

May 2026

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Bible, Iran, and War”

“God does not bless any conflict; to cry out to the world that whoever is a disciple of Christ, the Prince of Peace, never stands on the side of those who yesterday wielded the sword and today drop bombs.”

Pope Leo

“Pope Leo is WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy.” President Trump

“War is, to say the least, a ghastly evil. I did not say, war is wrong. The waging of war is often highly necessary and even dutiful.” Westminster Seminary Professor John Murray

One of the subtexts of the conflict in Iran has been the exchange of words between the pope and the president. They clearly have irritated each other. The larger issue is God’s view of armed conflict. Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount called for blessing on peacemakers. On the other hand Jesus and the New Testament writers favorably treated centurions, military officers. Also God in the Old Testament at times called for His people to go to war.

A minority of Christians have adopted a pacifist position that Christians should never become involved in warfare, adopting the Sermon on the Mount as a standard of behavior that applies to nations as well as individuals. Most Christians have argued that there are different standards that should be applied to individual believers and nations, citing Romans #13 which refers to the right of nations to bear the sword.

So the majority of Christians throughout history have sought to develop standards that recognize a “just war.” Roman Catholic scholars have often done the best work on this. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine (Pope Leo is an Augustinian) made significant contributions in this area. They argued first that a proper sovereign must make decisions about war. Augustine said, “The natural order conducive to peace among morals demands that the power to declare and counsel war should be in the hands of those who hold the supreme authority.” Some Americans have argued that only Congress has the right to declare war, which is technically correct under our Constitution. But the reality is that the last war that Congress declared was World War II. Since then both Republicans and Democrats have led our nation into armed conflicts. The Supreme Court has generally upheld the President’s military actions as Commander in Chief under the Constitution.

Second, Augustine and Thomas Aquinas said that a just cause is required. Augustine: “A just war is wont to be described as one that avenges wrongs, when a nation or state has to be punished, for effusing to make amends for the wrongs inflicted by its subject, or to restore what has been seized unjustly.” Certainly Iran has been a state sponsor of terror which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Americans as well as other people, including their own citizens, in the course of the reign of the current theocratic regime.

Third, the Catholic scholars said that in a just war it is “necessary that the belligerents should have a rightful intention, so that they intend the advancement of good, or the avoidance of evil.” Augustine said, “True religion looks upon as peaceful those wars that are waged not for motives of aggrandizement, or cruelty, but with the object of securing peace, or punishing evil-doers, and of uplifting the good.” It is not always possible to know what is in the heart of leaders who lead a country into armed conflict, but certainly a case could be made that the US and Israeli attack on Iran is designed to prevent Iran from unleashing an atomic weapon on us and on other countries.

- Pastor Kurt

May Birthdays

- 9th Jenny Fletcher
23rd Rob Hedlund
25th Marilyn Nelson



May Anniversaries

- 4th John & Kitty Ritenour
24th Tristen & Ariel Gallegos

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday:

- Outside Service - 8:00 a.m.
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 NIGHTS

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

NURSING HOME OUTREACH

Join Rob Hedlund on Saturday morning, May 2, at 9:45 at BC Hospital as he conducts brief services in the Long Term Care area at the hospital and then at Mountain View Care Center.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, Bicentennial Park- Join other Christians and Boulder City churches in this annual event where we break into groups and pray for the needs of our nation.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 9, 8 AM

Men, join us in Emmaus Hall for a hearty breakfast, great fellowship, and a stimulating Bible study.

CHURCH HIKE

Saturday, May 23, 8 AM

Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, meet us in the church parking lot as we spend several hours enjoying the cooler temperatures and beautiful scenery around Mt. Charleston. We provide a lunch.

Starting May 24, 2025, Ladies Sunday School Class


Tina Selb will be facilitating a 5 week study of , based on Romans 12:2 and Chuck & Nancy Missler's book "Be Ye Transformed -Understanding God's Truth". Please join us in Emmaus Hall in the way back room.

Joy for Our Journey

May 2, 10:30am study: "The Samaritan Woman" @ Jenny's. 1290 Browder Place
JFOJ Meeting May 23, 10:30 am - Credit Union - Fraud
Forever Faithful & Fit: Every Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 pm

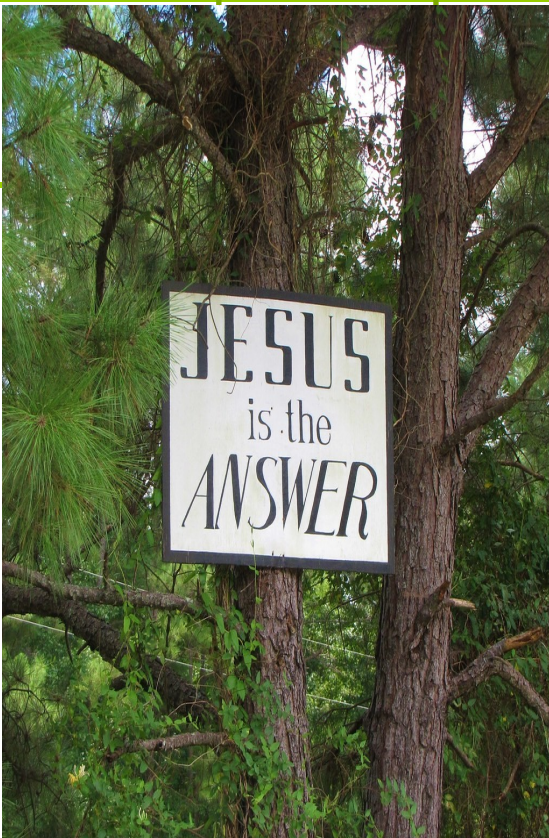


MAY 2026

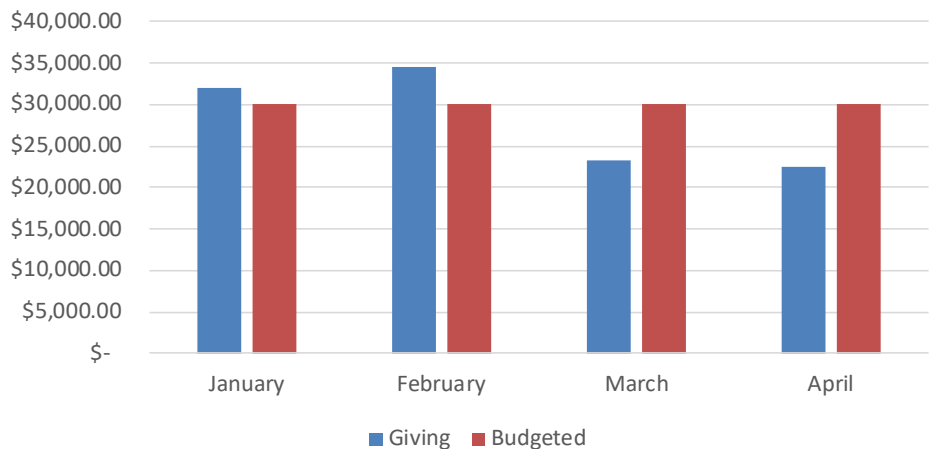
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Youth Night 6 pm	2 Nursing Home outreach 9:45am JFOJ (widows) 10:30 am study
3	4	5 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	6 Ladies Book Canceled Prayer Meeting 11 am	7 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	8 Youth Night 6 pm	9 Men's Breakfast 8 am
10 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	11	12 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	13 Ladies Book Canceled Prayer Meeting 11 am	14 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	15 Youth Night 6 pm	16
17	18	19 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	20 Ladies Book Canceled Prayer Meeting 11 am	21 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	22	23 Hike 8:00 am JFOJ 10:30 am
24	25  31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	27 Ladies Book Club 10am Prayer Meeting 11 am	28 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	29 Youth Night 6 pm	30

Bethany's 2026 budget is based on receiving offerings averaging \$29,975.89 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$119,903.56.
Year to date giving, as of April 20th totals \$112,391.20.
The difference was (\$7,512.36) short.



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 danielvernonchapman@gmail.com

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

2026 Boards

Board of Elders - Mike Barth, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Mick Casey, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Tina Selb, Chairwoman

Christian Education Board - Daniel Chapman, Chairman

Property Maintenance Board - Eric Eskam, Chairman

Missions Board - Cherry Aton, Chairwoman

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.