



May 2018

# COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

## “The Value of Church Attendance”

*“...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”*

Hebrews 10:24-25

I had lunch recently with a friend from seminary and college who had stopped going to church for several years. My friend was unfairly forced out of one church where he worked, and he has had several difficult experiences in other churches. He is finally getting connected with a local church.

Fairly often I encounter Christians who are not attending church. The explanations and defenses that I hear are many: “I have been hurt in my church experience. There is hypocrisy in churches. I can watch good Christian programming on TV. I don’t have to go to church to get to heaven. Churches just want my money. I can’t find a church that meets my needs. I can worship God at home.” Beneath the surface often lies the reality that many of these people are making lifestyle choices that are inconsistent with Biblical principles and commands. Church attendance might challenge these choices.

The primary reason we need to be regularly involved in a church is that we are commanded to do that by God’s Word. The church is the primary institution through which God’s program in our world is carried out. It is through the local church that we can carry out our responsibility for corporate worship and to experience Christian accountability and Biblical instruction. The local church needs our spiritual gifts and time and service and finances to build up the larger body of Christ. The New Testament does not imagine the possibility of a spiritual Christian who is not involved in the local church. Some day we Christians will stand before Christ for an evaluation of our lives and for the giving and withholding of rewards. I suspect that excuses for not being involved with a church will not find support with Him.

Churches can be messy because they are filled with sinners. Hopefully these churches have redeemed sinners who are growing in their display of Christian virtues. But the Bible also tells us that the Evil One leads a spiritual war against Christians, and he is sure to seek to mess up local churches and encourage disappointment with churches. So we should expect that churches and church people and church leaders will at times disappoint us and fall short of the standards they profess to support. God wants us to be involved.

There are many practical benefits that come from regular church attendance. Studies show that divorce and family instability are much less common among regular churchgoers. Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam says that church-going kids “are less prone to substance abuse, risky behavior (like not wearing seat belts), and delinquency. ... Compared to their unchurched peers, youth who are involved in a religious organization take tougher courses, get higher grades and test scores, and are less likely to drop out of high school... have better relations with their parents and other adults, have more friendships with high-performing peers, are more involved in sports and other extracurricular activities.” (*Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*)

Consider this admonition from Christian journalist Rod Dreher: “American Christians have a bad habit of treating church like a consumer experience. ...the church can’t just be the place you go on Sundays--- it must become the center of your life. That is, you may visit your house of worship only once a week, but what happens there in worship, and the community and the culture it creates, must be the things around which you order the rest of the week. (*The Benedict Option*)

Pastor Kurt

## May Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Lidija Baker  
 5<sup>th</sup> Doug Cannon\*  
 9<sup>th</sup> Jenny Fletcher  
 10<sup>th</sup> Ben Yazzie\*  
 15<sup>th</sup> Marge Cathcart  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Rob Hedlund  
 24<sup>th</sup> Anne Angora  
 25<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Nelson

\*indicates a missionary  
 or the child of a missionary.

## CARE CENTER VISIT

Our next Care Center & Hospital  
 Long Term Area Visit will be  
 on Saturday, the 5th. Meet at  
 9:45 AM.



Come share time and sing some songs with the  
 residents. Spend some time with those not able to  
 attend a Sunday service!

## XYZ Potluck

Our XYZ Potluck will take  
 place on Thursday, the 17th.  
 Over 50? Bring a dish to share  
 and come to the 5PM meal!



## May Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> John & Kitty Ritenour  
 15<sup>th</sup> Rosamary Bittencourt & Cezar Gomes\*

If you notice a that someone's birthday or a couple's  
 anniversary is missing from the Communicator, please let  
 us know! Just call the office (293-1912). Thank you!

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday:** Prayer Time - 9:15 a.m.  
 Worship Service - 10 AM  
 Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.  
 Bible Study - 6:00 PM  
**Tuesday:** Women's Bible Study - 9:00 AM  
**Wednesday:** Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.  
**Saturday:** Men's Group - 7:00 AM

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

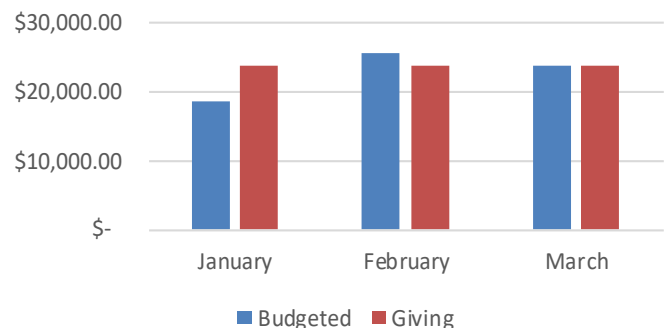


Men, join us again  
 for breakfast on Saturday morning,  
 May 19, at 8:15 AM, in Emmaus Hall.

Bethany's 2018 budget was based on receiving  
 offerings averaging \$23,700.74 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was  
 \$71,102.22. Year to date giving, through  
 March, totaled \$68,052.50. The  
 difference was (\$3049.72).

## Bethany Financials





Ladies Retreat  
 October 19-20, 2018

*"God is our refuge and strength,  
 always ready to help in times of  
 trouble."*

— Psalm 46:1, NLT

Location:  
 Amy Dieleman's Home

# MAY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer 7:00 pm	4 Elders' Meeting 9:30 am	5 Care Center Visit 9:45 am Deaconess Meeting 9am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> 	14	15	16 Christian Education Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17 XYZ Potluck 5:00 pm	18	19 Men's Breakfast 8:15 am
20  Hoving House Ministry Visit	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28  <i>Memorial Day</i>	29	30	31		



## TIME FOR A LITTLE SPRING CLEANING?

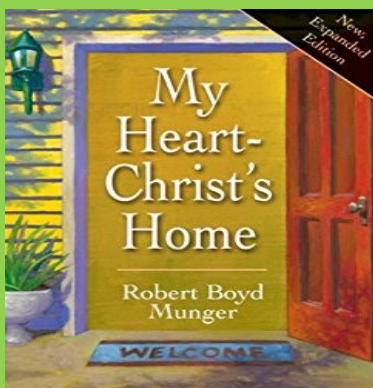
6-WEEK LADIES SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Begins: MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

Leader: Debbie Smith

What is it like to have Jesus enter  
the home of our hearts?

Come and join us for one of the most  
beloved pieces of Christian literature of  
the 20<sup>th</sup> Century by Robert Munger.



Topics:  
"The Study —  
The Dining Room -  
The Living Room, and  
more!"

Please sign up now to  
reserve your class  
materials.

***Bethany Baptist Church***

210 Wyoming Street  
Boulder City, NV 89005

**Senior Pastor** - *Kurt Hedlund* [kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

**Music Director** - *Don Scott* [don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant** - *Donald Scott* [don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

***Service Time:*** 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.

***Office Hours:***

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

***Telephone:***

702.293.1912

***Web Site:***

[www.bcbethany.com](http://www.bcbethany.com)

***E-Mail:***

[don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

**2018 Boards**

**Board of Elders** - *Bill Roush, Chairman*

**Board of Deacons** - *Lary Street, Chairman*

**Board of Deaconesses** - *Sue Wilbur, Chairwoman*

**Christian Education Board** - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*

**Property Maintenance Board** - *Dave Legler, Chairman*

**Missions Board** - *Kathleen Hill, Chairwoman*

The ***Communicator*** is published monthly as a ministry of Bethany Baptist Church.

For birthday and anniversary additions; changes in address; or removal from our mailing list please contact the church office at 702-293-1912 or E-mail [staff@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:staff@bethany.lvcoxmail.com).