



August 2024

# COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Our Hope of Heaven

*"...we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."*  
2 Corinthians 5:8

In our Sunday evening Bible study on the topic of heaven, we have been learning that heaven involves a series of developments for us Christians. The assurance from this passage from Paul is that death for us means being at home with the Lord. Jesus called our future home Paradise when He promised that destination to the believing criminal on the cross. That term was a Persian word which referred to a cultivated garden. In the incident known as the Transfiguration Peter and James and John saw Jesus conversing with Moses and Elijah. This indicates that believers in the afterlife are recognizable and that they have meaningful communication. That reality is reinforced when Jesus tells the story about Lazarus who goes to heaven and is communicating with Abraham. He is recognized by the rich man.

Nevertheless there is something that changes about our form of being at the rapture of the church. In 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15 Paul says that we will receive a resurrection body. Our basis for understanding of that is the resurrection body of Christ. After His resurrection He had a physical form. He was able to eat. Yet he suddenly appeared and disappeared. First Corinthians #3 suggests that at this time we Christians will receive a judgment of rewards. Romans 8 v. 1 says that we Christians don't have to worry about any condemnation. But 1 Corinthians #3 indicates that we will be rewarded in some way according to our faithfulness in our earthly lives.

After a seven year tribulation described in Revelation 6-18, Jesus will return physically to earth. Revelation #19 describes us saints as joining with Him in that return and in confronting the forces of the evil one. It is then that Jesus establishes His physical rule upon the earth with his headquarters in Jerusalem. In Revelation #20 vv. 1-6 this earthly kingdom is said to last for a thousand years. Verse 6 specifically says that we "will reign with Him for a thousand years." In our resurrection bodies we will assist the Lord Jesus Christ in ruling over this earthly kingdom. Satan is bound in the abyss during this time. The prophet Isaiah gave us a glimpse of this wonderful time in Chapters 2, 11, 25, 60 and 65.

According to Revelation #20 vv. 7-10 Satan will be released from his prison at the end of this thousand years. He will lead a rebellion against Jesus. The Lord will defeat these evil forces and send them into the lake of fire. Second Peter 3 vv. 10-13 and Revelation 21:1 indicate that there will be a fiery cleansing of the earth. A new heaven and a new earth will emerge. Revelation 21:1 says that the new Jerusalem descends from heaven. This is described as a city in the shape of a cube. This is apparently our eternal home. According to Revelation 21:4 there is no more sorrow and no more pain and no more death. People still seem to maintain their ethnic identity (22:2). There will be meaningful activity. Revelation 22:3 says that we will serve God. Verse 4 says that we will see His face directly. It is all going to be really, really good.

As the day of our earthly death draws closer, don't be discouraged. The process of passing out of this earthly life may be tough, but the future for us who have believed in Jesus is really, really, really great.

- Pastor Kurt

# August 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Youth Night	3 JFOJ Study Care center visits
4	5  First day of school	6	7	8	9 Youth Night	10 Men's Breakfast
11	12	13	14	15	16 Youth Night	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Church Hike Joy For Our Journey
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Bethany's 2024 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$28,280.48 each month.

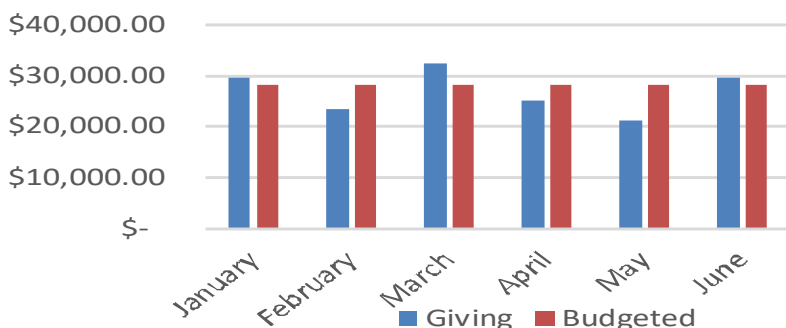
Year to date budget requirement was  
\$169,682.88.

Year to date giving, through June, totaled  
\$161,329.37.

Difference is (\$8,353.51)



## Bethany Financials



## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Sunday:

Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study @ 11:15 a.m.  
Ladies' Sunday School @ 11:15 a.m.  
Bible Study @ 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Ladies' Book Club 10:00 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting - 11:00 a.m.

## August Birthdays

3rd Judy Spinkelink  
4th Susan Cunningham  
5th Debbie Oliver  
8th Frances Mayfield  
10th Nate Crawford  
11th Ralph Nelson  
18th Suzy Hedlund  
19th Jay Grandberry  
21<sup>st</sup> Melba Wood  
24th Cecil Forcum  
27th Verna Miller  
29th Pat Amon  
30th Mick Casey



## August Anniversaries

8<sup>th</sup> Samuel & Dee Dee Buchanan

### *Bethany's Vision Statement*

### *To Glorify Jesus*

We desire to develop a loving, mature body of believers that is based on the teaching of God's Word, reflected in meaningful relationships with God and man and focused on reaching God's world.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 10, 8 AM, Emmaus Hall-- Guys, join us for our monthly breakfast. We serve scrambled eggs, sausage, grapes, pastries, and appropriate beverages. This will be followed by a Bible study and prayer. We should be done by 9:30.

## CHURCH HIKE

Saturday, August 24, 7 AM, church parking lot-- Guys and gals who are in shape for a hike in the mountains, join us as we venture up to Mt. Charleston for a hike in the cool and thin air of the mountain. We provide a lunch.

## YOUTH NIGHT

The Chapman family will host a youth nights from 6-8 PM on Friday evenings, All of the kids are invited for a fun time which will include food, games, and a devotional.

## JOY FOR OUR JOURNEY

August 3, 10:30 Bible Study: "Be Joyful" at Jenny's house (1290 Browder Place)

August 24, 10:30 - Emmaus Hall

"50's Party" Come for a look back at a fun era-50's.

We will have games, music, food and lots of fun!

Topic: How do you have fun?

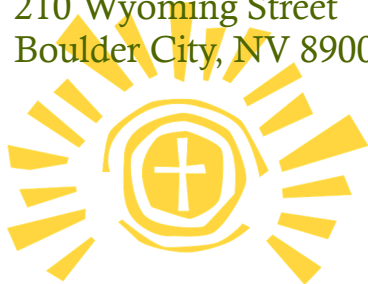
**ALWAYS BE JOYFUL**  
**ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING**  
**NO MATTER**  
**WHAT HAPPENS**  
**ALWAYS BE THANKFUL**  
**FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL**  
**FOR YOU WHO BELONG**  
**TO JESUS CHRIST**



**GOD IS WITH US**



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Youth & Families Director - Dan Chapman [dan.bethany@coxbusiness.net](mailto:dan.bethany@coxbusiness.net)*

#### SERVICE TIMES

Worship Service: 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)

#### **2024 Boards**

**Board of Elders** - Mike Barth, Chairman

**Board of Deacons** - Dan Chapman, Chairman

**Board of Deaconesses** - Sandy Crawford, Chairwoman

**Christian Education Board** - Debbie Oliver, Chairwoman

**Property Maintenance Board** - Nate Crawford, Chairman

**Missions Board** - Rob Hedlund, Chairman

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