September 2021



# COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

'Who Is He?"

#### "You will recognize them by their fruits." Matthew 7:16

He descended from a distinguished line of Jewish scholars, but because of persecution his father converted to Lutheranism. So this youngster and his five sisters were baptized in their childhood. He was confirmed in the church at age fifteen and seemed initially to show genuine interest in Christianity. His father was a lawyer and fairly prosperous. Our subject was able to attend a Jesuit high school and was academically successful. He eventually earned a doctorate in philosophy. Along the way he came to reject Christianity.

As a boy he became interested in poetry. His poems spoke about hatred and suicide and pacts with Satan. In one poem he wrote, "We are the apes of a cold God." One of his favorite phrases was "Everything that exists deserves to perish." Much of his poetry reflected a pessimism about humanity and was eschatological in nature. In one poem he speaks of the end of history and has God declaring, "I shall howl gigantic curses at mankind."

At age 23 he married his sweetheart, Jenny. Their family life did not go well. He smoked and drank heavily. One daughter died of an opium overdose. Another died as a result of a suicide pact. He and his wife had a servant who worked for them for 45 years. She received board and food, but was never paid a salary. The man in our story fathered a son by her, but he convinced a friend to raise him. The son apparently never learned who his real father was.

For the last 34 years of his life he spent most of his time writing and studying in a famous museum. During this time he also served as a journalist for the *New York Daily Tribune*. Over the course of ten years he wrote almost 500 articles.

Our subject was sustained financially largely through an inheritance that provided him with an

income three times that of the average skilled workman. Yet he tended to spend beyond his means and was frequently in debt. At one point he owned only one pair of pants.

Our subject had a difficult personality. He fought with his family in his youth. In college he was engaged in student warfare, fought a duel, and got a gash on his left eye. One biographer says that he "quarreled with everyone with whom he associated." An acquaintance declared, "He is lacking in nobility of soul. I am convinced that a most dangerous personal ambition has eaten away all the good in him... The acquisition of personal power [is] the aim of all his endeavors." Another said, "\_\_\_\_ does not believe in God but he believes in himself and makes everyone serve himself. His heart is not full of love but of bitterness and he has very little sympathy for the human race."

Despite these shortcomings this individual had more influence on the course of history than most other humans. He co-wrote two books which became extremely influential. Although there is no evidence that he ever set foot in a mine or a factory or that he even knew anyone among the proletariat, except his own servant girl (whom he never paid), one of his most famous lines was this: "The workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to gain. Workers of the world, unite!" Such was the advice of Karl Marx, generally regarded as the Father of socialism and communism. (Rusten, *The One Year Christian History*, Paul Johnson, *Intellectuals*) – Pastor Kurt



#### **September Birthdays**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Lois Mathews
- 18<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Eskam
- 28<sup>th</sup> Valerie Chapman

#### **September Anniversaries**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Nate & Sandy Crawford
- 8<sup>th</sup> Donald & Betty Moberger

September tip-toed in last night, Summer soon will end, The children are back in school, Joking with their friends.

September is a lovely time of year, And in her pastel shaded dress, She dances on cooler breezes, Each hill and valley to caress.

O Lord, Of all creation, I thank you for this time of year, As we work our way toward winter, With friends and family dear.



#### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Guys, join us on Sept. 11 at 8 AM for a men's breakfast in Emmaus Hall. We will have a full breakfast followed by a video with thoughtful discussion.

## 9/11 TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

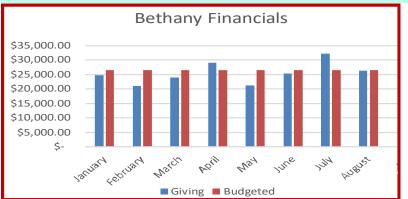
The evangelical churches of BC are sponsoring a memorial event in Bicentennial Park at 10 AM on Saturday, Sept. 11, to honor First Responders. We will also direct prayers and attention toward recent events in Afghanistan.

## <u>CHURCH HIKE</u>

Hikers of all ages are invited to join us on Saturday, September 25, as we meet on the church campus to have our monthly hike on Mt. Charleston.

#### Joy For The Journey

Saturday, September 25, 10:30 am Memories. . . Bring a favorite picture of your spouse and be ready to share a special memory with us. We will have our sharing time and then enjoy pizza and a salad. Tins Selb will be leading this event, as I'll be out of town.





Bethany's 2021 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$26,432.42 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$211,459.36. YTD giving, through July, totaled \$204,031.28 The difference was (\$7,428.08).

## September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor	7	8	9	10	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
12	13 CE Meeting 5 pm	14	15	16	17	18 Ladies Fellowship 10:20 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Hike 8 am Joy for the Journey 10:30 am
26	27	28	29	30		come Nome
	We can celebrate	<b>LCOME</b> the joy that		st over.		

Yay! Everyone is beginning to return from vacations!

#### 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 @ 6:00 p.m.

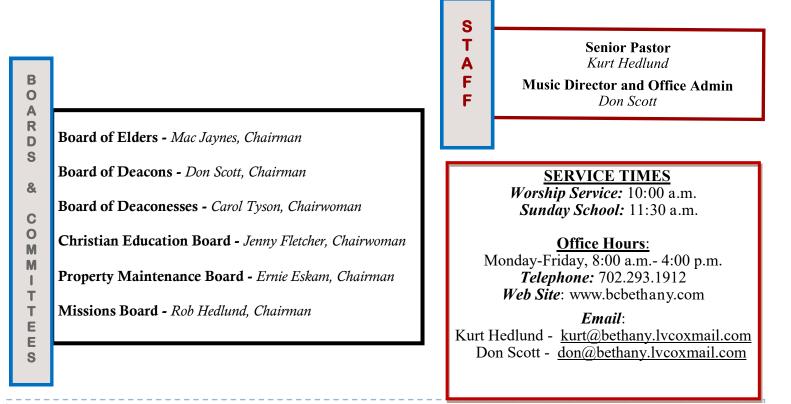
Tuesday: Ladies' Bible study w/ Sharon P

Wednesday: Ladies' Book Club 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting - 1:00 p.m.

#### Announcements

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.





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.