

Advent Devotions 2009



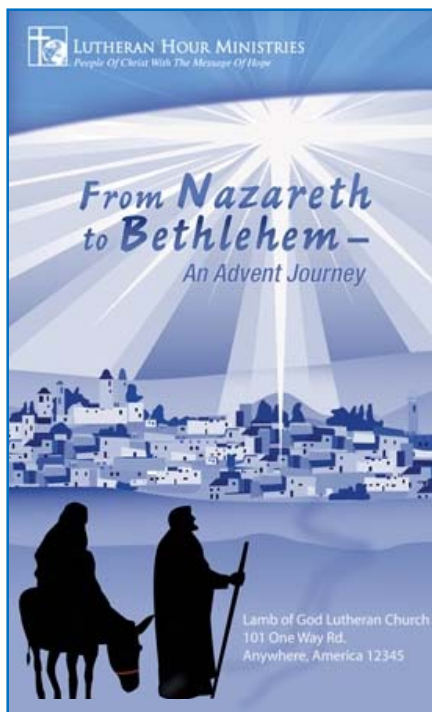
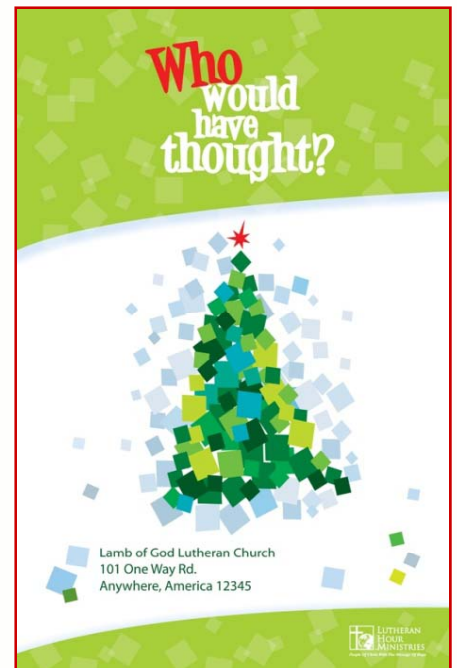
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope

TWO VERSIONS AGAIN!

Devotion Options Help You Create an Advent Experience

Though the message of Christmas is universal--"For unto *you* is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11)--its reception is individual. And therein lies the challenge. Lutheran Hour Ministries recognizes this and is again offering two Advent devotions for the 2009 Christmas season. Whether it's a traditional approach to the holidays or one that views them from a slightly different angle, this year's offerings bring front and center the nativity of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Articulate and creative, both devotions show how Jesus' humble birth in a manger put into motion God's divine plan for mankind's redemption--and that's good news *everyone* needs to hear!

In *Who Would Have Thought?* author Chuck Strohacker uses anecdotal stories, real-life situations, and personal observations to share the truth of God's love as shown in the birth of Jesus. His devotional style is somewhat non-traditional. Touching on family Christmas customs, lessons learned in the classroom, and his hobbies—to name but a few things—Strohacker casts light on the unparalleled marvel of God's love as shown in the birth of His Son two millennia ago in a tiny village just south of Jerusalem. "Who would have thought," he asks, "that God would open His mercy and grace not only to His chosen people, Israel, but to the Gentiles as well?" Indeed, who would have thought?



From Nazareth to Bethlehem boldly declares God's love and grace in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, in a style that's familiar and time-honored. In these texts, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod International Center Chaplain Vern Gundermann chronicles a number of journeys. Beginning with Mary and Joseph's road trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to the Messiah's birth there,

to the family's flight to Egypt, to Jesus' ministry in Palestine—these devotions show a God on the move in the lives of men—both ancient *and* modern.

As Gundermann writes, "He would be the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for His sheep. For them. For us. For the whole world!"

(From Nazareth to Bethlehem is also available to download in Spanish.)

Companion Media and Resources - Use the theme and visuals of either devotion in a variety of ways to create an enhanced Advent experience for members *and* to help members reach out to friends and family.

Get Started! For overview and instructions, Bulletin Inserts with Witness Tips, go to www.adventdevotions.net to select your customizable downloads.

For both *Who Would Have Thought?* and *From Nazareth to Bethlehem* you will find:

Bulletin Shell • PowerPoint Slide Template • Web Banner Ad • JPG images of cover art

www.adventdevotions.net

For additional information, go to www.lhm.org/equipping or call 1.800.876.9880.