletter is for general informational and spiritual encouragement purposes only. It is not intended as legal, financial, medical, or professional advice. Readers should consult qualified professionals regarding specific concerns.