



April 2024

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Easter and Paganism”

“Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here but He has risen.” Luke 24:4-5

Easter (along with Christmas) is one of the two major holidays celebrated by Christians all over the world. Yet many wonder what bunnies and eggs and even the name “Easter” have to do with Christianity and the resurrection of Jesus. A writer for *The Guardian* newspaper claimed several years ago (4/3/2010), “Easter is a pagan festival. All the fun things about Easter are pagan. Bunnies are a leftover from the pagan festival of Eostre.” Such is the support for groups like the Jehovah’s Witnesses who do not celebrate Easter.

There was an English monk in the eighth century who claimed that the name “Easter” came from a pagan goddess Eostre. But there is no evidence other than from this English monk that there ever was such a goddess. The name for Easter in most European languages is connected with “Pascha,” or Passover. Resurrection Day had also been observed long before the eighth century.

In the early years of Christianity Easter Sunday was known as *Dominica in albis*, or “the Sunday in white,” in reference to the new converts who were often baptized on that day. *Albis* was likely misunderstood to be the plural of *alba*, or dawn, which was translated into Old High German as *eostarum*. (Breakpoint, 4/13/2022) Thus we got “Easter.”

In European church history there was a fast proclaimed leading up to Easter. Christians were prohibited from eating eggs. For some reason chickens kept laying eggs. These came to be known as Holy Eggs. In the thirteenth century, many years after Europe had turned from paganism, Christians began decorating these eggs. Eggs were seen as a symbol of the resurrection, with Jesus coming forth from the tomb being represented by the chick breaking free from the egg.

As for bunnies, rabbits were seen as innocent and good and harmless. Sometimes they were regarded as a symbol of Jesus. This was again long after pagan times in Europe. The association with Easter did not come until even later centuries. Among German Lutherans the Easter bunny was regarded as a judge of children as to whether they had been good or bad. Germans who came to this country in the 1700s had a tradition about an Easter bunny who came leaving eggs in a basket.

The most cynical of Christian critics claim that the whole idea of resurrection comes from ancient mythology. There are variations of a myth coming from ancient Sumeria whereby the goddess Ishtar dies. She supposedly is resurrected in the spring. Thus she is a fertility goddess. There are similar stories in other cultures.

C. S. Lewis suggests a better understanding in *Mere Christianity*: “And what did God do? He sent the human race what I call good dreams: I mean those queer stories scattered all through the heathen religions about a god who dies and comes to life again and, by his death, has somehow given new life to men.” The truth of the Resurrection lies in real history. Happy Easter!

Pastor Kurt

April Birthdays

11th Nita Wright
12th Clive Bevan
13th Terri Dufresne
14th Edie Aldrich
16th Kathy Sloan
18th Nancy Quinn
19th Christina Nycek
30th Mike Barth



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:

Worship Services - 10:00 a.m.
Ladies' Sunday School @ 11:15 a.m. in Emmaus
Adult Study @ 11:15 w/ Mac J
Bible Study @ 6 pm w/ Rob H.

Wednesday:

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

April Anniversaries

17th Kurt & Suzy Hedlund
28th Irv & Patti Childress



In April, **Womens Ministry & Joy for the Journey (the widows group)** will welcome Spring together. On Friday, April 12, 2024, we will attend the Red Mountain Choir concert, "A little bit Country - a little bit Rock N Roll" at the Elaine K. Smith Center in BC (corner of Wyoming street). Doors open at 6:15 PM. Concert starts at 7PM. Tickets are \$10 at the door. There will be a sign up sheet. If you need a ride, please indicate that when you sign up or you if you prefer, just meet us there. Hope to see you there.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

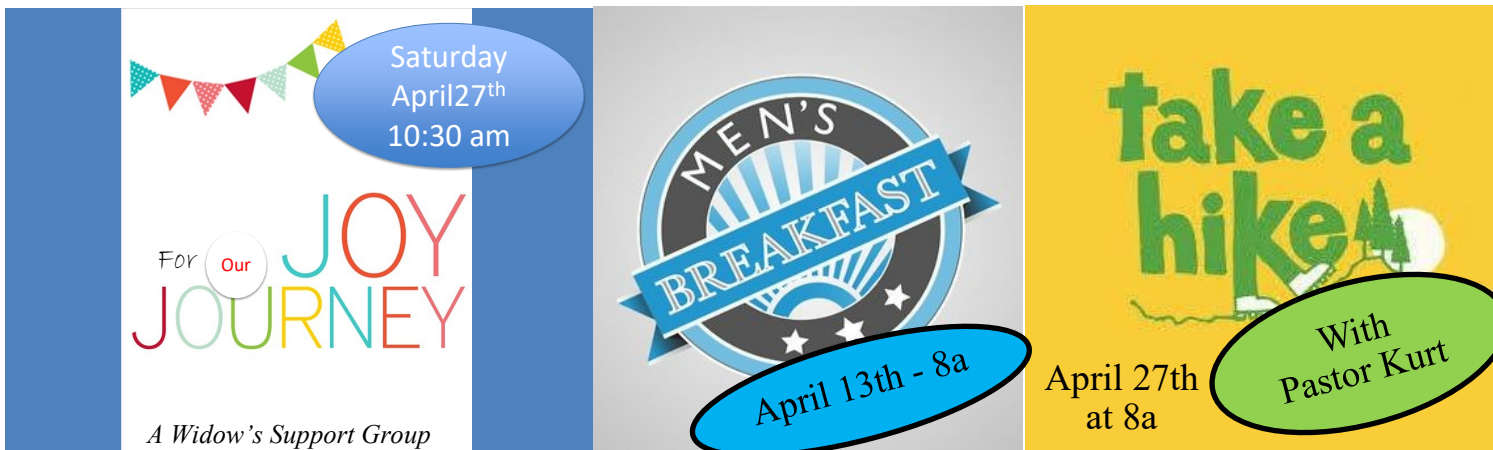
Saturday, April 13, 8 AM-- Guys, join us in Emmaus Hall on the church grounds for a hearty breakfast and a stimulating Bible study.

MONTHLY HIKE

Saturday, April 27, 8 AM-- Hikers are invited to meet us on the church campus for an adventure in our surrounding hills and valleys. We provide a lunch.

JOY FOR OUR JOURNEY (Widows)

Join us for the monthly meeting of Joy for Our Journey (widows) on Saturday, April 27, 10:30 at Veterans Park. We will have a picnic. Meet at the pavilion across from the Splash Park. Bring something to share for lunch and a lawn chair. The weather should be nice, food good and the fellowship sweet. See you there!

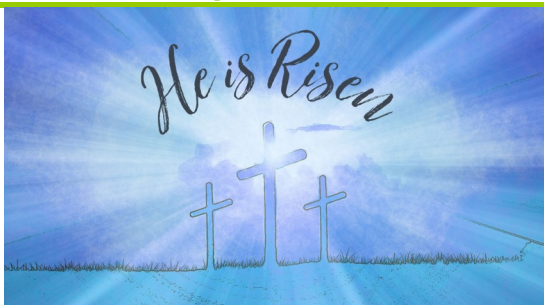


APRIL 2024

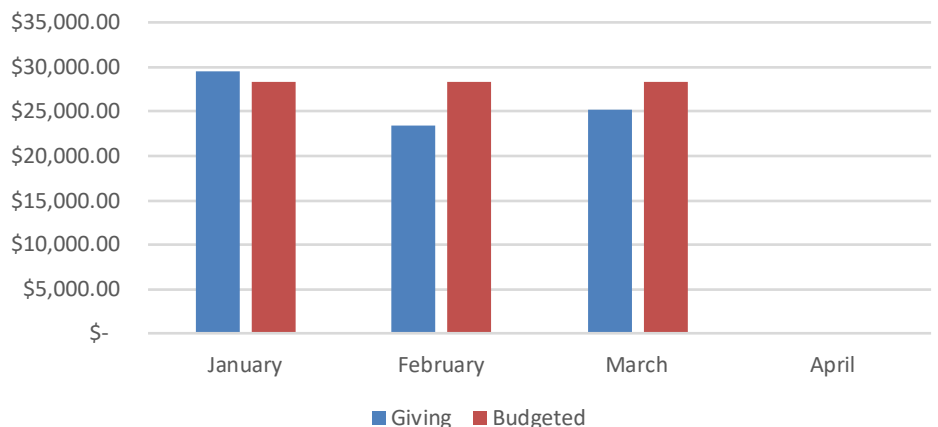
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Blood Drive 9 am - 2 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12 Women's and JFOJ Fellowship	13 Men's Breakfast 8a
14 Business Meeting 12:15a	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Hike 8a Joy for our Journey 10:30a
28	29	30				

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

Year to date budget requirement was \$84,841.44.
Year to date giving, through March 24th, totaled \$78,126.89.
The difference was (\$6714.55).



Bethany Financials



Bethany Baptist Church

210 Wyoming Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

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

Admin Assistant / Music Director - Don Scott don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com

Youth and Families Director - 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

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.