



March 2025

COMMUNICATOR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Roots of Religious Liberty”

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

As American Christians we often trace our freedom to the First Amendment of the Constitution, which reads, in part: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” Our founding fathers understood the importance of religious freedom. It was no accident that they included the guarantee concerning religious freedom in the First Amendment and at the beginning of that amendment.

As Christians we would argue that religious freedom is a right whose origin is in God and in His image which we bear and in the Owner’s Manual which He gave us. But as Christians we also owe an important part of our freedom to the Western history which can be traced back to the Roman Empire.

Christians were a minority religion in the first three centuries of Christian history. Some of the Roman emperors were severe in their persecution of Christians. Diocletian came to the throne in 284 AD. In 303 AD he ordered that all copies of the Bible be burned, that church buildings be destroyed, and that Christian worship be forbidden. A bit later he ordered pastors to be arrested.

In 306 AD Constantine came to the throne. He was not as severe. In the face of a rebellion the early church historian Eusebius says that Constantine had a vision in which Jesus told him to go into battle bearing a version of the cross symbol. At the Battle of the Milvian Bridge at the Tiber River near Rome Constantine and his forces defeated an army twice as large as his own. He remained as emperor until 337 AD.

In 313 Constantine issued the Edict of Milan which granted religious liberty to his citizens. That edict includes these words: “Perceiving long ago that religious liberty ought not to be denied, but that it ought to be granted to the judgment and desire of each individual to perform his religious duties according to his own choice, we had given orders that every man, Christians as well as others, should preserve the faith of his own sect and religion. ... We resolved... to grant both to the Christians and to all men freedom to follow the religion which they choose... And we decree still further in regard to the Christians, that their places, in which they were formerly accustomed to assemble... shall be restored to the said Christians, without demanding money or any other equivalent, with no delay or hesitation.... For by this means... the divine favor toward us which we have already experienced in many matters will continue sure thorough all time.”

Such is the history of the religious freedom which we cherish. May we continue to enjoy it for decades to come.

- Pastor Kurt

MEN'S CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 15, from 9 AM to 2 PM at BC Home Life Church men's groups from several BC churches are joining together for a video conference featuring several national Christian men's speakers. We will have worship times and breakout sessions and local testimonies. Cost is \$20, which includes a lunch and breakfast snacks if you show up early. Sign up in the foyer and give your \$20 to Pastor Kurt. The No Regrets Conference is based out of Elmbrook Church in Milwaukee, WI.

CHURCH HIKE

Saturday, March 22, 8 AM- Join us on the church campus for our monthly church hike. We provide lunches. Come and enjoy great fellowship and the great outdoors.

Joy For Our Journey

March 1, 10:30 book study "Be Joyful" at Jenny's house.

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 "Forever Faithful and Fit"
We do chair and balance exercises and yoga.

Saturday, March 22, 10:30-Joy for Our Journey meeting.
"A bit of the green".

We will be learning ways to save money on groceries, utilities and other discounts.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR JUVENILE CORRECTIONS OUTREACH

Kathleen Hill is looking for a volunteer who would coordinate the collection of cookies at Christmas for parties at the juvenile correction facilities and a volunteer who would coordinate the gift bags that are given out at the same time. Kathleen would be happy to describe the details: 702-420-4676



On March 9th



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Angel Mullis
- 3rd Marla (Turbo) Crawford
- 5th Doris Roush
- 7th Debra (DeeDee) Buchanan
- 9th Mike Baker
- 10th Sandy Crawford
Robyn Radig
Bart Hedlund
- 11th Carla Carstensen
Linda Hann-Ford
- 14^t Cherry Aton
- 28th Kitty Ritenour
- 29th Sue Wilbur
Brenda Fauley



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 31st Cecil & Barbara Forcum



Joy for our Our Journey Bible Study:

Saturday, March 1, 10:30 at Jenny's house,
1290 Browder Place.

The book is "Be Joyful". The study of Philippians.

Forever Faithful and Fit"

Every Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 Chair Exercise,
Yoga and Balance. We meet at the church.

Join us Saturday, March 22, 10:30 in Emmaus Hall
for our Joy for Our Journey meeting.

We will be learning ways to save money on groceries,
utilities, and other discounts.

Wear green and bring something green to eat!

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Care center services 9:45am @ BC Hospital JFOJ (widows) Study @ 10:30am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Men's conference 9am-2pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Hike 8:00 am Joy For Our Journey 10:30 am
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Spring!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Ladies' Sunday School 11:15 a.m. in Emmaus
Adult Bible Study 11:15 am in the worship center
Bible Study @ 6 pm

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



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

Year to date budget requirement was \$59,687.32.
Year to date giving, through February, totaled \$62,554.00.
The difference was \$2,866.68.

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 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

2025 Boards

Board of Elders - Mike Barth, Chairman

Board of Deacons - Dan Chapman, Chairman

Board of Deaconesses - Patti Childress, Chairwoman

C.E. Board - Eva Chapman

Property Maintenance Board - Eric Eskam, 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.