

January 2026

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“So What Should We Think about Sports Betting?”

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” – 1 Timothy 6:10

For us sports fans the most popular professional sport in the US is football. The most popular event on that calendar is the Super Bowl. There is no clear favorite this year. But you can bet on the proposition that betting on the Super Bowl will be the most popular gambling event of the year.

In June of 1990 NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue told a US Senate subcommittee about the dangers of legalized gambling, “Nothing has done more to despoil the games Americans play and watch than widespread gambling on them.” In 2004 the NFL would not even permit advertisements promoting Las Vegas to be aired during the Super Bowl.

Things have changed. In 2018 the US Supreme Court struck down a federal law prohibiting sports gambling. Since then 39 states and the District of Columbia have legalized sports betting. In 2024 \$150 billion was spent in this country on sports betting. Now professional athletes promote betting apps in advertising during NFL games. Individuals can place bets anytime using their cell phones.

Most gamblers will bet relatively small amounts of money and never have a major problem. But there is a downside to all of this. There is a danger of professional athletes being corrupted by money offered to them. Several NBA players were recently indicted for taking money to play, or not play, in a certain way. No studies have been done in the US about professional athletes and their gambling habits, but in Europe a study was done which found that 57% of pro athletes gambled on sports.

Half of young men in the US between age 18 and 49 have online betting accounts. Laws require that bettors be at least 21, but adolescents have found ways to circumvent the law. According to the National Council on Problem Gambling the rate of gambling problems among sports bettors is at least twice as high as for regular gamblers. One study found that 16% of online gamblers meet the clinical criteria for a gambling disorder. The American Psychiatric Association says that one in five problem sports gamblers attempt suicide, the highest rate of any addiction.

There is no verse in the Bible which says that Christians should not gamble. But here are some considerations that should affect the personal philosophy which we develop toward this issue. First, the Bible warns us about the love of money, as 1 Timothy 6:10, cited above, warns us. For some sports bettors that is an underlying motivation. Some may say that it is not.

There is also the problem posed by temptations toward the corruption of the game, which Commissioner Tagliabue mentioned. Then also there is the problem of addiction. Most of us know individuals and families who have been adversely affected by gamblers. A case could also be made that gambling reflects a lack of love for our neighbor. Sports gambling inherently requires that some bettors will lose money. Sometimes that can be a lot. Then also a case can be made that gambling is not consistent with Christian stewardship. If we as Christians believe that we are responsible to the Lord for everything that we have, is it good stewardship to spend money on sports betting? Perhaps there are better ways to use our money.

Pastor Kurt

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Barbara Path
 6th Cassandra Williams
 8th Samuel Buchanan
 10th Tina Selb
 11th Adam Katzenbach
 22nd Barbara Lomen
 26th Doris Roederer
 27th Diana Petri
 30th Sharon Daniel
 31st Barbara Forcum



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1st Don & MaryJo Scott



YOUTH MEETING

Friday, January 2,9,16,30 6-8:00 PM -- The youth will meet for food and fun and fellowship in Emmaus Hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 10, 8 AM- Men, join us in Emmaus Hall for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship and some stimulating Christian input.

CHURCH HIKE

Saturday, January 24, 8 AM- Join us in the church parking lot for our monthly hike. The Chapmans graciously provide us with a lunch.

TRIP TO ISRAEL

March 13-20- Join Pastor Kurt and others from the church for this tour of Israel hosted by Kurt's seminary friend and pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church. Let Pastor Kurt know if you are interested.



NURSING HOME OUTREACH

Saturday, January 3, 9:45am

Join Rob Hedlund at BC Hospital for a service at the LTC unit followed by a visit to Mountain View Nursing Home



Joy for our Journey

January 3, 10:30 am
 Study of women from the Bible
 Rahab

Joy for Our Journey Meeting
 January 24, 10:30 am
 Celebration of our Birthdays

Bethany's Vision Statement

To Glorify Jesus

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.

Happy New Year

2026

Always Be Joyful,
 Always Keep On Praying,
 No Matter What Happens,
 Always Be Thankful
 For This Is God's Will
 For You Who **Belong** To Jesus Christ

2026

January 2026

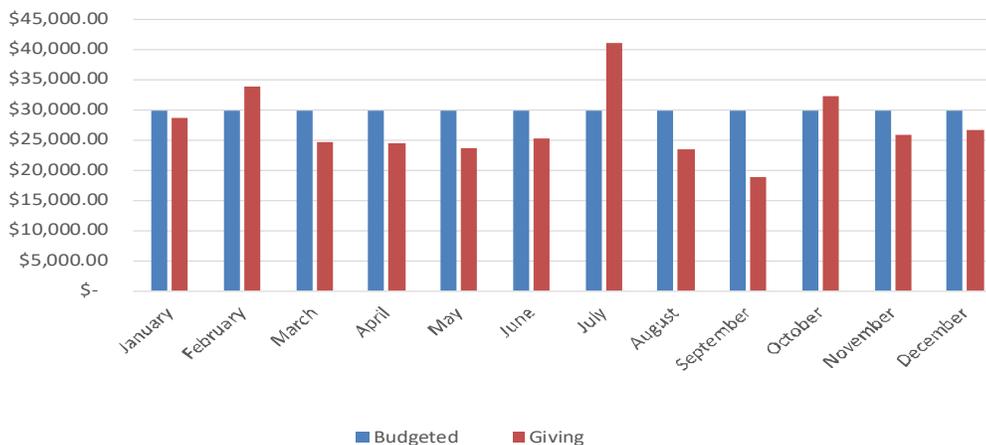
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Youth Night 6 pm	3 9:45 a Care Service BC Hospital JFOJ Study
4	5	6 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	7 Ladies Book Club 10a Prayer Meeting 11	8 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	9 Youth Night 6 pm	10 Men's Breakfast 8a
11	12	13 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	14 Ladies Book Club 10a Prayer Meeting 11	15 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	16 Youth Night 6 pm	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	21 Ladies Book Club 10a Prayer Meeting 11	22 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	23	24 Hike 8am JFOJ 10:30 am
25	26	27 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	28 Ladies Book Club 10a Prayer Meeting 11	29 2 pm Forever Faithful & Fit	30 Youth Night 6 pm	31

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Outside Service 8:00 am Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Ladies' Sunday School @ 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study @ 11:15 am Bible Study @ 6 p.m.

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

Bethany Financials



Bethany's 2025 budget was based on receiving offerings averaging \$29,843.66 each month.

Year to date budget requirement was \$358,121.82.

Year to date giving, through December, totaled \$328,746.95. Difference is (\$29,374.87)

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 - *Daniel Chapman* - danielvernonchapman@gmail.com

Service Time: 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 - *Doris Roush, 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.