

# RETURN TO BETHLEHEM

Thousands of adults and children have Returned to Bethlehem over the years, with many repeat visitors. During a three day period every December, dozens of Lord of Life members in full costume take visitors on an inspirational journey back to a time over 2000 years ago.

Visitors are taken on a guided walking tour of the city to experience a living drama about the birth of Christ. While walking through the narrow, crowded streets of Bethlehem, visitors will experience ancient sights, sounds and smells. The journey through the city is made exciting as townsfolk talk among themselves and to their visitors at every step along the way. There are Roman soldiers, prisoners, shopkeepers, a prophet, shepherds, children and others who are constantly talking about the unusual event that was rumored to have occurred in a stable behind the inn.

The memorable tour of Bethlehem culminates with a visit to the stable, where the Holy Family can be seen. Many visitors are surprised to find a live donkey in the stable. Since 2012 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year for Return to Bethlehem, some Lord of Life members who portrayed the baby Jesus as infants have grown up and are now portraying Roman soldiers or shopkeepers.

The FREE tours through Bethlehem take approximately fifteen minutes and begin every four minutes. The tour is inside and is wheelchair and walker accessible.

Return to Bethlehem 2012 will be presented Friday, December 7, 6:00 - 8:00 PM and Saturday December 8 & Sunday December 9, 2:00 - 5:00 PM. Additional information is available by calling the church office at 636-532-0400. Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located at the corner of Baxter Road and Clarkson Road in Chesterfield, Missouri.

