



**The Bethany Bullet** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights and big information that your brain may or may not have 'downloaded' from the prior Sunday. The purpose is to bolster you in faith, build you up in the key Biblical themes shared the previous Sunday in worship, to bring to mind the important issues on Bethany's plate and to broaden your awareness of opportunities of service to your Lord, your church, and your community. Tell a friend about **The Bethany Bullet!** ([www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org))

## **FROM WORSHIP:**

**Sermon: "God's People...Humble"**

**Text: [1 Peter 2](#)**

Here is a video to get started; please click [HERE](#).

\*If unable to open link, then copy/paste this into your browser: [https://youtu.be/-07\\_2DWfEmQ](https://youtu.be/-07_2DWfEmQ)

*Oh Lord it's hard to be humble  
When you're perfect in every way  
I can't wait to look in the mirror  
Cause I get better looking each day  
To know me is to love me  
I must be a hell of a man  
Oh Lord It's hard to be humble,  
But I'm doing the best that I can*

Have you heard that song before? It's one of those ear worms that I can't seem to get out of my head.

The song was written and sung by Mac Davis and released in 1974. Of course I became aware of the song when Mac Davis was the guest star on the Muppet Show in 1980. (See link above)

Mac Davis was a prolific song writer and wrote many of the hits for Elvis Presley and Nancy Sinatra to name a few.

Now, I'm not a huge Mac Davis fan, but I could not get that song out of my head this week as I spent time in 1 Peter.

Last week Pastor Kevin started off our time in 1 Peter as we looked at what it means to be God's People. Last week it was **Holy**, this week it is **Humble**.

Scripture teaches that we are made holy because of what Christ has done for us!

Often times though, we find it hard to be humble because our sinful nature believes that this life is all about us.

Remember what we saw in chapter one, **"Be holy, because I am holy"** says the Lord. We have been set free from the sinful life of this world and made holy by the payment of the precious blood of Christ.

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Therefore since we are a chosen people and a royal priesthood and a holy nation we have been called to live that out.

And today we look to [1 Peter Chapter 2](#). I'm going to start with verse 21 and I'm reading from God's Word translation.

*"God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps. Christ never committed any sin. He never spoke deceitfully. Christ never verbally abused those who verbally abused him. When he suffered, he didn't make any threats but left everything to the one who judges fairly. Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you. You were like lost sheep. Now you have come back to the shepherd and bishop of your lives."* (1 Peter 2:21-25)

As God's people, our lives are not absent of suffering. Following Christ Jesus comes with picking up a few crosses along the way.

We are able to humbly follow in the footsteps of Jesus only because He went first.

His example is pretty lofty.

- He never sinned.
- He never spoke deceitfully.
- He never verbally abused others.
- He didn't make threats.

These are the very things that separate us from holy, humble living.

I have sinned, I have spoken deceitfully, I have verbally abused others and I have made threats. All of this separates me from God.

Humans, including you and me, often struggle with living humble lives. As Mac Davis' song reminds us, we "can't wait to look in the mirror" because we believe we are "perfect in every way" even as we live lives "...doing the best that we can."

I hate to break it to you; your best is not good enough. You may not be as humble as you think.

*Many have heard of Muhammad Ali's boast that in the boxing ring he could "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee". He knew how to brag to psyche out his opponents. Early in his life his pride was mighty. But on one particular flight across the country, he says in his book, *The Soul of a Butterfly*, that the flight attendant asked him to put his seat belt on. He said to her, "Superman don't need no seat belt". She smiled at him and said, 'Superman don't need no plane, either.'"*

In the Old Testament book Proverbs, chapter 16, we find a very well known verse. *"Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall."* (Proverbs 16:18)

It was the fall in the garden that got us into this mess and we have been stumbling and bumbling our way through life since.

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But let's get back to our text from 1 Peter, "*He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps.*" (1 Peter 2:21b)

The life of Jesus is a life of humility. Jesus came not just as an example; He came as the antidote for your pride.

Listen to how the Message Translation describes the humility of Christ found in Paul's letter to the Philippians, the second chapter.

*"He [Jesus] had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion."* (Philippians 2:6-8 The Message)

As God's holy people, as Easter believers, we look to Christ, we see what He has done in His defeat of death and we find that our shortcomings and our pride are wiped away. Unlike Mac Davis' song, it's not about knowing me but to know Jesus is to love Him; He's the one who keeps us from the fires of hell and in Him we find freedom in the Good News that Christ is Risen! (He is Risen indeed!)

In that freedom, we can live truly humble lives.

*Samuel Brengle who was an early Salvation Army official was once introduced as the, "Great and wonderful Dr. Brengle" to a group. He later wrote in his diary, "If I appear great in their eyes, the Lord is most graciously helping me to see how absolutely nothing I am without Him, and helping me to stay humble in my own eyes. He does use me. But it is not of me the work is done. The axe cannot boast of the trees it has cut down. It could do nothing but for the woodsman. He made it, he sharpened it, and he used it. The moment he throws it aside, it becomes only old iron. O, that I may never lose sight of this."*

May we all strive to be God's people, holy because of Christ and follow in his footsteps as humble children of God as he uses us each day!

-Pastor Seth Moorman

## **FROM THE CHIMES:**

**Looking for more information? Bethany's website contains up-to-date information on all programs and upcoming events! [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)**

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## Renaissance

**"At Bethany He blessed them."** Those words of Scripture, from which we derive our name as a congregation, took on a new sense of power and joy last week as our Renaissance Leadership team announced the results of our Capital Funding Campaign.

Before we held our first meeting for the Renaissance, \$404,000 had been committed to this effort. As we've prayed and reflected as we've listened and been led an additional \$2,049,000 has been sacrificially committed to our Renaissance by 267 different giving units.

Thus to date between commitments and gifts received \$2,453,000 is expected for our Renaissance. In future updates you'll see the total dollar amount of gifts received increase and thus the total dollar amount of commitments to be received decrease.

As additional commitments are made, in the future that information will be shared on this page.

The DNA of Renaissance stewardship has led some to share with our church staff, legacy gifts for the Renaissance that will be forthcoming to Bethany through wills and estates. These gifts will bless our Renaissance for generations to come.

Our Renaissance Capital Funding goal was \$2,500,000. Hence our leadership team will be meeting soon to get us moving forward for the transformation of our sacred spaces here at Bethany.

Of course, that was not the only goal we had. We prayed and sought, and are experiencing renewal in ministry and renewal individually as the Lord's Renaissance of souls has already begun here at Bethany where He blesses.

### Renaissance VIMEO:

Click [HERE](#) to watch our Renaissance video. If you are unable to open the link, please copy/paste this into your browser to view link: <https://vimeo.com/203911883>

### Renaissance Slideshow:

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the slideshow document that previews our anticipated Renaissance Project. If you unable to open link, please copy/paste this into your browser to view the link:

<http://www.bethanylutheran.org/files/pdfs/Church/church%20presentation%20January%202016.pdf>

## Upcoming Dates to Note:

### Listed in Date order...

#### Saturday, May 20 – Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Our once-a-month Saturday group continues to grow steadily, thanks to the gracious goodness of our Heavenly Father! We do still have plenty of room for YOU, so please consider joining us this month on **Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 to 9:30AM** in the Parish Lounge. We enjoy a meal prepared by one of our members from about 8 to 8:30AM, and then do our study until 9:25AM or so. You are welcome to join us at any point during the 90 minutes we are here! We are currently studying the Gospel of John, so bring your Bible and I will give you a study guide. We meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday.



— Karl Fink

## Wednesday, May 24 – **Cook's Night Out (support Mission Alaska)!**

Click on [HERE](#) to get a copy of the flier and give it to your server when you order. Mission Alaska will receive a portion of the proceeds. Thank you for your support. **Cook's Night Out will be at Super Mex in Lakewood.**

## Friday, June 2 – **Paint Nite for Mission Alaska**

Join us for a fun night out **Friday, June 2nd** to support the Bethany Lutheran Mission Alaska team! Paint Nite invites you to create art with friends, guided by a professional artist and party host. Grab your friends and spend two hours painting and laughing, and flexing your creative muscles. There is no experience necessary and we will provide all the supplies, so you don't have to worry about a thing (except having a great time!). **The event begins promptly at 7:00p.m.** Please allow extra time to get settled. **Tickets are \$45 per person.** Mission Alaska earns \$15 for every ticket purchased. You can sign up online by visiting the Bethany Facebook page and on our Bethany website or click [HERE](#)! You can also visit the Alaska Paint Nite table in Friendship Square and sign up on an iPad.

## Sunday, June 4\* (**Date change...no longer on May 21<sup>st</sup>**) – **Informational Meeting for a Mission Trip to Guatemala** @ 12:00PM in the Youth Center

The Lord has graciously opened the door for Bethany to take a mission group to Guatemala. We will be joining a few staff members and students from Concordia, Irvine in November of 2017. We will be serving the people of El Progreso, Guatemala as we lead VBS for the children, crafts for the women, spend quality time by doing home-visits with the villagers, and more. There will be an initial informational meeting Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at noon in the Youth Room. Come hear from Andrew Andersen and Kayleigh Belvery as they share their experiences and invite you to join the Bethany team, for November 2017!

**Sunday, June 11 - Congregational Voters Meeting** will in the **Choir Room at 12:00PM (noon)** on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items are election of congregational officers and next fiscal year budget.



## **Newsletter & Calendar are ready for Download!**

The Newsletter is on the website ([www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)).

*There are printed copies of the current newsletter available in the church office and narthex.*

Click on Link Options below - If you wish to go directly to the...

1. [Newsletter homepage](#)
  2. This month's [MAY 2017 Chimes Newsletter](#)
  3. This month's [MAY 2017 Calendar](#)
  4. **The JUNE Newsletter/Calendar will be available for download very soon...look for its availability by next week!**
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## Electronic Giving

By giving electronically, the amount you designate will be withdrawn automatically from your checking or savings account on the date(s) you specify. You can ensure that Bethany gets your contribution on a regular basis, even when you're on vacation. To sign up, go to [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org), click on "Electronic Giving" on the left side of the page. Then follow the easy prompts.

## Stay Connected!

**Bethany Lutheran School** - Below is the link to the school's newsletter page.

- Click [HERE](#) or copy/paste this into your browser (<http://www.bethanylutheran.org/716624.ihtml>)

### Follow Bethany on...

#### Bethany App

Download the Bethany Lutheran App on your device from the **App Store** or **Google Play** today and keep up-to-date on what is happening at Bethany.

#### Twitter:

- Search @Revkevbethany on [www.Twitter.com](http://www.Twitter.com)
- Or by going to the church website and clicking on the Twitter button on our homepage.
- (or click here: [Twitter link](#))

#### Facebook:

- Search "Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach" on [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)
- Or by going to the church website and clicking on the Facebook button on our homepage.
- (or click here: [Facebook link](#))

**Did you know you can hear sermons via pod casts and get congregational information via the Bethany website? Click here for [POD CASTS](#) \*If unable to open above link, copy/paste this shortcut to your browser:**

<http://www.bethanylutheran.org/620970.ihtml>