

# The Bethany Bullet

**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:**

The length of the Creed alone and its tongue twisting turns of phrase could be why historically the Athanasian has not been worked into the "regular rotation" with the Apostles and Nicene in worship. However, it has traditionally been used on Trinity Sunday.

Athanasius, from Alexandria Egypt, has been called the champion of "Nicene Orthodoxy." While a deacon, he was present at the council of Nicea and along with the church father Eusebius defended the Biblical teaching of the nature of God against the Arian heresy. A church leader named Arius taught that Jesus was not the eternal second person of the Godhead but a created being. Modern day 'political' sloganeering might have had its beginning in 325 AD Nicea with the Arian movement. Arius and his followers declared, "There was when he was not." In other words, they said that Jesus had not always existed and that He was not begotten of the Father but God's first created work. Athanasius, and the champions of Nicene (Biblical) Orthodoxy repeated returned to the texts of the Bible, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1)

Eventually the Council of Nicea would affirm the Biblical truth of the nature of our Triune God in the creed named after the council; but that was not the end of the story. In fact, it wasn't long after that a new Roman Emperor would assume power. Emperor Constantius was a convinced Arian. Under Constantius' rule the Arian heresy became the de facto official position of the church as Bishops and theologians who held to Nicene orthodoxy were sent into exile or driven into hiding; including Athanasius. In what can only be called Divine irony, the death of the church emperor Constantius and subsequent rule of his pagan cousin Julian 'saved' orthodoxy. Whereas Julian had no interest in which theological position held sway within the church those living Bishops in hiding were able to return and take up the Biblical cause again. Athanasius led the way. Finally, after his death, at the Second Church Council in Constantinople the Biblical position as taught in the Nicene Creed was again affirmed, Arianism was defeated, and another Creed was authored; the one we call the Athanasian Creed.

As technical and deeply theological as the Creed may be, it is its last simple line that might be most confounding, "Those who do good will go to eternal life and those who do evil will go eternal fire/death." At first glance it could seem that these words oppose the Biblical teachings of grace and faith alone. Yet, upon a deeper read we notice "good" and "evil" are complete terms. The Creed does not say those who do "MORE good THAN evil" and those who do "MORE evil THAN good" go to their eternal destination. Rather, good and evil are total and complete terms.

These words, much like the end of Jesus parable of the sheep and goats in [Matthew 25](#), understand that the "good" are those who have been declared to be such through faith in Christ and thus they are seen by God as "good, holy and pure" on account of Jesus; while the "evil" are those who because they have no faith, have nothing but their own nature and work to offer. Thus the Creed isn't teaching salvation by works but rather the reality that those who trust in Christ, and are thus saved by His Grace through faith, are seen by God as totally and perfectly holy and "good" on account of being covered in Christ's own holiness and "goodness."

-Pastor Kevin Kritzer

# The Bethany Bullet

## **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)**

### **Upcoming Dates to Note:**

#### **Listed in Date Order...**

#### **Parish Lounge & Kitchen Closed**

The Parish Lounge and Kitchen will be under construction **Monday thru Friday beginning Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. There will be NO Monday thru Friday DAY events. However, any weekend and Monday thru Friday EVENING events will continue. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Morrison in the church office at (562) 421-4711.

#### **Ladies Game Day and Friendship Group Update:**

**Both groups are now taking a summer break** due to the construction happening in the Parish Lounge. Look for fall start up dates to be announced in the Sunday bulletin sometime at the end of summer.

#### **Voters' Meeting – Tuesday, June 5 at 7:00PM in the Choir Room**

##### **Motion:**

The Renaissance committee moves that Bethany Lutheran Church contract with Andersen Construction's bid proposal of \$1.5M to complete Phase 1, 2, and 3 of the Renaissance Project.

##### **Rationale:**

After lengthy and arduous dealings with the City of Long Beach this past year we were able to receive approval and permits for our Renaissance construction project. Invitations to bid were sent out March 27<sup>th</sup> to four highly reputable contractors with a bid due date of April 27<sup>th</sup>. After multiple conversations with all four contractors, and several job-walks to review our scope of work, one contractor declined in the second week and two dropped out the last week bids were due. All three cited a completely full work schedule with their current project commitments which would conflict with our proposed construction schedule this next year. Fortunately, Andersen Construction was committed to the bid, performed multiple job-walks and inspections, and submitted a comprehensive estimate on time. Our Contractor Review and Selection Committee were impressed that Andersen Construction has detailed their bid to include a cost plus factor. They have committed to perform all construction on a cost plus 17% basis to cover their overhead and return. We would consider this to be 8% below industry standards for this type of project.

##### **Motion:**

To pass the Fiscal Year 2018/19 balanced budget of \$3,276,770 expense and \$3,276,770 income.

# The Bethany Bullet



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018 – AN EVENING FAMILY PROGRAM!

- **Are You Ready to go back in time to the ancient City of Rome?** Make your plans now to join us for Vacation Bible School 2018 the week of **June 18<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This year our VBS program is a **family program** that will take place in the **evening from 5:30-7:30PM**. Dinner will be served each evening from 5:00-5:30PM. This year's Vacation Bible School theme is **Rome! Paul and the Underground Church**. Your family won't just hear about Paul; they will feel like they have stepped into Bible history to visit him and see some of the trials and challenges of the New Testament Church. Your family will learn about God's love and how it is a beautiful and free gift that changes us, saves us, and always goes with us. Join us as we take a step back in time and experience the life-giving love of God! While we strongly encourage families to attend together, it is our goal to have at least one grown up (parent, grandparent or guardian) with children at all times at Rome VBS. We will not be able to accommodate young children who are unaccompanied. Got more questions? Visit our FAQ page at [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org) and click on the VBS page.
- **Vacation Bible School Volunteers** – The city of Rome needs your help! We are looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to help with our **Rome** VBS program the week of June 18<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>. Help is needed in all areas so sign up today by sending an email to Pastor Seth ([smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org)). **All volunteers MUST complete training**. There are TWO ways to get this accomplished:
  1. You can take the online training at your own pace. Links to training videos will be emailed to you.
  2. You can attend a 90 minute in person training on either **Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM** or **Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM**.
- **VBS Work Day** – Save the date...**Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-Noon** for a VBS work day. We have lots of decorating to do and need all the help we can get. Please let Pastor Seth know if you can be there ([smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org)).
- **VBS Music CDs** are also available. Contact Pastor Seth if you want to have one before VBS so you and your kids can learn the songs. Cost is just \$10 for the CD, quantities are limited.
- **Donations for VBS** – Be on the lookout for our **Rome City Needs List** that will be published soon. You can take a tag and bring in the requested item. We need donations of food and supplies and items to borrow. **VBS Wish List is in the Narthex, if you would like to donate needed supplies.**
- **Registration** – You can register online by going to the Bethany Website and clicking on the VBS page. You can also pick up paper registration forms in the Church and School Offices.

# The Bethany Bullet

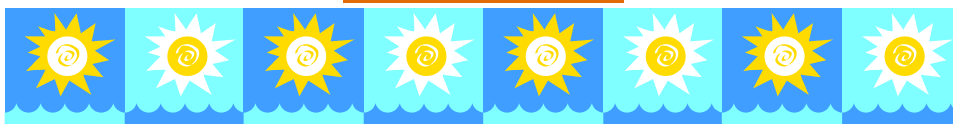


## My Fair Lady – A Mission India Event

Join us for a Command performance for Mission India on **Thursday, August 2 at 6:00PM** at the Long Beach Playhouse. There is a Wine & Cheese Reception at 6:00PM with Curtain Call at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$30 and are on sale in Friendship Square on Sunday mornings of June 3, 10, July 15, 22, & 29. All proceeds benefit Mission India.

---

## ★ JUNE 2018 ★



### Newsletter & Calendar are ready for Download!

The Newsletter is on the website at [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 below to download your copy of the newsletter & calendar:**

1. [NEWSLETTER homepage](#)
2. **The JUNE 2018 Newsletter is NOW available for download!**

---

## Renaissance

Praise God for Whom all blessings flow. Our Renaissance team has been hard at work! Through their efforts, we've made it through plan check, we're getting ready to go to bid, and soon we will have a contractor and construction schedule. Since our last reporting period an additional \$49,440.02 has been received in April/May and thus to date \$1,416,289.70 has been given toward our Renaissance. We therefore expect an additional \$1,043,559.98 to be brought to our Lord and His Renaissance here at Bethany over the next three years. This means we have already received over half of our total commitments to date. Praise the Lord and His faithful stewards here at Bethany. This also means that we will most likely not require a bridge loan when the work begins in earnest. So far, two of our three roofs have been repaired. Significant damage which took place through many years of water damage to our South facing preschool wall has been corrected and repaired. Our outdated phone system has been replaced; and we have purchased a new mobile sound system, that will eventually be used in the gym and elsewhere on campus, and is currently helping us make final decisions for a new sound system to be put in the sanctuary. If you have not yet been able to make a commitment, our would like more information out the Renaissance to consider joining nearly 300 Bethany households in so doing, please check out our Renaissance page on the Bethany website and grab our major Renaissance informational piece in the Narthex. You can also contact Pastor Kevin or our Renaissance Coordinator or Renaissance Directors Teresa Ivins, Gary McDaniel and John Holmquist.

***"Father of Glory, filled with grace and truth: unite us, as a church body, as we journey forward and help us attain a spiritual renaissance of both souls and sacred space. We pray for a spirit of wisdom and cohesiveness as decisions are being made on parking, sanctuary furnishings, and contractor bids. Keep us focused on furthering Bethany's blueprint of worshipping faithfully, forming spiritually, serving passionately, giving proportionately, sharing intentionally, and making community connections."***

Did you know that you can use electronic giving for your Renaissance commitments?  
Call Maralee Shaeffer in the office for information.

# The Bethany Bullet

## 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 for electronic giving, go to [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org), click on the word "Giving" on the top right of the home page and then follow the easy prompts.

## Stay Connected!

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

Click [HERE](#) or

Copy/paste this into your browser <http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/bethany-bear-facts/>

**Bethany Preschool** - Below is the link to the school's newsletter "Bear Cub Facts" page.

Click [HERE](#) or

Copy/paste this into your browser <http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/forms/bear-cub-facts-newsletter/>

## 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.

### Bethany Blog:

- Click [HERE](#) to connect to the Bethany Blog.

### 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/ministries/2017-sermons/>