

"The Cultural Challenge Facing Christians"

"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons..." 1 Timothy 4:1

It is a challenging time to be a Christian in this country. We don't generally face the hard persecution that many of our fellow Christians face in other parts of the world. We instead face a culture which is subtly and deceitfully undermining Christian values.

As the Nevada legislature considers a euthanasia bill, polls show that well over 70% of Nevadans support so called "death with dignity." A Gallup Poll conducted two years ago showed that 70% of Americans support gay marriage. Gallup also says that 66% of Americans favor having transgender individuals serve in our military forces.

Christians are too often buying into a deceitful agenda which originates in the forces of evil. Christian singer Amy Grant a couple of months ago hosted a wedding for her lesbian niece. When questioned about this, she replied, "I know the religious community has not been very welcoming... but with God, everybody is welcome. Everybody!" (*Christian Post*, 5/62/6467) Are Christians required to love sinners? Of course. But that does not mean that we are to endorse sinful behavior, that we are to support something that is a perversion of God's institution of marriage.

One of the chief reasons that Christians have become supportive of the LGBTQ community is that they have friends and family members who identify with it. A 2013 study from Pew Research Center found that 32% of Americans changed their minds on gay marriage because they "know someone who is homosexual."

We also have a media culture and public schools which are promoting unbiblical values. Walt Disney studios, once known as a family-friendly institution is promoting a gay agenda for kids. Disney's "Lightyear" featured a kiss between two lesbians. Our local library showed a movie in the amphitheater in April entitled "Strange World." This Disney movie for children featured a gay character.

Meanwhile in our public schools Biblical values are undermined. *Review Journal* columnist Victor Joecks observes, "Even sex education in the Clark County School District is built on the assumption that teenagers will have intercourse. It directs students to role-play asking each other for sex." (*RJ*, 8/67/6467) Too many teachers encourage teens to question their sexual identity. While the House recently passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, the Senate appears to oppose it, and the President has threatened to veto it. The bill would prevent men who identify as women from competing in women's sports.

So what is the appropriate Christian response? Prayer is always appropriate---- for parents, for political leaders, for schools, for kids, for ourselves. We need to vote for politicians who support Biblical values. We need to study the Bible so that we keep God's perspective on these challenges. Maybe some among us need to run for office. Maybe someone needs to volunteer for our local library board. We need to support our Sunday school and youth leaders. We need to love sinners and point them to the truth, recognizing that it is God and His Holy Spirit who change hearts.

May Birthdays

1 st	Lidija Baker
9 th	Jenny Fletcher
23 rd	Rob Hedlund
25 th	Marilyn Nelson

May Anniversaries

4th John & Kitty Ritenour



WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

YOUTH NIGHT

Teens, middle and high schoolers are invited to show up at Emmaus Hall on Friday evening, May 5, at 6 PM for a meal and evening of fun and spiritual encouragement. Dan and Eva Chapman will host the event.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Guys, join us on Saturday, May, 13, at 8 AM, Emmaus Hall on the church campus for our monthly breakfast. Besides a hearty breakfast, Charlie Pappas will share highlights of his recent missionary trip to Zambia.

CHURCH HIKE

Join us on Saturday, May 20, for out monthly church hike. We will meet at church at 8 AM. If you tell us that you are coming, we will have a lunch for you.

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

The free medical clinic on our church campus sponsored by In Jesus Name has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 3rd. We will need lots of volunteers to help with this outreach.



www.Injesusnamemedicalministry.org

Joy for the Journey

Saturday, May 27, 11:00 a.m. Picnic in the park - veterans park / across from the kids play area - under the gazebo. Bring a sack lunch/drink or something to share. Also a lawn chair if you want. <u>CE meeting</u>, Friday, May 20, 9:30 am



May 2023

SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	Тно	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5 Youth Night 6 pm	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Men's Breakfast 8 am
14 Happy Mother's Day!	15	16	17	18	19	20 Ladies' 3rd Saturday Fellowship
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Hike 8 am Joy for our Journey 10:30 am
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			
			Bethany's 2023 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$25,733.16 each month. Year to date budget requirement was \$77,199.48. Year to date giving, through April, totaled \$79,210.52. The difference is \$2,011.04.			
	ESUS is the	\$35,00		Bethany Fin	ancials	
A	NSWER	\$25,00 \$20,00 \$15,00 \$10,00 \$5,00	00.00 00.00 00.00 00.00			
			Januar	y February Giving B	March	April

Senior Pastor - *Kurt Hedlund* - kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com Admin Assistant / Music Director - *Don Scott* don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com Director of Children's Ministries - *Dan Chapman* 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

<u>2023 Boards</u>

Board of Elders - Mick Casey, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Don Scott, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Sandy Crawford, Chairwoman

Christian Education Board - Jenny Fletcher, 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.