



# Bethlehem Star

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Los Alamitos, California



Volume 49, Issue 3

March, 2009

*From the  
Pastor*



*Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more..."*

John 8:10-11

We now find ourselves in the midst of our lenten journey. Once again we face a journey that focuses us on that powerful three letter word, SIN. The verse above is part of a conversation between Jesus and a women whom He confronts with her sinfulness. But then comes perhaps the most difficult words of all, "Go and Sin no more!" What a wonderful thought for us to have in this lenten journey Jesus saying to us, "Go and sin no more!" What a fabulous goal for us to have as we live our lives as His followers. Most of us, like many Christians, strive to live sin free lives.

Then, however, comes a time of reality. Certainly we strive not to sin and to avoid the traps of sin, but then reality strikes and we realize that no matter how hard we try not to sin and to live a sin free life it once again breaks us down. Even though we strive to live lives that please God, we are constantly reminded of our own sinfulness. As Paul once said, "the good that I would do, I do not."

So should we give up our efforts to "Go and sin no more!" as Jesus commands us? Is it a hopeless attempt to live a sin free life? Well the answers to that is what is also found in our lenten journey. Yes this season forces us to face the fact that we are sinners no matter how hard we might try not to be. This season convicts us with the fact that by ourselves the battle against sin would be lost as we attempt to be sin free in the eyes of God. Yet as we journey to the end of this lenten season comes the good news for those of us who understand our sin dilemma. We don't have to give up the goal of sinning no more, because through the power of Jesus'

cross, through the wonder of His grace, God sees us as sin free. It is not our doing by any means, but God's amazing grace. He forgives and accepts us, not my our own doing, but through the sacrifice of Jesus. Through Jesus, we have been set free of sin's bondage forever!

So with the good news at the end of this lenten season, while we cannot "Go and sin no more," we can strive to live lives pleasing to God not to earn anything for ourselves, but to give thanks for His amazing grace and love. Our goal can still be to live each day as He commanded us, "Go and sin no more" because at the end of the lenten journey was a cross on which came the words, "Father forgive them."

May this Lenten journey lead you to the cross of amazing grace!

Pastor Will

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Wednesday Service in Lent

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend.

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Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

8:00 pm in the Fireside Room

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Pastor Will would like to thank all who have contributed to the monthly food collections. The response has been great! This month we are asking for donations of pasta and pasta sauces. We Care helps many different family types so please make your donations family sized, not warehouse size! Thank you.

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



Serving the meals are:

March 4	Choir
March 11	Paper Rollers
March 18	Church Council
March 25	
April 1	WELCA

Thank you,  
Parish Life Committee

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### Spring Clean-Up

Spring Bling for the Church (a.k.a. a work party) is planned for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 a.m. We need pew polishers, window washers, handymen/women, tree trimmers, and lots of other tasks. Supplies will be available, but if you have a favorite tool or product, please bring it. The Property Committee will provide donuts, coffee and juice. Come join the fun and fellowship!

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### Newsletter Deadline

Monday, March 16, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)  
Please submit your articles by email, disc or fax

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### 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.

### Would you like to become a voting member?

If you are not a voting member of our worship family and would like to join please contact the pastor. We will be having some new member sessions in the near future for those who want to transfer from another congregation and those who would like to join by affirmation of faith. The date has not yet been set for the sessions, but you will be contacted at that time.

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### Did you fill it out?

If you were at the annual meeting the pastor handed out a three question survey for you to fill out. This will serve a number of purposes as we move forward as a growing congregation. The survey should only take a few minutes of your time, but it will be helpful to the leadership of our congregation. If you have misplaced the survey or didn't get one please pick one up at the church office. We would like as many responses as possible. Thanks for taking the time to help your congregation as we look to the future

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### Property Notes

Items which are gifted to Bethlehem Lutheran Church must first be approved by the appropriate committee or Church Council. This is to ensure that gifted items fit the needs of the Church and will not cause undue care or maintenance.

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### Men-in-Mission Meetings

Men-In-Mission will be meeting on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8:00 A.M in the Fireside Room. We will continue our study of the book The Case For Christ by Lee Strobel. On March 7<sup>th</sup> our discussion will be on the chapter titled "The Medical Evidence" and on March 21<sup>st</sup> the discussion will be on the chapter titled "The Evidence of the Missing Body." All men are invited for study and fellowship. If you have any questions please contact Dale Retrum at (714) 527-4337.



## A Message from David & Miriam Ramse

Dear praying friends,

After four months at MMU, we have come to know individuals and have a greater sense of what goes on here. We are still learning and finding out needs and concerns for prayer and action. In the midst of the "finding out" phase, there is often cause for frustration and discouragement, but at the same time God's people are humbly seeking a way forward. While newspaper headlines major on reports about corruption and evil, the people on campus here remain hopeful and optimistic about their role in preparing students for the challenges of Africa.

We have been encouraged by two recent encounters. A campus driver, who lives near us, visited and shared his life story. Orphaned at a young age, he went from being a street child to where he is now...nearly completing a college degree. He credits this to his mother who prayed for her children before her death.

We visited a small Christian school near Arusha. With very humble facilities, five young

women conduct classes to children age 3-7. With a very sweet spirit, they teach Bible and schooling, all in English. The neighborhood appreciates their presence and they are a witness to the students, as well as to their families, which also includes those of the

Muslim faith. They have no running water or electricity. The four small rooms have openings where windows and doors are needed...so we pray for their needs.

Back at campus, classes have resumed. Dave teaches two classes...research methods and thesis writing, while serving as director of graduate studies, with programs scheduled to

begin in August. The university plans to expand the academic curriculum and enlarge the facilities, depending on financial funding...another item for prayer.

We are thankful for Dave's trip to be with his family in Minnesota for his mother's funeral service on December 15...and stayed through Christmas. Elmyra was a beloved, faithful woman and is greatly missed...especially by her husband, of 67 years, who

will be 101 in May. Miriam was able to spend Christmas with her sister and family in southern Tanzania.

Praise:

-For David having a meaningful time with family in Minnesota the last two weeks of Dec.

-For Miriam having a meaningful time with family in Southern Tanzania during the time David was in the States.

-For the conclusion of the (fall) semester at Mount Meru University.

Intercession:

-For the new semester that has begun.

-Unity among among faculty, staff and students.

-Integrity of students where there is a culture of cheating and deficiency of ethics.

-Financial provision for the university as it struggles to pay its bills and provide adequate infrastructure.

-Swift approval by the national accrediting agency of the proposals for graduate programs...which are planned to begin in August.

-David, as director of graduate studies, as he deals with applications already arriving, prior to actual program approval.

-Miriam who has been asked to be a part of the English Proficiency Program.

-Continued language and culture learning to better witness to folks on and off campus.

Thank you so much for your on-going prayers.

David & Miriam Ramse

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

Women's Bible Study

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



**Session 7 - Esther: Two Queens in Persia**

W.E.L.C.A. BOARD The next meeting of the WELCA Board will be held Monday, March 2, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. For information contact Dianna.

Faith Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Camille Riach is hosting and Pastor Will is conducting the study. For Questions? Call Shirley Campbell or Marjorie Moeller.

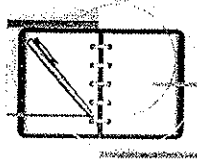
Phoebe Circle The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Dianna Reynolds. Margaret Hangartner will be conducting the study. Questions? Call Charlotte Driskill.



**Sunday Morning  
Coffee & Cookies**

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

**Upcoming Events:**



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

**2009 WELCA Yearbooks**

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

Check out Pacifica Partners on line  
[www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org) click on news & events

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**



**Women of Bethlehem**

Please plan to attend the March Spring Brunch  
Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
"Women's Day of Self Esteem"

We will be featuring a guest speaker from the charity, *Working Wardrobes*, a charity providing at-risk men, women, and teens with professional wardrobing, grooming services, life skills and job-readiness workshops, as well as a retail training program. Your WELCA Board will provide the egg dishes and potatoes, you can sign up to attend and bring bread or fruit to share. Love gifts will be clean professional clothing (on hangars) and accessories.

**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!

**Soup and Salad**

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



**All women** are invited to help with the Lenten Soup and Supper. Cooks, servers and those who can clean, are needed. Please contact one of the Circle Leaders or Dianna Reynolds if you can help.  
Many hands make for light work for all.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## "Scramble" Golf Tournament in March

We will have a Bethlehem Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Congratulations** to Peter and Stephanie Warnock, big sister Abigail, and proud grandparents Lon and Cathy Warnock on the birth of Nathan Anthony on February 11, 2009.



## Valentine Dinner

The Youth Group thanks everyone who came to the Valentine's Day dinner on February 15<sup>th</sup>! We served more than 100 people and they all had a great time. Thanks to Cheri Dobberteen for the great desserts, Geoff and Heidi Kracy as our intrepid kitchen staff, J.R. Anderson, Brian Gary and, of course, our wonderful youth group

Our Sunday school students are having a fund raiser for Easter!! The proceeds will be



given to a charity that is connected with the ELCA giving program. The fund raiser will be paper bags of special eggs for Easter. The finalizing of the project will be on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Fireside Room from

9 until 11. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone who would like to participate that day, please join us. The bags will be sold on March 29<sup>th</sup> and Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> after each service on the patio. More information regarding the name of the charity, items needed, price of each bag, etc. will be noted in the weekly bulletins.

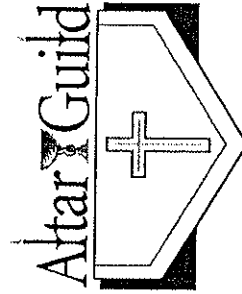
## Birthdays & Anniversaries in March

3/4	Lon Warnock		
3/6	Veronique Sohl		
3/9	Joyce Ritz		
3/10	Karin Bonwit	Caleb Sandvig	Sandy Retrum
3/11	Ron Clausen		
3/12	Dick Spies		
3/16	Xavier Vargas		
3/17	Shary Reed	Ann Tegtmeier	
3/18	Kevin Gustafson	Ruth Precker	
3/20	Peter Warnock		
3/22	Charlie Lyons	Jason Sakowski	
3/28	Julie Kizziar	Marcel Sohl	
3/29	Bill Haglund	Linda Kirkpatrick	

3/1/1997	Steve & Jamie Slade
3/9/1957	Vern & Margie Reynolds
3/12/2005	Erik & Melissa Sandvig
3/15/1997	John & Susan Buezis

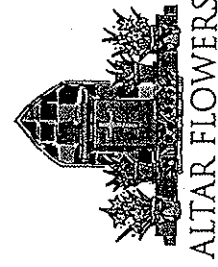
# Thanks to These People for Serving in March, 2009

DATE	ACOLYTE	CROSS BEARER	CANTOR	READER	USHERS	COUNTERS	OPEN/CLOSE
3/1	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Charlotte Driskill	Debby Gustafson	Rick Gary	A. Campbell B. Campbell	B. Ritz D. Sakowski
3/8	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	James Toth	Randy Upright	Rick Gary Dale & Sandy Retrum	M. Moeller C. Warnock	A. Tegtmeier J. Toth
3/15	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Wilkie Adams	Eric Dobberteen	Bob & Andrea Campbell Rick Gary Dale & Sandy Retrum	D. Hansen L. Johnson	C. Warnock C. Watson
3/22	Paul Scott	Charlie Toth	Bill Lindell	John Buezis, Jr.	Rick Gary, Dianna Reynolds Christina Watson	D. Retrum D. Retrum	J.R. Anderson B. Campbell
3/29	Charlie Toth	Paul Scott	Elise Johnson	Bruce Gustafson	Rick Gary	J. Buezis J. Buezis, Jr.	F. Campbell D. Retrum



Altar Guild

3/1 Christina Watson  
3/8 Luella Buezis  
3/15 Marge Hargrove  
3/22 Andrea Campbell  
3/29 Doris Schaefer



Altar Flowers

3/1 Buezis, Zarkos  
3/8 Moeller, Sandvig  
3/15 Gustafson, Vargas  
3/22 Stevenson, Warnock  
3/29 Toth

*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.*



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# Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

3352 Katella Avenue

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

March, 2009

**PLEASE DELIVER BY 3/6/09**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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