



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)

FROM WORSHIP:

Sermon: "You Shouldda Seen It!"

Text: [Matthew 17:1-9](#) and [2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

This past week I spent a few days in Arizona at a ministry conference called Best Practices with a few other staff members from Bethany and you shoulda seen it.

It is an annual conference hosted by Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix and attended by almost 2000 people from all across the nation.

Let me tell you a few things I witnessed.

- I watched as church workers jumped off a perfectly good two-story tower.
- I moseyed in the grass with a herd of fake cows.
- I got a Klondike bar from a pastor dressed up as a cockroach.
- I ate fajitas surrounded by a Mariachi band.
- I watched three people dressed as ketchup, mustard, and a hamburger run a race.
- I received a warm doughnut from a parrot.
- I heard Darth Vader play the trumpet.
- I was called into a session by a gorilla with a bullhorn.

No, I'm not playing Mad-Libs all this really happened. But besides all of that, we did hear some amazing speakers, were inspired in worship, made some awesome connections, and saw the hands and feet of God serving, sharing, and learning together.

We heard and experienced the sweetness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and truth be told, we were fed very well, both spiritually and physically.

You shoulda seen it! It was amazing! It was like nothing I have ever witnessed. It was almost unbelievable. I almost wanted to set up a tent and just stay there.

It reminds me of the account in our Gospel reading (from Sunday morning).

Today we remember the events that took place on the mountain of transfiguration. Let's look at the text again from Matthew 17, ***["After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John \(the brother of James\) and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. Jesus' appearance changed in front of them. His face became as bright as the sun and his clothes as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them and were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we're here. If you want, I'll put up three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when a bright](#)***

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cloud overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to him!"

It was a "you shoulda seen it" moment. Peter was entranced by the notion of seeing Moses and Elijah and then the radiance of God Himself in Jesus Christ shining in the darkness.

It was almost unbelievable. It was like nothing He had ever seen and what did Peter want to do? Yep, set up a tent and stay there.

If you were not at the Best Practices conference you might never believe the sights and the sounds I witnessed, but you might catch a glimpse by looking at pictures on Facebook or you could ask the others who were there with me. Eyewitness accounts can be powerful testimonies of actual events.

It would be nice to sit down with Peter, James and John and talk to them about what they witnessed that day. How great it would be to see their Facebook posts or tweets about the event. But we can't.

Not only was there no social media at the time, Jesus told them to keep the events to themselves until after He was brought back to life on Easter morning.

And Peter did just that. But later he records his eyewitness account in our New Testament reading from today. Listen to part of it again, *"When we apostles told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we didn't base our message on clever myths that we made up. Rather, we witnessed his majesty with our own eyes. For example, we were eyewitnesses when he received honor and glory from God the Father and when the voice of our majestic God spoke these words to him: "This is my Son, whom I love and in whom I delight." We heard that voice speak to him from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts."* (1 Peter 1:16-19)

Peter is the eyewitness that we yearn for, the one we desire, the one that will help us contemplate the enormity of the event from that Transfiguration Day and indeed the entire incarnation.

Peter's words preserved for us in the pages of Scripture make his witness, sure, more believable and can strengthen our faith in the one true God who revealed His nature on that day.

But how often have you said, *"I'll believe it when I see it"?*

When doubts creep in, when the devil starts to whisper his lies in your ear that the accounts of the Bible are too outlandish to believe let alone trust in, when you start to wonder if this story is really true, ponder the events of Transfiguration, rest on the words and witness of Peter, hear the powerful Word.

For the witness of Scripture is not something that was fabricated by humanity...Hear the witness of Peter again, *"First, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. No prophecy ever originated from humans. Instead, it was given by the Holy Spirit as humans spoke under God's direction."* (1 Peter 1:20-21)

"You shoulda seen it!" I'm not sure those are the exact words the followers of Jesus used when they started talking about the work of Jesus but I'm sure it was something like it.

It was almost unbelievable what they did to Jesus on the cross.

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The open and empty tomb was like nothing that had ever been witnessed before.

But it's absolutely true. It's not a fabricated fairy tale or antiquated worldview.

And you too can see it today. As the Word is proclaimed, as the water and Word combine in baptism, when the body and blood of Jesus are in with and under the wafer and the wine and when we witness the work of God's people, we see Jesus!

It's a story that continues today as the Word comes all the way to you, to dispel your fear and doubt, to bring forgiveness of sin and to remind you that the witness accounts contained in this book are true, all of 'em.

At the very end of the conference yesterday afternoon we had a service of sending in the sanctuary of Christ Church where we were encouraged by fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, we sung hymns, heard Scripture and at the very end we got, what I believe was a brief glimpse of the glory of heaven once again.

It was not the dazzling white radiance of the Lord but was His light shining in all of us as hundreds sang the Doxology a cappella in multipart harmony.

I had goose bumps as I felt the presence of God in that place. I wanted to set up a tent and stay right there in that place. You shoulda seen it!

And you will one day because you see, there is more to being a follower of Christ than an earthly convention, for there will be an eternal convocation of all the saints who will all see with their eyes the brightness of God in all his radiance and splendor for all eternity!

-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



Upcoming Dates to Note:

Ash Wednesday – March 1, 2017

Worship times: 9:00AM (school chapel), 4:00PM and 7:00PM

*No soup supper this evening.

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Join Us for an All American Pancake Breakfast - LSS Community Care Fundraiser

We need your help. Come join LSS Community Care Long Beach for a fundraising breakfast. There will be good food & great conversation. All proceeds will go towards maintenance & repairs of our warehouse & office space. Our goal is \$5000. For more information contact Wendy Rubio at (562) 599-6804. Tickets are \$10.



Date: **Saturday, March 4, 2017**

Where: **Trinity Lutheran Church**

759 Linden Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90813

Time: **9:00AM to 12 Noon**

Do you like riding bicycles?

Haven't been riding for awhile, or just need some motivation? Let's get together for a beginner ride once a month; riding on **Saturdays 3/4, 4/1, 5/6 and 6/3**. Meet at Long Beach Town Center, Sam's Club gas station parking lot for introductions, safety briefing and pictures. We will roll out for 10 – 12 mile easy pace ride to Seal Beach. Bring bike and helmet; good to bring water and spare tube too. Please let Greg Goebel know if you're attending or have questions, (714) 229-0757 (hm), (562) 412-0881 (text) or greg_goebel@sbcglobal.net. Ride dates and meeting time: **3/4 at 8:30am**, 4/1, 5/6 and 6/3 at 8:00am.

Mid-Week Lenten fellowship and worship

Mid-week worship dates are **March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5**:

5:00-6:30PM - **Soup Supper** - **If any group is considering hosting soup supper, please contact Cindy Morrison in the church office. Available dates are March 8, 22, & April 5. Thank you.*

5:30-5:45PM - **Family Devotion** - *Starting March 8th and continuing every Wednesday in Lent, Bethany will have a special devotion for families with young children. Family devotions will take place in the church beginning at 5:30PM, and last for fifteen minutes. The focus for these devotions will be the Journey of Jesus from Bethlehem to the cross and back to life. All ages are welcome to attend. Classic Lenten worship services will continue as always at 7:00PM, with Soup Suppers being offered between 5:00-6:30PM.*

5:50-6:50PM - **Communion Preparation Class** (gr.5-8) *Interested/questions? Contact Karl Fink.

7:00PM - **Lenten Worship**

Men's Bible Study & Breakfast:

Our March day is set for **Saturday, March 18th from 8:00AM to 9:30AM** in the Parish Lounge. We are currently studying the Gospel of John. Please pray about your participation in this group and consider joining us...and bring a friend! Karl will provide breakfast for this one, so come and critique his cooking ability!

- Karl Fink, DCE

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Brianna Esswein Memorial Golf Tournament News:

The tournament is **Friday, March 24, 1:00PM** at Lakewood Country Club. The cost remains \$125/golfer. Our committee is excited about the various changes, so get your teams together now! There are opportunities to sponsor a Tee Sign, either as part of your business (or who you work for/with) or as a personal/family sign (those work well, too)! **See our table in Friendship Square or go online to print the registration form (click [HERE](#)).** Let's fill the course with Bethany golfers (and friends)! Look for fliers, as they are out and available!

Father Daughter Dance:



Fairy Garden - Hear ye, hear ye!

Bethany would like to announce the commencement of the **Father/Daughter Dance** on **Saturday, March 25th, 6:00-8:00PM** in the **Gym**. Knights and princesses of **ALL** ages are encouraged to join us in the **Fairy Garden** to celebrate their bond, learn about their relationship with God, enjoy some light snacks, and dance the night away. Regal attire is more than welcome, but ordinary dresses and suits will look grand. Tickets **cost \$12** per family.

- Angela Duerr, Bethany's Field Worker (angela.duerr@eagles.cui.edu)



Save the Date:

The Renaissance Prayer team invites you and your family to join us for **PRAYER IN ACTION** on **Saturday, March 18!** Fun activities and prayer throughout our Bethany campus with a hot dog roast and root beer floats. More details to come!

Perhaps You've Heard

that some members of Bethany have received an invitation to attend an upcoming **"Initial Commitment Gathering"**. By no means do we want to exclude anyone, who would like to attend, from one of these gatherings. Our desire is that these gatherings of proportionate givers here at Bethany lead to Initial Commitments which will ultimately serve as lead gifts and represent a portion of the commitments that we will each be making toward our Renaissance. If you would like to be a part of such a representative group please let us know by contacting Teresa Ivins (ttivins@gmail.com) or Pastor Kevin (kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org) so that we can plan for your attendance.

Capital Funding Campaign for our Renaissance Project...Tax Deductible Gifts

"On coming to the house, they saw the child...bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with their gifts." (Matthew 2:11). This event is known as The Epiphany of Our Lord. During this upcoming Epiphany season Bethany will begin a Capital Funding Campaign for our Renaissance.

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This Renaissance will bring vibrant renewal to our facilities, a campus wide Renaissance; at the same time we pray it will bring vibrant renewal to each of us spiritually, a personal Renaissance. During our campaign each of us will be challenged to prayerfully consider making sacrificial commitments over and above our regular offerings to "present to our Lord" through the Renaissance.

Our campus will be undergoing a Renaissance...

but only so we can through one ourselves; a Renaissance that draws us closer to the God to whom we belong and equips us even better to declare His praises and share His mercy. We will pray that NOT a single individual or household at Bethany will be unchanged by this Renaissance. We also know that every individual and household will be an instrument through which the Lord works this Renaissance.

Our Renaissance Project Leadership Team is as follows:

Coordinator – Teresa Ivins
Co Directors – Gary McDaniel & John Holmquist
Prayer Directors – Pat Gagan, Mary Kay Esswein, & Kahana Smith
Communications Director – Jeremy O’Conner
RSVP Directors – Bob Lange & Josette Utke
Initial Commitment Directors – Ben Koehlinger, Christi Koehlinger, & Ruth Lopez
Lead Gift Directors – Rick Smith & Lori McDonald
Follow Up Director – Joyce Klenner
Children’s Event Directors – Candy Silverman & Tracy Hunter
School Emphasis Directors – Sara Cerulle & Carrie Evans
Friends of Congregation Donors – Thea Hanna & Randa Pearson
Celebration Event Directors – Marcia Esswein, Lucy Smith, & Paul Muench

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>



Newsletter & Calendar is ready for Download!

The Newsletter is on the website (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 [MARCH 2017 Chimes Newsletter](#)
3. This month's [MARCH 2017 Calendar](#)
4. Articles for the **APRIL Newsletter** are due by **Wednesday, March 15**; please email articles to Aimee Coleman (acoleman@bethanylutheran.org).

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, 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...

NEW Bethany App

Download the new 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
- 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
- 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>