

July 2021

# COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

## **“The Case for Patriotism”**

*“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.  
Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29:7*

Should Christians be patriotic? Merriam-Webster defines “patriotism” as “love for, or devotion to, one’s country.” The Collins Dictionary says that patriotism is “love for your country and loyalty toward it.”

In 1 John 2:15 the Apostle John encouraged Christians, “Do not love the world or anything in the world.” But there the author seems to be describing a system of thought and behavior which is opposed to the God who is there. The same apostle recorded the words of Jesus in John 3:16 where He said that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” Jesus also commanded us to love our neighbor. That second greatest commandment begins with our family and extends to our neighbor and our friends and our community and our nation. Our neighbors (including our nation) aren’t always lovely, but we are to love them anyway.

Love for country is always to be done within a proper set of priorities. The greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to love God with all of our being. The danger with patriotism, as C. S. Lewis warns in *The Four Loves*, is that it can become “a firm, even prosaic belief that our own nation, in sober fact, has long been, and still is markedly superior to all others.” Then patriotism “may shade off into” racism, arrogance, and imperialism, eventually taking a “demoniac form.” God does express a special love for Israel in the Bible which other nations cannot claim.. The USA is never mentioned.

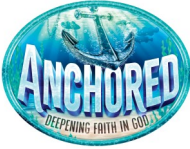
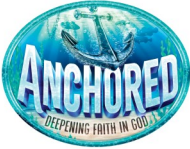
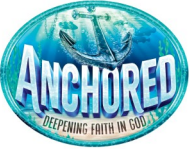
As Christians we do have reasons to feel pride for our country. Our nation has, at times, been the only friend in the world toward Israel. We have provided the largest missionary force in the world to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. We have a history of promoting democratic ideals and freedom both here and around the world. At times our country has fallen short of those ideals.

As Christians we also have reasons to have concern for the direction of our country. We have come to promote abortion in contrast to the Biblical view of the sanctity of life. We have come to flout God’s standards in regard to marriage and sexuality. We have too often come to promote sin and injustice.

Many of us are familiar with Paul’s injunction in Romans 13 to submit to the governing authorities. He goes on in v. 7 to say, “Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.” These seem to be practical demonstrations of love for one’s country. Indeed, in v. 8 the apostle adds, “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

Charles Colson observes, “We’re to love our country just because it’s our own. Not because it’s the best and most democratic country in the world---- which it may not be at times--- but because it’s the place God has put us.” As we approach Independence Day, let’s leave room for some American patriotism. - Pastor Kurt

# JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Happy 4th of July BBQ Potluck after church	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 VBS 6-830p 	14 VBS 6-830p 	15 VBS 6-830p 	16	17 Ladies' Mount Charleston Lunch
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Back to school Event 10:30 am

## 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

**Tuesday:** Ladies' Bible study w/ Sharon P

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

## July Birthdays

10<sup>th</sup> Ginny Peñuelas  
16<sup>th</sup> Scott Hedlund  
30<sup>th</sup> Eva Chapman  
31<sup>st</sup> Donald Moberger  
31<sup>st</sup> Don Scott

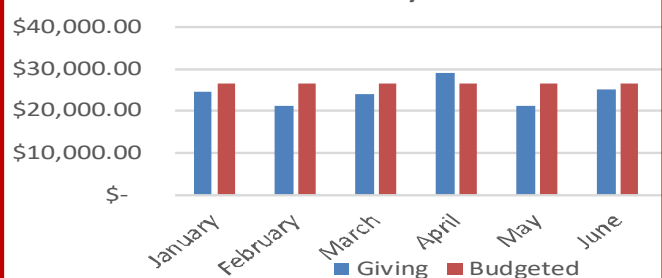


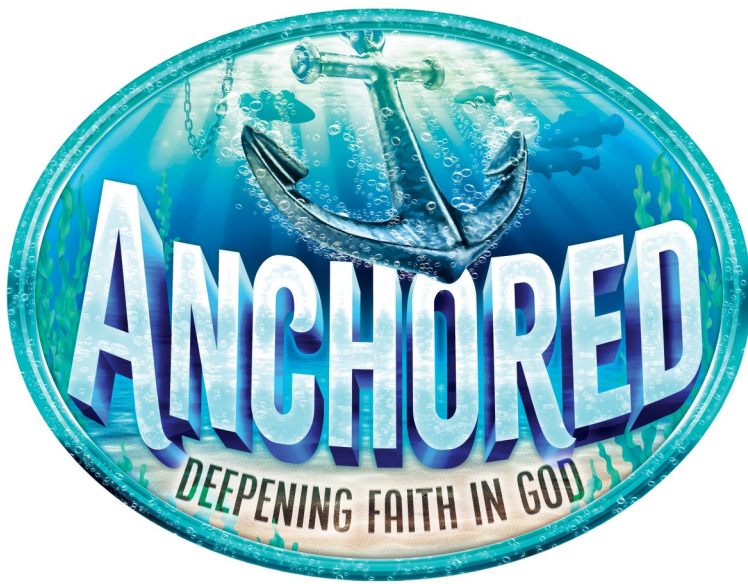
## July Anniversaries

17<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Sue Wilbur  
22<sup>nd</sup> Dan & Eva Chapman  
26<sup>th</sup> Mike & Marti Barth

Bethany's 2021 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$26,432.42 each month. Year to date budget requirement was \$158,594.52. YTD giving, through June, totaled \$145,449.18. The difference was (\$13,145.34).

## Bethany Financials





**SWIM ON OVER  
TO THE BEST VBS!**  
July 13th - July 15th  
6:00 to 8:30 pm  
1st through 5th graders

At Anchored vacation Bible school 2021,  
kids embark on an undersea adventure,  
diving deeper in their faith and discovering  
the unwavering love of God!

Each \$10 donation helps provide an  
Ecuadorian family with life-changing  
livestock!



Join **Operation Kid-to-Kid**  
and impact communities in  
Ecuador for years to come!  
Give the gift of life changing livestock!

**To Register:** Call or email the office @  
702-293-1912  
[don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)



**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED**

I already have backpacks. Join us July 31 at 10:30 in Emmaus Hall.

Notebook paper, Pocket folders, Notebooks but not spiral, 3ring notebooks, Colored Markers, Highlighters, Colored pencils, Crayons, Rulers, Black pens, Scissors ,Erasers, Pencils.

**CHURCH HIKE**

Join us at 8 AM on Saturday, July 27, as we leave for a hike on Mt. Charleston. We will plan to visit the Bristlecone Trail. This is a little longer hike than we have taken, and it is at high altitude (going above 9000 feet). But it is also a smoother trail with less elevation gain and loss than some of the hikes which we have done.

Bethany Baptist Church  
210 Wyoming Street  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Happy July 4th

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

**Board of Elders** - *Mac Jaynes, Chairman*

**Board of Deacons** - *Don Scott, Chairman*

**Board of Deaconesses** - *Carol Tyson, Chairwoman*

**Christian Education Board** - *Jenny Fletcher, Chairwoman*

**Property Maintenance Board** - *Ernie Eskam, Chairman*

**Missions Board** - *Rob Hedlund, Chairman*

STAFF

**Senior Pastor Kurt Hedlund**  
[kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:kurt@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

**Music Director and Office Administrator**  
*Don Scott* [don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com](mailto:don@bethany.lvcoxmail.com)

**SERVICE TIMES**

**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School:** 11:30 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)

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).