

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

December 2024

“Our Light Has Come”

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth,/ And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you,/ And His glory will appear upon you.” Isaiah 60:1-2

At the time of the Christmas story darkness did indeed seem to cover the earth for the godly remnant in the land of Israel. The Roman Gentiles were dominating the Promised Land. They were ruled by the Roman dictator Caesar Augustus, whose full name was Imperator Caesar Divi Filius Augustus. He was the Imperial Caesar Son of God Magnificent One. He claimed to be divine.

The vassal king ruling over Judea under the authority of the Romans was Herod the Great. By some accounts he was the wealthiest man in the world. But he was cruel and immoral. He had sexual relations with a variety of males and females. He had a total of ten wives, not more than one at a time. He killed a number of family members, including wives and sons. This prompted the comment from Caesar Augustus, “It is better to be Herod’s pig than his son.” Herod also claimed for himself the title “King of the Jews.” For godly Jews it was terribly dark to be ruled by one who claimed that title and lived such an ungodly life.

Then there were the religious leaders. The Sadducees dominated the priesthood. According to Josephus they did not believe in any afterlife. We know from the gospels that they didn’t believe in resurrection from the dead. The high priests among them came into power by bribing the Romans and promising loyalty to them. The Pharisees were dominant among the rabbis. They were legalists who lost their love of God and people by their promotion of religious rules. Among other things they taught that people could set money aside to God, and pay the Pharisees a nice fee, and not have an obligation to provide for their parents. When their parents were gone, they could get that money back.

But what Isaiah the prophet and godly Jews saw as a dark time was called the fullness of time by the Apostle Paul: “But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5) A dark time was chosen by God to be the setting for one of His greatest accomplishments, the incarnation of His Son.

Many of us are rightly concerned about the direction of our country. Our national government continues to spend more than a trillion dollars each year than it takes in. Our economy is stagnant. Homosexuality is now accepted in our military forces and gay marriage is the law of the land. Children in public schools are taught that they can change their gender. Christian student organizations have been cut off from funding on a number of college campuses. And so it goes.

The Christmas story should give us encouragement. It is in the midst of darkness that God often accomplishes His greatest purposes. It is also in darkness where light is most noticeable. May we reflect the light of Jesus in this Christmas season.

- Pastor Kurt

December Birthdays

4th Marti Barth
 10th Lary Street
 23rd Bob Nycek
 25th Janet Fishburn



Boards and Committees

Reception 12/8 @ 6p

All 2025 and current Boards and Committee Members are invited to attend our annual meeting for a time of encouragement, information and fellowship!



Christ Is Born

Joy for our Journey

Join us Saturday, December 21, 10:30 am in Emmaus Hall for our Christmas Brunch

**Let's go Caroling and have a soup supper
 December 15th at 5pm in Emmaus hall**

Joy for Our Journey

- no "Be Joyful" study this month.
 Joy for our journey Christmas Brunch ,
 December 21, Saturday, 10:30
 Dec. 24, Tues, 6:00 pm
 Candlelight Service at Bethany
 7:00 pm -Soup supper at Jenny's



**Christmas Potluck
 Sunday, December 15th**

**Please Sign up
 on sheet in the Foyer**

Ham will be provided



BOARDS AND COMMITTEES MEETING

On Sunday, December 8 at 6 PM members of boards and committees at the church for 2025 will meet in Emmaus Hall to organize themselves and prepare for the new year.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On Sunday, December 15 at 5 PM we will meet at the church to go Christmas caroling. Bring a pot of soup to share after we finish. We will visit it shutins from the church and bring them some Christmas cheer.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 14, 8 AM- Men, join us in Emmaus Hall for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship. Pastor Kurt will lead us in a Bible study concerning the Christmas story.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, 6 PM- Join us for our annual candlelight service at the church.

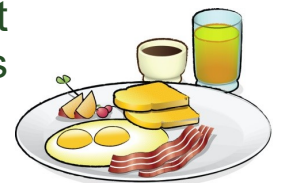
WEEKLY EVENTS

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.

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men, join us on Saturday, December 14th at 8 AM in Emmaus Hall for our monthly men's breakfast. We will have great food, great fellowship, and discuss the Christmas story.



December 2024

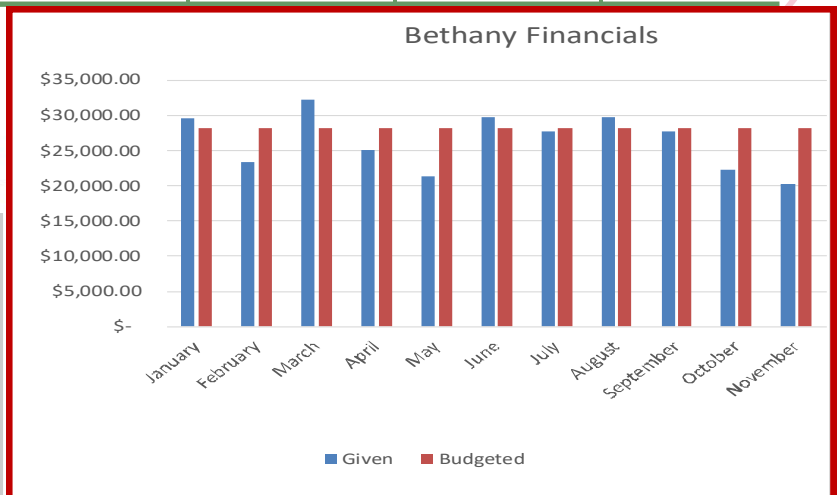
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|--|--|-----|-----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 CareHome Services meet 9:45a @ BC hospital |
| 8 '24 Boards & Committee Mtg 6:00p | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am |
| 15 Potluck after service Caroling and Soup Supper 5p | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 JFOJ Christmas Brunch 10:30 am |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Service 6pm | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31  | | | | |



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

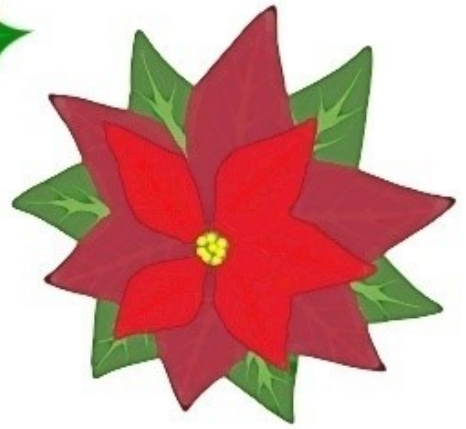
Year to date budget requirement was \$311,085.28.

YTD giving, through November, \$289,037.16
The difference was (\$22,048.12) short of budget.





Bethany Baptist Church
210 Wyoming Street
Boulder City, NV 89005



2024 Boards

Board of Elders - Mike Barth, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Daniel 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

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

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

Office Admin & Music Dir. Don Scott
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Youth & Families Dir. Dan Chapman
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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.