



**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: "VISIBLE"**

**Text: [Ephesians 5:13-14a](#)**

I have been a nominal comic book fan most of my life. I was never a collector or a regular reader of comics but I have loved watching the cartoon exploits of the Justice League, Spider Man and Captain America or the TV and movie adventures of The Incredible Hulk, Superman and The Avengers just to name a few.

I would marvel (no pun intended) at the abilities and powers possessed by these heroes and I always wondered what it would be like to have some of the talents they had.

With the popularity of comic book universes blowing up in society today the idea of people possessing otherworldly power and ability has captivated culture.

I'm sure at some point you have had the discussion or read a post or article debating what is the best super power or asking what ability would you like to possess.

Last week in worship, Pastor Kritzer asked you what Divine characteristics you might like to have; but allow me to open that up a bit and ask you, ***"What super power do you wish you had?"***

The next question is a big one and I want you to think about it. ***Will you use your power for good, or for evil?***

One of the most popular responses to questions like this is invisibility. The power not to be seen can be very alluring. The ability to not be seen, appeals to many because of what it seemingly allows. To be invisible means that the rules and constraints that would normally limit or mitigate behavior are stripped away and the freedom to do something or go somewhere are made available. ***But will you use it for good, or for evil?***

Being visible means being known, invisibility gives a sense of anonymity.

Our sinful nature loves the idea of invisibility, the idea that we can act however we feel or choose with no consequences, no repercussions.

How often do you operate this way? It's just a little sin, no one will ever notice. Oh, it's no big deal, no one saw it anyway. Just because no one sees, does that make it any less sinful?

I can only speak for myself, but often are the times I have tried to live an invisible life without anyone ever knowing what really goes on. But God does.

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Open your Bibles to Ephesians chapter 5 starting with verse 6:

***"Don't let anyone deceive you with meaningless words. It is because of sins like these that God's anger comes to those who refuse to obey him. Don't be partners with them. Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light. Light produces everything that is good, that has God's approval, and that is true. Determine which things please the Lord. Have nothing to do with the useless works that darkness produces. Instead, expose them for what they are. It is shameful to talk about what some people do in secret. Light exposes the true character of everything because light makes everything easy to see."*** (Ephesians 5:6-14a)

The NIV translation renders verse 13 this way, ***"But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light."*** (Ephesians 5:13)

The light of God's law shines brightly in our lives, it provides a guide for living, but it also exposes and makes visible all our sin and wretchedness. That should make you a little bit uncomfortable. Being exposed is not a positive thing. If other people knew you the way that God knows you, they would never spend time with you.

But listen to Paul's words again from verses 8 & 9, ***"Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light. Light produces everything that is good, that has God's approval, and that is true."*** (Ephesians 5:8-9)

Notice that it is in the past tense, ***"Once you lived..."*** Something has happened in your past that has changed your life. God's light has made you visible, for Jesus Himself now resides in all who have been called to faith in Him.

Listen to the words of Christ Himself recorded for us in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel, ***"Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me. Whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I am the light that has come into the world so that everyone who believes in me will not live in the dark."*** (John 12:44b-46)

It was God Himself who became visible in the person and work of Jesus Christ. As He walked and talked, as He healed and helped, the light of the World came to expose sin and to restore lives.

This is what Paul wrote to the Colossians:

***"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*** (Colossians 1:15-16; 19-20)

Our natural inclination is to live in darkness, but God desires you to live with Him forever in eternal light and bliss. So, He sent the light of the world to make you visible.

Our sin and deeds of the dark only lead to death.

It was your sin, and mine, that nailed Jesus to the cross. It was the darkness of sin that sealed His doom, not His own, but that of all humanity and when He rose from the dead He defeated the power of the darkness forever.

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In our baptism, we die to sin and rise with Christ to new life. That is what Paul is getting to when He quotes what many believe to be an old hymn, *"Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you."* (Ephesians 5:14b)

In this life of faith, the invisible become visible.

The invisible is visible every time you pick up your Bible to read the Word or hear it proclaimed in this place.

The invisible becomes visible when that Word is connected to water and something amazing happens as faith is formed.

The invisible becomes visible when God comes to you in, with, and under the bread and the wine in His body and blood in His supper.

And the invisible becomes visible when you leave this place and become the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Our God works through means, and this means you and me.** His works become visible to others through us. His words become real in our actions. We become the visible means by which others encounter the light of God.

This is the best and most powerful witness to the light that shines in and through you. It's His power working for good in the world. In some ways you do have a super power, it's His Divine power working through you so that we may all live in the light, now and in 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](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)**

**REMINDER – church office is temporarily relocated and the BEST way to contact any member of staff is EMAIL.**

### **Temporary Office Relocation Update:**

- The **Church Office** has been moved to its temporary office in **Room 102** and construction has begun.
- Currently, the **Youth Room** and school are still under construction. The Youth Offices are temporarily in **Room 208**. If you need to contact Aimee Coleman, her extension is still 20. If you need to contact Kayleigh, you will still contact her on extension 18, but it will ring through to her cell phone. If you need to contact Pr. Seth, please call Aimee at ext. 20 or email him at [smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org).

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- If you have any question, please contact the church office at 562-421-4711 or email Cindy Morrison at [cmorrison@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:cmorrison@bethanylutheran.org). If you need to contact Pr. Kritzer his email is [kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org) and Karl Fink's email is [kfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kfink@bethanylutheran.org).

## Upcoming Dates to Note:

Listed in Date Order...



### Informational Meeting for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering - Real Present God

We will have an Informational Meeting for any youth interested in attending the LCMS Youth Gathering. **If you missed the meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> ... Youth and their parents are invited to come on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM in the**

**Multipurpose Room** to learn about attending the Gathering, you need only attend one of these meetings. **All participants need to have completed their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year by the summer of 2019.** The 2019 Gathering is July 11-16, 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A non-refundable deposit of \$400 and an application will be due on October 7<sup>th</sup>. – Kayleigh Lopez ([klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org))

### Family Park and Pool Day - Save the date!

Our annual Family Park and Pool day will take place on **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30 PM at Mayfair Park.** We will start with a picnic in the park and end the evening in the pool with fun and games. **Cost is \$5 per person (\$20 Max per family).** RSVP today with Pastor Seth ([smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org)).

### Men's Retreat 2018:

A five centuries-old man building a huge boat on the startling news of coming floodwaters - sounds like the makings of one remarkable story. It is! Jump in and get your feet wet with *Noah: The Man, The Ark, The Flood*, at the Men's retreat the weekend of **September 28-30 at the Luther Glen Retreat Center** in Oak Glen CA. This weekend we will look at the biblical character of Noah, his life and times, and the remarkable vessel he built to escape the waters of the flood. **The cost for this weekend event is \$225** which includes two nights lodging (double or triple occupancy), four meals as well as snacks and program costs. **\$100 deposit will save your spot as space is limited.** RSVP today by sending Pastor Seth an email ([smoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:smoorman@bethanylutheran.org)) or Karl Fink ([kfink@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:kfink@bethanylutheran.org)).



## Raise A Glass:



Our annual Raise A Glass event is planned for **Saturday, September 29, 2018!** RAG is the annual fund raising event for our Bethany Student Success Program! Please add this date to your calendar and plan to also extend an invitation to other friends and family to celebrate and support Student Success, RAG 2018 will be held again at the **Gaslamp Restaurant in Long Beach**. You will be able to spend a delightful afternoon to “raise your glass” with other Friends of Student Success, while enjoying great food, and discovering unique and amazing treasures offered at our Silent Auction. For information about SSP please contact Jill Moorman at [jmoorman@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:jmoorman@bethanylutheran.org). See you there!

### STUDENT SUCCESS FUND RAISING EVENT - RAISE A GLASS - SEPT 29

The Student Success Program at Bethany provides early screening, identification, support, and one-on-one evidence based reading and spelling instruction for children with dyslexia and other learning differences. Last school year, we awarded over \$24,000 in SSP fee assistance and are anticipating a greater need this year. This money comes directly from Raise A Glass and program sponsors.

#### **How can you help?**

1. Donate items for our silent auction and opportunity drawings. *Vacation getaways, mountain cabin retreats, tickets to sporting events, theater, music, etc, gift cards, handmade quilts, paintings, pottery, jewelry. TVs, Kindles, wine baskets, dinners or pool parties in your home, sports memorabilia, flying lessons, cooking lessons, etc.* Items to donate may be taken to the school office, or call Sheri Esswein 714-863-5615 or Jill Moorman 562-307-6123
2. Attend Raise A Glass. Bid on some of the great donations to take home. It's always a fun time. Tickets will be on sale in the school office and in Friendship Square in September.
3. Become a sponsor. This year we have something new. We have various sponsorship levels for you or your business that include advertising at the event as well as a banner with your company information on the school fence. If interested please contact Connie Kritzer at 562-400-1349 or [ckritzer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:ckritzer@bethanylutheran.org).

## The Women's Retreat:

“Tools for the Soul” is planned for **October 12-14 at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades**. Cost will be \$250 per person, which includes two nights and 4 meals. A \$40 check (payable to Bethany Lutheran Church) will save you a spot. **Sign-ups will be in Friendship Square on Sunday, August 19 and August 26.** We have room for 44 ladies this year. We'd love to have you join us!

## Construction Update as of 8/2/2018:

- **Phase 1** (Hensley Square, Youth Room Remodel and new ADA Corridor) – Drywall installation and wall surface texturing is complete. Stucco work and interior painting is scheduled for next week; looking forward to seeing the new exterior deck complete. Exterior painting is progressing on all school buildings and should continue off and on until September. The new color schemes look terrific. The finishing touches for Phase 1 of the Renaissance Construction will take place in the next few weeks and we are still on schedule for completion before the school year begins.

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- **Phase 2** (Church Office Remodel) – is now scheduled to begin August 13<sup>th</sup>. The church office personnel are still working on packing up for their move to temporary locations. The Church Conference Room will remain off limits during regular work week hours for construction and use as a project meeting room.
- **Phase 3** (Narthex and Sanctuary Remodel) – is scheduled to begin after Christmas with completion before Easter.

Demolition of the Elementary and Preschool Playgrounds should almost be complete. Look for new regulation surfacing materials to be applied and new certified play equipment to be installed in the week to come.

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## ★ SEPTEMBER ★



### 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 September Newsletter is **NOW** available for download!*



### "Pardon Our Dust"

We are all quite familiar with the phrase, "pardon our dust." When construction is underway, as it is here at Bethany, management will often post a placard with those words. The intention is a request to excuse or overlook the messy, untidy, dusty reality that accompanies construction.

Jesus, when sending out His disciples to heal, cleanse, proclaim and bless, instructed them to **point out the dust** should it fall. "If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town." (Matthew 10:14) Rather than excuse or overlook the dust, in this case Jesus wanted his disciples to draw attention to it; for it meant folk head refused to notice, and therefore missed, what God was doing in their midst. Thus His call was to pay heed and give notice to the dust.

We are a year into our Renaissance here at Bethany. We intentionally chose the term Renaissance as a declaration of expectation; we expect God to transform and renew our facility, each of us spiritually and our ministry collectively. The voters of Bethany Lutheran approved to move forward with Andersen Construction and thus the transformation of our facility is now in full swing. Of course, that means as you come to campus this summer and for the better part of next school year. You will notice dust.



On the one hand, we hope that everyone will pardon our dust. This is, we request that you would please excuse and overlook areas that might be more messy and untidy than normal; such is a reality that accompanies construction. On the other hand, we pray that everyone pays heed and gives notice to this dust, for it is testimony of what God is doing in our midst and intends to do through our ministry! His Renaissance includes transformation of our church (our property) and transformation of His church (our faith community).

Here are just a few things worth noticing:

- As of June 11<sup>th</sup>, we have received \$1,438,099 of a pledged \$2,459,800 towards our Renaissance. Of course, those are **committed** dollars. In additions, we have pledges of gifts in kind (i.e. property and portfolio items committed to our Renaissance when are likely to be received at a future date beyond our Renaissance three year campaign.) **How can we not give heed to what God is doing in our midst?**
- Of the gifts received to date, slightly over \$200,000 are gifts not originally pledged. In other words, if all of our committed pledges are received we would expect \$2,669,000 to be given to our Renaissance; if in each of the next two years of given period we were to receive an additional \$200,000 in unpledged gifts and receive all of our pledge gifts, our Renaissance total would be over \$3,000,000! **Who can't see the incredible ways God is at work in and through us?**
- As construction began on Hensley Square and our Youth Facility, and playground work was scheduled for late summer, our preschool moved its summer program into our Day School wing; and our Day School moved several classrooms to prepare for the external patio entrance and access point for our Youth Facility in Hensley Square. It was almost as if we had servants showing up out of the woodwork to get everything relocated or stored. State licensing came to approve this on the very day we requested, which was the one day it needed to happen! In all truth, this was a minor miracle! **It is hard to miss that God is active in this Renaissance!**

**Let's notice this dust** and give thanks to God for the testimony it gives; the testimony of an active God and His faithful servants seeking to witness, experience and share the transforming power of Christ in our Renaissance.

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

## 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



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Copy/past 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/>