



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: "The Transformative Power of a Gift"

Text: [John 6:1-14](#)

Outside of Jesus' own Resurrection, the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels is the feeding of the five thousand. Of all the miracles Jesus worked, it is that miracle that stands out as unique. Jesus, who never did anything unintentionally, involved others in the miraculous feeding. The disciple who pondered how to feed the crowd, the child whose lunch was offered, the twelve who helped distribute the meal; each of these played a role in the event. True, while ONLY Jesus worked the miracle, He intentionally chose to use the gifts and service of others to bless the recipients of His miraculous action.

Our Renaissance at Bethany recognizes that the Lord works through His people for the sake of His people, intimate followers, and the crowd alike. In other words, we know that Jesus blesses through Bethany and that He works through the gifts and talents and service of the people of Bethany to bring about His blessings to those at Bethany and those outside of Bethany.

The child in the account of this miracle, recorded in each Gospel, had two small fish and five barley loaves. If that boy would have run away from the disciples and kept his lunch unto himself it would have remained a fine meal. Only in turning his lunch over to Jesus did it become a miracle worthy of being recorded in each Gospel.

Of course, the details of what happened later in the day are unknown to us. There is a good chance that the boy went home and had to tell his mom that the disciples of Jesus "stole" his lunch and then Jesus fed 5000 people with it. There is also a good chance that mom didn't immediately believe this report. Perhaps she came to trust her son the following day at the market or well when a neighbor who was in attendance confirmed the miracle; maybe when she read the record in a Gospel 40 years later; maybe when in heaven she struck up a conversation with someone who said they started following Jesus the day He fed thousands with a little boy's lunch which was freely offered.

Two things are certain, that offering changed eternities for some and all of us have an offering we too can freely and sacrificially turn over to Jesus.

Some of us at Bethany have "small fish" and "barley loaves" so to speak, while others of us have "King Salmon" and "large French baguettes". While we the members of Bethany will not all offer equal gifts, we can each offer an equal sacrifice. We each offer an equal sacrifice when we offer to our God something that is ours (*which is actually really His – remember our stuff is not our stuff*) for His sacred purpose. The

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miraculous is at the heart of the Renaissance as renewal, restoration and revitalization are all miraculous works of God accomplished in God's Son even when the means are the gifts of God's people.

Equal sacrifice means that our Renaissance commitment isn't quite as easy as giving that which won't be missed. Some of us will give up Starbucks other will give stock, some will give-up vacation others vacation property, some will forsake a monthly evening of entertainment for three years others will give an investment product that has been growing for years. While our gifts will vary and not be equal in amount or size or duration, when these gifts are given in faith and trust and when that which is offered is something that will be missed we will know the joy of equal sacrifice.

These commitments will also be sacrificial gifts because they are gifts given to our Lord's Renaissance at Bethany that are **over and above regular tithes and offerings**. Both gifts, our tithes and our offerings, and our sacrificial gifts to the Renaissance result in stories we may never know the details of but we can be confident that the conclusion thereof is an eternal offering of glory and praise to God in Christ, the author of the Renaissance of souls and sacred spaces here at Bethany.

If you have not yet picked up your Renaissance Commitment Card you can get them in the church office or print out this page, use this card and return it to the church office. Please put C/O Renaissance on the envelope.

-Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Commitment Card:

Please cut along dotted line and return to the church office. Thank you!

Give and it will be Given to you. ~ Luke 6:38

Renaissance 

In this bold venture of faith, I/we prayerfully commit this amount over and above my/our regular financial support of Bethany Lutheran Church. By bringing a Renaissance to our campus, we will bring a Renaissance to both ourselves and our community.

Inaugural Gift

\$ _____

Scheduled Giving Pledge

\$ _____ Weekly, or

\$ _____ Monthly, or

\$ _____ Per _____

Three Year Total

\$ _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Signature _____

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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:

Mid-Week Lenten fellowship and worship begins THIS Wednesday!

Mid-week worship for **March 29th**:

5:00-6:30PM - **Soup Supper**

5:30-5:45PM - **Family Devotion** - *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) *Questions on this class, contact Karl Fink.

7:00PM - **Lenten Worship** – **"Lamb of God Grant Us Your Mercy"**

For Sunday, April 2nd:

- Worship Theme – **"Take a Deep Breath"**

On Saturday, April 8th:

- **Your Help is NEEDED!** Come out on Saturday starting at **9:00AM** to help set up our campus for Sunday's events. More hands make for lighter work.
- **Bethany's 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt** - This annual event will be "hopping" on **Saturday, April 8, 2017**. The festivities will begin at **10:00AM** with crafts, a short Easter message, three age appropriate hunts (preschool to 4th grade), snacks, and prizes! Start thinking of which "little bunny" you would like to invite! **Ways we would like YOUR help in the Easter Egg Hunt this year:**
 1. Pray for the kids and parents attending, that the seeds of faith will be planted and watered during this event.
 2. Bake some delicious snacks for those attending.
 3. Volunteer to help stuff the children's goodie bags.

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4. Help the day of the event: hide the Easter eggs, help set up tables, decorate the gym and hunt locations, help families with the crafts, arrange the refreshments, and watch the excitement on the little ones' faces.

Please prayerfully consider how you can lend a hand and sign up at the Connections Table on Sunday morning, see a member of the Board of Evangelism, or contact Sarah O'Conner by leaving a message with the church office.

Christ In The Passover:

Please plan to join us for a very special presentation on **Wednesday April 12th at 7:00PM** in the Sanctuary as we welcome Josh Sofaer, a missionary from Jews For Jesus. Mr. Sofaer will present a program called *Christ In The Passover*. This presentation shows the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God. This sermon demonstration is visual, so you will actually see a table set with traditional Passover items. Mr. Sofaer will use Scripture as well as the visual items to walk through a Jewish Passover seder, weaving the story of the Exodus together with the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The words Christ spoke in the upper room come alive as each Hebraic item is carefully explained. This is an amazing way to begin our Holy Week journey to the cross and the open tomb. You won't want to miss it!

Renaissance

Our campus will be undergoing a Renaissance...but only so we can go 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.

Commitment Sunday:

Join us at Bethany on
Sunday, April 9 at 10:00AM
One Service Commitment Celebration & Worship
on the green field under the Big Top!

9:15-9:45AM – Pre Service fellowship with Coffee & Donuts served

10:00AM – Worship

Following our One Service on Palm Sunday – Plan to stay for a wonderful lunch and program.

Boxed lunches will be for sale **starting today** in Friendship Square. Menu items include two kinds of sandwiches and two different salads from Corner Bakery. All lunches include a drink and a cookie. The **cost is just \$12**. A kids option will also be available that will include either a hot dog or PB&J sandwich, chips, fruit, and a drink. There is **NO** cost for the kids' lunch but we

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need an RSVP. Right after lunch young kids up to 5th grade are invited to a magical presentation while kids in Junior High and High school are invited to hear an inspiring presentation about living out the faith. A dessert bar will be open for all kids after their presentations. You don't want to miss this awesome event.

Renaissance VIMEO:

Click [HERE](#) to watch our newest 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 are 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>

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



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 [APRIL 2017 Chimes Newsletter](#)
3. This month's [APRIL 2017 Calendar](#)
4. **Articles for the MAY 2017 Newsletter** should be emailed to Aimee Coleman (acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) **by Wednesday, April 12th.**

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

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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>