



Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 49, Issue 2

February, 2009

*From the
Pastor*



Can you believe it? Just a few weeks from now we will begin our 2009 Lenten journey. The joyous seasons of Christmas and Epiphany will now turn to a more somber season which forces us to face

the reality of our sinfulness and the journey Jesus made because of our sin.

Now some Christians and even some Christian groups have chosen to ignore the season of Lent and its focus so that they can go from the glory of Christmas to the glory of Easter. This certainly might be the more enjoyable route to go, but I am so thankful to be part of a church that chooses not to by-pass this season, but to journey through it. To me its only when we take this journey which makes us look at the fact that we are sinners who really don't deserve to stand before a perfect God in a perfect kingdom and which reminds us that by ourselves we would never be able to do this, that we can truly comprehend not only what Jesus was willing to do for our sin, but how much God truly loves us. To me its only when we take the Lenten journey which will deliver us at the foot of the cross and the entrance of the tomb, that we can truly understand the glory of Easter morning.

The season of Lent is a special opportunity for each of us to walk with our worship family as we look at the realities put before us on Ash Wednesday, as we dare to look within ourselves and see our own sinfulness, as we open our minds to the fact that by ourselves we can't take away our sin and we can't make ourselves worthy enough to live with God in His perfect kingdom, but most of all, to take the time to follow Jesus' journey to the cross and to truly comprehend what he was willing to do and to endure for us. Lent certainly takes on a more somber tone than Christmas or Easter, but when you take this journey you soon see that this season takes us to the core of God's great love for us.

So I invite you, and in fact encourage you, to join your worship family each Wednesday evening starting on Ash Wednesday and every Sunday morning between then and Easter as we once again dare to take this Lenten journey and dwell in God's amazing grace and love. We all have heard the song that says at the end of the rainbow is a pot of gold, well, at the end of Lent is the way to eternal life.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Will

The Church Council has reviewed proposed changes to our constitution. Copies of the changes are available in the narthex, or contact the church office if you'd like to receive a copy by email.

Ash Wednesday Service
February 25, 2009
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 8, 2009
Immediately following worship in Bachman Hall
All voting members are encouraged to attend

Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2009
7:00 pm in the Fireside Room

Pastor Will would like to thank all who have contributed to the monthly food collections. The response has been great!

During Lent please join us each Wednesday
at 6:00 p.m. in Bachman Hall for
Soup & Salad Dinners



Serving the meals are:

February 25	Men In Mission
March 4	Choir
March 11	Paper Rollers
March 18	Church Council
March 25	
April 1	WELCA

Thank you,
Parish Life Committee

Daily Scripture Readings Available on the Internet

If you would like to take part in a short daily scripture reading with other members in the ELCA there are 2 ways to do it.

1. You can log onto www.pacificasynod.org where on the home page you will find a link to the ELCA daily reading. Just click on this and you will find that day's reading.

2. If you would like to have it emailed to you daily follow the same path above. At the end of the reading you will see directions to have the readings emailed daily.

Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 16, 2009 (3rd Monday)
Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

Heifer Project Goal 2009

During the past four years, the Bethlehem congregation has purchased quite a few animals through the Heifer Project. Time to change things up a bit! For the year 2009, all the contributions donated for the Heifer Project will be sent in to support one project. The Social Ministry Committee has chosen a project located in Poland. The description below is from www.heifer.org, the web site for Heifer International. So far, \$137,158 has been donated to this project. They still need \$180,702 to fully fund this project. We can help with that! Plenty of arks are available in the Narthex, so keep collecting your spare change, and we will continue to help end poverty and hunger in the world.

Poland - Agriculture and Tourism Development Project

Located in the Carpathian Mountain region of Southeastern Poland, this project will promote sustainable beekeeping, cattle breeding, and educational tourism in the neighboring villages of Rymanów Spa, Dylagowa, and Pobiedno. As this part of the country is protected by the International Biosphere Reserve "Eastern Carpathian" environmental laws, all agricultural production must be sustainable. Separate groups of participants will be responsible for each activity area. Twenty families will receive 10 bee families each (200 total) and 18 will receive a pair of Simmental heifers (36 total). Through pass-ons, this project will improve the living conditions of at least 114 rural families. Moreover, 30 young people will take part in tourism development activities and will prepare an educational and recreational path for visitors to the Bieszczady Mountains.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for the week of July 27-31. We need volunteers so don't go on vacation that week! Just kidding (sorta)! Our director is Shirley Campbell. She is already looking for volunteers to help teach, guide, and prepare.

PRAYER VENTURES — February 2009

Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social, and outreach ministries of the church. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thanks be to God! Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Merciful God, we give you thanks for the diversity of ministry among the churches in Ireland and the United Kingdom. We pray for the continued companion relationship between the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and the ELCA Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.

2 Presentation of Our Lord

Pray that 3,500 young adults from across the church will answer God's call to serve as summer camp counselors in ELCA camps this summer.

3 Praise God for the witness of Pastor Jeffrey Truscott, whose classes in liturgy and theology at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, equip students from many Asian countries to help shape their faith communities.

4 Pray for Kirsten and the Rev. Stephen Kienberger, parish pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. This international congregation seeks to bring together people of different nations and denominations as followers of Christ.

5 The Unibón ministry at Morovis, an area of great poverty in the mountains of Puerto Rico, was touching unchurched youth. When the leader became ill, the ministry was forced to stop. Please pray that God will provide a way to continue this vital ministry.

6 Give thanks for Patricia Bentsen, a longtime nurse in Madagascar who is medical administrator to the Malagasy Lutheran Church Health Department in Antananarivo.

7 Pray for the youth and young adults of Church of the Abiding Savior, Durham, N.C., who broke silence about racism through their testimony across the ELCA in the DVD "What's color got to do with it?" a testimony to the racism they experienced in the Lutheran church, that shares their insights into the origin, spiritual implications and appropriate responses to the sin of racism.

8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

God in heaven, bless all who strive for peace and human welfare in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Take away any anxiety about the future and give them a sense of responsibility for where you have called them.

9 Pray for Sarah and Pastor Peter Grow-Hanson who serve in Dakar, Senegal. They provide direction for leadership development and early childhood education, as well as orientation for visitors and new missionaries to Senegal.

10 Give thanks for the example of Joy Lutheran Church, Moore, S.C., whose members have been asking each other "Where have you seen God lately?" Recognizing God's work and love through ordinary people in ordinary circumstances has energized members to become God's hands and voices.

11 Pray for Abigail Sylvester, who provides leadership for the English language adult classes at St. Andrew's Refugee Services in Cairo, Egypt. Ask God to move in this ministry through the staff as well as the witness of the refugees.

12 Give thanks for the partnership between Lutheran Student Movement and Lutheran Disaster Response, through which over 300 college students will spend spring break 2009 working in disaster-affected areas.

13 Minnesota Faith Chinese Lutheran Church, St. Paul, has baptized 117 adults and 64 children in the last eight years. Ask God to continue to bless the outreach ministry of this congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Shen Y. Lin.

14 Give thanks for all who participate in the life and ministry of the Lutheran Church in India. Remember especially the Young Adults in Global Mission, Rebecca Mehl and David Bucu, who are in the middle of their year of service, immersed in the culture and community of the church in India.

15 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

O God, you who stand in the midst of the silent ones, bless the churches of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta, and their ministries among children, workers, the sick and the elderly.

16 Pray for the new affordable, safe housing project among several congregations and community groups in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. Thank God for these congregations who have responded to this great need, and ask God to bless their vision as well as open the doors to necessary resources.

17 Remember new English teachers who are completing six months of Japanese language study: Jenifer Brown, Matthew Linden and Carolyn Stypka will move into assignments in Tokyo and Kumamoto, Japan, in March.

18 Pray for personal, congregational and synodical support of Pastor Maxine Washington, the leaders of Bethel Lutheran Church, Chicago, and other African American women in leadership and ministry.

19 Pray that God will guide Pastor Timothy Pan and Pastor Newman Chiu in Los Angeles, who are reaching out to the Mandarin-speaking populations in their communities in two new mission starts.

20 Please pray for growth in faith for young people taking part in the Southeastern Pa. Synod's senior high gathering, Feb. 20-22, which will include community-based learning and action to address major issues of justice, wealth and poverty.

21 Thank God for the leadership team of Todos Los Hijos de Dios, Amsterdam, N.Y. These four lay people from Peru, Mexico and Puerto Rico, are in the process to become pastors in the ELCA.

22 Transfiguration of Our Lord

We give you thanks, O God, for signs of your presence and activity among the people of Germany and France. Continue to bring vitality to their churches, that the Reformation awakening will live on in ongoing renewal.

23 Pray for the many young people participating in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Remember Joseph Bigalke, Winona Brueggemann, Blair Fingland, Aubrey Kesecker, and others who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in Great Britain.

24 Please pray for Lutheran Church of God, Chinese, an independent congregation in Houston, now joining the ELCA, and its leader, Joshua Ong, who is preparing to enter the TEEM process to become ordained.

25 Ash Wednesday

Pray that God will make us see our sinful human condition, and our own cultural and institutional uses of power and privilege related to racism and sexism, and will forgive us and sustain us in the life to which we are called.

26 Thank God for Rev. Mark and Marcia Holman as they serve the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Pray for peace in the strife-torn Holy Land.

27 Give thanks for the people involved in Community Lutheran Partners, committed to the development of unique responses to the needs of the vulnerable through education, direct services, and advocacy in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod.

28 Give thanks to God for Pastor Chad and Natalie Rimmer, who serve as leaders of the International Church of Copenhagen in Denmark.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prayer Ventures is produced by ELCA Communication Services in cooperation with other units of the ELCA.

Please Remember in Prayer:

Hospitalized:

Bill Cotter (James Boire's brother) - pancreatitis
John Drum (Mary Ann Wilson's brother) - heart surgery

Undergoing treatment:

Larry Adams (Wilkie Adams' nephew) - cancer
Ann Anderson (Julie's sister-in-law) - stage 4 cancer
Joan Bissing (friend of Charlotte Driskill) - cancer
Ed Booth (friend of the Brandon/Snyders) - cancer
Joe & Barbara Bull (friends of Mary Seibert)
Sara DeWeese
Eva Dick (friend of Bruce Gustafson) - breast cancer
Laura Duke
Katrina Gary
Kenny Grant (Krissey Retrum's uncle) - cancer
Jim Hargrove
Larry Jackson (friend of the Sheltons & Kizziars) - cancer
Linda (Betty Jones' niece)
Lenora Jones (friend of Lynne Estabrook)
Blaire Murphy King (Chris Murphy's sister)
Katherine Lindell
Jack Lyons
Jim Mauritzen (friend of the Hunts) - cancer
Didith Oakes (Sigrun Borneo's sister-in-law)
Eva Payne (Jim Brandon's cousin) - pulmonary disease
Bob Piper (neighbor of Sigrun Borneo)
Chris Powers - stomach cancer
Carol Reid (friend of Jamie Slade) - brain cancer
Jack Rohrer (friend of Bob & Nina Van Tress) - cancer
Jacqueline Scott (friend of Bonnie & James Boire) - cancer
Chloe Sohl - hearing loss

Recuperating:

Gladyce Ackerman, Jim Ackerman
Julie Anderson
Gregg & Susan Arakawa (friends of JoenColeman)cancer
Dan Ekdahl (Jane Clausen's brother-in-law) - surgery
Enid Facette (friend of Camille Riach)
Stuart Gordon (brother-in-law of Sigrun Borneo)
Charlie Lyons
Tony & Lynn Miles (friends of Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder)
Kristine Parkinson (the Lindell's daughter) - pancreatitis
Jackie Philips (Ron Clausen's sister) - multiple sclerosis
Dale Retrum - chronic lymphatic leukemia
Mary Seibert

Convalescent or Care Facility:

Bryan Jones, Jeanette Olmstead, Ruth Precker
Jean Rich, Bill Snyder, Jeff Thompson

Military in Harm's Way:

Jeffrey Geis (friend of Wilkie Adams) - in Iraq
Cpt. Justin Marshall (friend of the Dobberteens) - in Iraq
Lt. Mark Meritt (husband of Eric Dobberteen's cousin) - in Iraq
Chris Rogers



Valentine Dinner

are \$3 for singles, \$5 for couples and \$10 for families. We hope to see you and your loved ones there!

The Youth Group will host their Annual Valentine's Day dinner on February 15, 2009 in Bachman Hall from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Reservations can be made on the patio after worship service, or at the door. Prices

"Scramble" Golf Tournament in March

We will have a Bethlehem Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 28th, 2009, at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course in Anaheim. The tournament format will be a four-person team "scramble" where the best ball will be played by each team. The Peoria Handicap System will be used. The lowest handicap will be 0 (zero) and the largest 36. The first tee time will be at 10:00 A.M. All golfers are welcome. This format is particularly nice for the lady golfers to participate. You can organize your own team or we will help match-up team members. Cost is \$80 per person and will include green fees, golf cart and prize fund. Please note that **NO METAL SPIKES ARE ALLOWED** on this course. To secure our reservation we need to have everyone signed up and the money collected by Sunday, March 15th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.

Where Does Your Donation to We Care Go?

2007 - 2008

Single Persons Assisted	1,077
Families Assisted	2,312
Total # of Family Members Assisted	12,118
Total Persons Assisted	13,195
Number of Families Adopted at Christmas	125
Number of Toys Distributed at Christmas	2,800

What Your Money Can Do in 2009

\$10/month buys a bus pass so a young adult can attend school.

\$25/month enables a family of 4 to buy groceries for a week.

\$100/month pays for car maintenance so a father can get to his job.

Reasons to Buy Coffee at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Supports the Youth Group's mission project / fundraiser. After two years of sales, we are now operating at a profit and would like to keep the momentum going.

Organic products support environmental efforts by small farmers who are trying to grow their crops with a minimal impact on their land so that birds and animals can also safely live among their plants

Fair-trade coffee, tea and cocoas support small farmers and their families with fair prices that ensures affordable credit, health care and education for their children.

And, now we carry Organic Sisters' Blend, inspired in 2005 by the enthusiasm and leadership of the Women of the ELCA and honoring women around the world. This coffee blend is produced by farming cooperatives in Latin America and honors women coffee farmers for their hard work in producing this coffee and Lutheran women in the United States for their leadership in advocating for Fair Trade with their 90-ton campaign in 2005 to double the amount of fair-trade coffee purchased by Lutherans through the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project.

It's convenient! You can make a purchase before or after church services or any time that you stop by the church during the week.

Men-in-Mission Support for Navajo Lutheran Mission

Each year the Bethlehem Men-In-Mission try to provide some means of support for the Lutheran Navajo Mission in Arizona. This year we are again collecting bath towels. Each year in April the Mission School sends home with the students a health kit that includes bath size towels. These are also used for the students' showers at the school and for the guest apartment. We will be collecting new bath size towels or we can accept designated donations so we can purchase as many towels as possible at Costco or Sam's. Last year our congregation responded with over 90 new towels. We need to have all towels collected by April 19th, 2009, so we can arrange to have them delivered to the reservation.

There will be a box in the Narthex to collect these items. If you would prefer to make a cash contribution to help out please contact any Men-In-Mission member. Thanks for your help.

W.E.L.C.A. News
February 2009



Women's Bible Study

**The Hidden Hand of God: Wisdom Stories
from Ruth, Daniel and Esther**



Session 6 - Daniel: Thrown to the Lions

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held Monday, February 7, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Dianna

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd. Marjorie Moeller is hosting and Ginny Gary is conducting the study. For Questions? Call Shirley Campbr¹¹ or Marjorie Moeller

Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at the home of Debby Gustafson and hosted by Caryl Harris. Margie Reynolds will be conducting the study. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill



**Sunday Morning
Coffee & Cookies**

Thank you to Phoebe Circle for providing coffee and cookies in January. Faith Circle will be responsible in February. Men in Mission will be responsible in March.

Upcoming Events:



Saturday, February 7, 2009 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. President's Planning Meeting - King of Glory, Fountain Valley.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pacifica Women springtime one-day gathering at Hope Temecula.

March Spring Brunch

We are blessed to have a wonderful Spring program with a guest speaker from the charity, "Working Wardrobes".

Saturday, March 21st, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Your WELCA Board will provide the egg dishes and potatoes, you can sign up to attend and bring bread or fruit to share.

Please - invite a friend!

Ladies Day Event

*SAVE THE DATE - **Saturday, May 2, 2009.*** You will not want to miss our guest speaker Emilie Barnes, Internationally Acclaimed Author, Speaker and Organizer. Emilie is no doubt going to bless all those in attendance as she speaks on "The Spirit of Loveliness - Organizing you, your purse, your prayer life and surviving life's valleys." We hope to fill the sanctuary to the rafters with Emilie's appearance.

A continental breakfast will be served beginning at 9:00 a.m. The event should conclude between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for all the additional details, but please, tell your friends and neighbors and make this an event NOT to be missed.

Information about Ms. Barnes is available at the following website location:

<http://emiliebarnes.com/home/Default.aspx>

Many of Ms. Barnes books are available at our Orange County Libraries:

*Cleaning Up the Clutter *The Spirit of Loveliness

*If Teacups Could Talk: sharing a cup of kindness with treasured friends

*Survival for Busy Women *Let's Have a Tea Party!

2009 WELCA Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available in the church office or see your Circle Leader.

Check out Pacifica Partners on line www.pacificawomen.org click on news & events

February





2/1	George Egbert
2/2	Mark Will
2/5	Salvador Vargas
2/7	Sarah Sandvig
2/8	Emilie Sohl
2/9	Julie Anderson
2/11	Jim Hargrove
2/12	John Byone
2/15	Jim Brandon
2/16	Bob Van Tress
2/19	Aiden Sandvig
2/21	Saundra DeBourdieu Jay Sabic
2/23	David Sakowski
2/28	Luelle Buezis Lois Cannon Geraldine Knox



2/ 7/1959	Arlene & William Pollard
2/11/2006	Deron & Jeannine Scott
2/14/1960	John & Janice Hunt
2/14/1986	Lowell & Elise Johnson
2/14/1964	Bill & Saundra DeBourdieu
2/25/1995	Jim Brandon & Carol Snyder

Did You Know Facts about our Evangelical Lutheran Church?

Fact 1: The ELCA has many members, spread across the country.

- ★ **Baptized Members:** 4,774,203
- ★ **Congregations:** 10,470
- ★ **Synods:** 65 in nine geographic regions

Fact 2: The ELCA offers opportunities for Lutheran education at every level.

The ELCA considers education an important part of our calling, and we offer quality education at every level through our institutions:

- ★ 8 seminaries and 2 seminary extension centers
- ★ 28 colleges and universities
- ★ 50 or more life-long learning centers
- ★ 14 high schools
- ★ 292 elementary schools
- ★ 1573 early childhood programs
- ★ 145 camps and retreat centers serving over 450,000 yearly



Be our *Valentine*

sign up with eScrip and support our group!

Places
to buy your
Valentine's
day gifts

eScrip Online Mall
(go to www.escrip.com)

Grocery Stores

Florists

Jewelry Stores

Clothing Stores

Electronics

Home Improvement

Automotive

Restaurants

Hotels and Motels

Office Supplies

Sporting Goods

Health & Beauty

Pet Supply Stores

Photo Services

For a current merchant list

Go to www.escrip.com
Click on: family of merchants*

Sign up with
eScrip

...and
**Start
Shopping!**

Youth
Our group can earn up to 8% of your
purchases when you shop at any of over 10,000 eScrip merchants
using one of your registered cards, and there is **NO COST** to you!

To sign up with eScrip

Go to www.escrip.com
Click on: **Sign Up - It's Free!**
Enter the Group name and ID below

To register additional cards

Go to www.escrip.com
Click on: **my escrip**

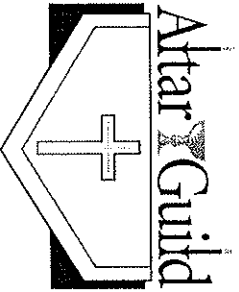


*Certain merchants may have specific "group type" requirements in order to qualify for contributions, visit www.escrip.com and go to merchant search for details.

Valentine_all_2005_01_20

Thanks to These People for Serving in February, 2009

DATE	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
2/1	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Bill Lindell	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Rick Gary, Al Thunsselle Fritz & Shirley Campbell	J. Buezis, Jr. J. Buezis, Sr.	J. Toth C. Warnock
2/8	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Elise Johnson	Bill Lindell	Rick Gary Marv & Susan Schneider	A. Campbell B. Campbell	C. Watson J.R. Anderson
2/15	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Karin Nielsen Bonwit	Bill Haglund	Rick Gary	D. Hansen L. Johnson	B. Campbell F. Campbell
2/22	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Katherine Lindell	Paul Scott	Rick Gary, Andrea Campbell Jay Campbell	M. Schneider S. Schneider	D. Return D. Reynolds



Altar Guild

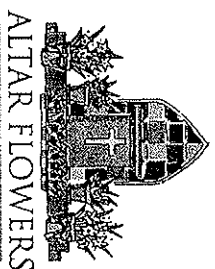
2/1
2/8
2/15
2/22

Debby Gustafson
Christina Watson

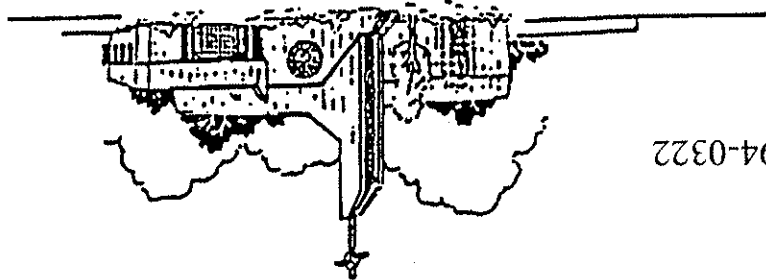
Altar Flowers

2/1
2/8
2/15
2/22

Brandon/Snyder
Sandvig, Wolfe
Roop, Jacobs
Adams, Jacobs



*Nursery care is provided during our Sunday service.
An attendant will be in our nursery from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. to care for infants and preschool children.*



Pastor: Rev. Mark Will
Telephone: 562/430-3444
E-Mail: bethlehem.lutheran@verizon.net
Website: www.blcla.org
Fax: 562/594-0322

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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PLEASE DELIVER BY 2/6/09

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3352 Katella Avenue
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February, 2009

Bethlehem Star



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