

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Santa Claus, St. Nicholas and the Real Jesus

“For in Him (Christ) all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form...” Colossians 2:9

We Christians have a right to take pride in the real Santa Claus. Our American Santa Claus finds the derivation of his name from the Dutch “Sinterklaas.” This is the name that the Dutch used for St. Nicholas of Myra. Nicholas was a Christian leader who became a bishop in Turkey in the fourth century. He had a reputation for being a loving and giving person. Eventually segments of the Christian church regarded him as the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers and students. He is regarded as the patron saint of several countries and cities. At one point he was called the patron saint of New Amsterdam (New York City). Thus that Dutch influence had something to do with bringing Sinterklaas and Santa Claus to America.

The loving character of St. Nicholas and his reputation for caring about the poor and about children produced a number of legends. The most famous story concerns a poor man who had three daughters. He had no money to provide dowries for prospective husbands. Supposedly on three different occasions St. Nicholas came by and tossed a bag of gold through an open window to provide for the dowries, and they landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings out on the night before Christmas. In one version of the story St. Nicholas tossed the gold down the chimney where it landed in the stockings.

What is historical is that there was a heresy called Arianism that was threatening the church in the time of St. Nicholas. Arius taught that there was a time when the Son of God was not. Thus Jesus Christ is a created being and inferior to God the Father. Arius stirred up a controversy in the Church that resulted in the Emperor Constantine convening the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Some biographers claim that St. Nicholas was at that conference and slapped Arius in front of the other church leaders because he was so upset with his teaching. Other biographers claim that St. Nicholas was the only bishop who was able to keep this heresy of Arianism out of his territory. The evidence seems to support the notion that St. Nicholas fought for the Biblical teaching that Christ is the eternal and divine Son of God.

So in this Christmas season when you encounter people who want to take Christ out of Christmas and who want to focus on Santa Claus, tell them the real story of St. Nick.

Pastor Kurt

December Birthdays

4th Marti Barth
10th Lary Street
20th Rod Savage
23rd Bob Nycek



Christ Is Born



Boards and Committees

Reception 12/1 @ 6p

All 2020 and current Boards and Committee Members are invited to attend our annual meeting for a time of encouragement, information and fellowship!



XYZ Potluck Our Christmas XYZ Potluck will take place on Thursday, the 19th. Over 50? Bring a dish to share and come to Emmaus Hall @ 11:30 am to celebrate together! Ham will be provided. If you'd like to participate in the gift exchange, ladies should bring a \$5 gift for a lady and guys a \$5 gift for a man. Come be a part of the Christmas fellowship, food and fun!!



**Caroling
and
Soup Potluck**
Sunday,
December 22nd
@ 5 pm



Children's Christmas Musical **"The Birth of Jesus"**

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!
Our children will perform the Christmas Musical during the morning service.
Sunday, December 15th at 10 am

Kids Christmas Musical "The Birth of Jesus"-
Sunday the 15th @ 10:00 am.

Christmas Brunch - Sunday, the 15th, after the service, please join us in Emmaus Hall for a Christmas Brunch.

XYZ Potluck - Over 50? Come and join us for our Christmas Potluck on Thursday, the 19th! Bring a dish to share that goes with the ham (provided). The meal begins at 11:30 am. Then there will be Christmas carols and, if you'd like to participate, a \$5 gift exchange. Ladies bring a gift for a gal and men a gift for a guy.

Ladies' Christmas party - Saturday the 21st.

Kids' Christmas party - Sunday the 22nd.

Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper - December 22nd at 5:00 pm we will go a caroling and return to share our favorite soups together. So, bring a nummy soup...

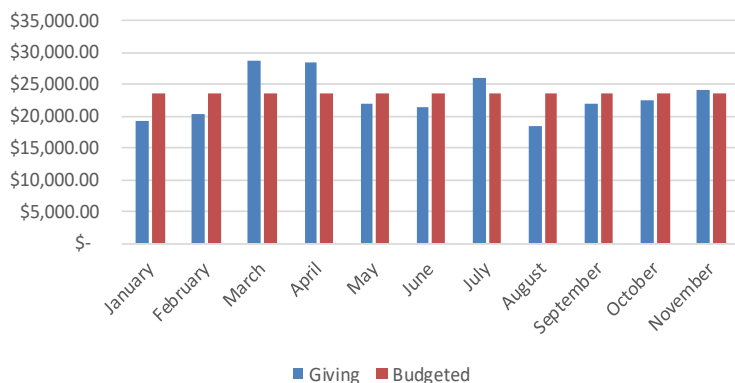
Christmas Eve Service - Monday, the 24th, join us at 6PM for a candle light service to celebrate our savior's birth.

Bethany's 2019 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$23,610.48 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$259,715.28.

Year to date giving, through November, totaled \$253,645.75. The difference was (\$6,069.53).

Bethany Financials



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2020 Boards and Committees Mtg 6:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7 Holiday Care Center Visit 9:45 am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Kids' Christmas Practice 10a
15 Kids' Christmas Musical 10a Christmas Brunch 11:15 am	16	17	18	19 XYZ Holiday Potluck 11:30 am	20	21 Ladies Christmas Party
22 Caroling & Soup 5pm Kid's Party 11:15 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 6pm	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Prayer Time - 9:15 a.m.

Worship Service - 10 a.m.

Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.

Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Women's Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting - 7:30 a.m.

Ladies' Book Club 10:00 a.m.

Saturday: Men's Group - 7:00 a.m.

CARE CENTER VISIT



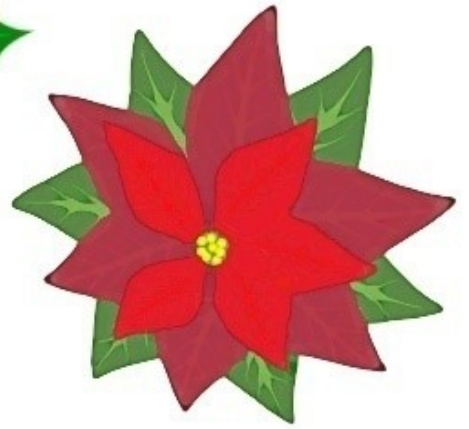
Our next Care Center & Hospital Long Term Area Visit will be on Saturday, the 7th. Meet at 9:45 AM.

Come share time and sing some Christmas carols with the residents.

Spend a small amount of time with those not able to attend a Sunday service!



Bethany Baptist Church
210 Wyoming Street
Boulder City, NV 89005



2019 Boards

Board of Elders - *Mike Barth, Chairman*

Board of Deacons - *George Fletcher, Chairman*

Board of Deaconesses - *Sue Wilbur, Chairwoman*

Christian Education Board - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*

Property Maintenance Board - *Dave Legler, Chairman*

Missions Board - *Rob Hedlund, Chairman*

Senior Pastor - *Kurt Hedlund*
kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Administrator & Music Director - *Don Scott*
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

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 don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com.