



# Church Of the Reformation - Lutheran

The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod  
With Christ at the Heart

7910 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-2721

Reverend David C. Pelsue, Pastor



## Savior of the Nations

is the theme of our Advent midweek series this year from CPH based on the ancient Advent hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come" (LSB 332). It is rich in biblical imagery. Ambrose of Milan, the

original author, certainly reflects in the text a life of deep meditation upon the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord. The hymn unfolds the gift of the incarnation and the meaning of that event for time and eternity.

Advent is about comings. The season grants opportunity for the Church to reflect upon The first coming of Christ, His promised glorious return, and the reality of His continued presence among us through Word and Sacraments to the end of the age.

The hymn beautifully focuses on the two natures of Christ and the full revelation of God in the person of Jesus.

Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

The flesh and blood of the God-man brings our salvation. In Christ, God has become one of us. He has been eternally joined to the stuff of Mary's womb so that He might be present for us. This not of man, but a gift of God, a work of the Spirit. The mystery of the incarnation causes all of us to ponder anew the sacrificial love of God. To be fully one of us, to share with us in all things, to know no sin, and yet to become sin for us, that is the stuff that causes all creation to fall at His feet and worship. There is no greater love of God than the work of Jesus Christ in rescuing falling creation. Here is the pure Gospel.

Our series is designed with the hymn as a unifying and central focus. Each week a different stanza sets the tone of the midweek service.

### Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> The Invitation focuses on stanza 1

*Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

### Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> The Announcement focuses on stz. 2

*Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh —  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*

### Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> His Throne focuses on stz. 3

*Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.*

Join us in these Advent Services,

*Pastor Pelsue*



### ADVENT DEVOTIONS



A limited number of Advent Devotions, from Lutheran Hour Ministries, are available on the church welcome stand. We have two different ones to choose from. As 2009's traditional Advent devotion and in keeping with Lutheran Hour Ministries' seasonal offering of Advent devotions, *From Nazareth to Bethlehem* boldly declares God's love and grace in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. *Who Would Have Thought*, is an Advent devotion with a non-traditional approach. 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. *Who Would Have Thought* is an excellent devotion to share with a new believer. Also, you can opt to receive devotions on a daily basis thru email by signing up at [www.adventdevotions.net](http://www.adventdevotions.net).



# DECEMBER NEWS & NOTES

## SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

### Wednesday Advent Services

“Savior of the Nations”

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>

11:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



### Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>

Candlelight Service - of Carols & Readings

5:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>

Divine Service - 10:00 a.m.



### New Year’s Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>

Evening Prayer - 7:00 p.m.

### New Year’s Day – January 1<sup>st</sup>

Divine Service - 10:00 a.m.



**THE GIVING TREE** is now displayed in the narthex. Please consider helping make someone’s holiday a little brighter with a gift for Feed My People to distribute to those in need. We need the help and support of generous people like you to make the Spirit of Christmas a happy and glorious time for some of our less fortunate friends. *The Ladies Guild*



### POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY THE ALTAR

during the Christmas Season have been ordered. Each 6.5” red poinsettia has 5+ booms and costs \$6.00. Order forms for the poinsettias are in the narthex.



### CHRISTMAS DECORATING

On Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

all members of the congregation, both young, old and in between are invited to help decorate the church for Christmas.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School will have their Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m.** Please join them in worship!! Special music and art is planned. They will also use the words of Luke 2 and song to tell the Christmas story. Everyone is invited!



### GIFTS FOR THE KING

Every Advent through Epiphany in memory of the Gentile Magi’s gifts to the Christ Child, we at Reformation, gather a special offering to be used for mission work. A special “Gifts for the King” envelope will be included in the December 6<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

### VOTER’S MEETING



On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the late service (12:00 noon). This meeting includes election of new council

members and elders as well as discussion and approval of the 2010 church budget. Please bring an appetizer or snack or more to share.



### WOMEN’S GUILD

**THE WOMEN’S GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** is Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The ladies will meet at church at 10:30 a.m. and carpool to the Blue Owl in Kimmswick, MO. Lunch will be ordered from the menu. All ladies are invited to attend!



### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure you have all items/articles for the January newsletter into the church office by no later than **Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Articles may be e-mailed to [secretary@reformationstl.org](mailto:secretary@reformationstl.org), faxed (314-352-7652), or placed in the church secretary's mailbox.



### RING IN THE NEW YEAR!!

What better way to celebrate New Year's Eve than to worship and have fellowship with your church family. After the 7pm service there will be a New Year's Eve Gathering for all ages. Come for a little while or stay to ring in the New Year. There will be attendance prizes, Holiday DVD's for children to watch, Holiday Trivia Part II, and more. Bring an appetizer to share, deli meat and cheese for sandwiches and beverages will be provided. Look for more information in Sunday's announcements.

*Julia Graudin, Board of Church Fellowship*



### DECEMBER FEED MY PEOPLE MEAL-A-MONTH



**Beef stew, corn, applesauce, biscuit mix, and powdered milk (optional)**

Please take a bag out of the shopping cart located in the narthex and fill it with the grocery items stated above or with any food items you would care to give. Return the bag of groceries to the shopping cart. Please - no glass containers or clothing in the grocery cart. Thank you for your donations!

### OCTOBER BAKE SALES

The November Newsletter deadline preceded a gift by the Women's Guild of \$100 and several other generous donations by church members. We are delighted the total amount collected was \$1034. When matched with the \$1020 received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, South St. Louis Chapter 30663, the total received was \$2054 toward the cost of the kitchen fire suppression system. THANK YOU, again, members of Reformation, for your magnificent participation and financial generosity!



### LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH ACTIVITIES

**ADVENT BAND CONCERT** on **Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** and will be performed in the Concordia Center at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood. The full-length concert of traditional Christmas music and other band literature will feature the school's Wind Symphony, concert Band, and Jazz Band. A free will donation will be collected.

**THE LHSS FALL CRAFT SHOW** will be held **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** at LHSS, 9515 Tesson Ferry Road. For more information call Marge at 314.918.7301 or Lynne at 314.638.9186.

The LHSS Choirs will present their **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** in the Kuhlmann Center at Lutheran South. Carols will be included for audience participation. The choirs, Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, and Lancer Singers, are directed by Greg Gastler.



### CONCORDIA SEMINARY CHORUS 2009 ADVENT TOUR

To help you prepare for Christmas and for our Lord's Second Coming, the Concordia Seminary Chorus invites you to a Choral Advent Service. There will be two services in St. Louis this year. The first service will be held at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, 801 Seminary Place on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.** The second service will be at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, 5252 S. Lindbergh Blvd. on **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** All are invited to attend!



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES & CONCERTS

### *German Christmas Vesper*

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb, Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, will preach at the German Christmas Vesper on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road. He will be accompanied by music from the 24 voice Frauenchor (ladies choir) of the St. Louis German Cultural Society. They will render seasonal numbers in the German language.

The festive setting, including congregational singing, will be in German; however, English helps will be provided. Fellowship and ethnic refreshments follow. All are invited to attend.

### *Bach at the Sem*

Concordia Seminary invites the public to a Bach at the Sem concert at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Seminary's Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. The American Kantorei presents an Advent and Christmas Celebration: J.S. Bach *Christmas Oratoria: Parts I; II, Sinfonia; VI, Final Chorale* G. F. Handel, *Five Great Choruses from the Messiah*. No tickets are issued and admission is free.



## HELP TEACH A CHILD ABOUT JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS

\$5. That's all it will take to send the love of Jesus to a child who needs to know Him. Concordia Publishing House invites you to support outreach and literacy this Christmas season. Simply donate \$5 to send a copy of *Hear Me Read Bible Stories* to a child in West Virginia. *Hear Me Read Bible Stories* is a collection of the popular series written by Dr. Mary Manz Simon. This book teaches children about Jesus and His love for them as they discover the joy of reading.

With your help, Concordia Publishing House hopes to donate 500 copies of *Hear Me Read Bible Stories*. They are partnering with Concordia Gospel Outreach and the Appalachian Mission Partnership of the LCMS Ohio District to distribute the book when it releases this summer. Regularly \$14.99, this book is available for donation for just \$5. To make your donation, visit [www.cph.org/read](http://www.cph.org/read) or call 1.800.325.3040.

## "LOOK TOWARD THE HEAVENS: THE ART OF HE QI,"

This is an exhibit of 43 sacred artworks by renowned Chinese artist He Qi ("huh chee"), is on display at Concordia Seminary, in the gallery of the Concordia Historical Institute, now through January 2010.

One of China's most internationally celebrated contemporary artists, He Qi has been committed to the creation of sacred art since 1983. His artwork blends together Chinese folk customs with the western art of the Middle Ages and modernism, creating original color-on-paper paintings. He Qi was the first among mainland Chinese to earn a Ph.D. in religious art after the Cultural Revolution, and was a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. The artist proof giclee exhibit also includes never before seen artifacts from the history of Lutheran missions in China.

The Concordia Historical Institute is located on the campus of Concordia Seminary at 804 Seminary Place in Clayton, Missouri. It is open from Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The gallery will also be open prior to the "Back at the Sem" concerts December 13, and January 31, 1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information, please call 314-505-7117. To view He Qi's work online, visit [www.ConcordiaTheology.org](http://www.ConcordiaTheology.org) or [www.heqigallery.com](http://www.heqigallery.com).



## "MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE" WORKSHOP

The Concordia Seminary Pro-Life Group is sponsoring "Making Abortion Unthinkable." The workshop on Saturday, January 30, 2010, in Sieck Hall 202 on the Seminary campus will begin with registration from 8:30 to 9:00 am, and will conclude promptly at 2:30 pm. The workshop will include video-based presentations as well as discussions segments; Dr. Jeff Gibbs, professor of New Testament at Concordia, will serve as the moderator for the workshop. Suitable for adults and older teens. Each participant will also receive a helpful manual of materials. The \$12 per person fee includes lunch and the manual. The workshop will strengthen and clarify understanding for those who attend, as well as equip them to speak more effectively and winsomely on behalf of the unborn. For more information or to pre-register, please contact Concordia Seminary Continuing Education at 314/505-7486 or email [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu). Registration ends January 20.