

Ascension Lutheran Church

REFORMATION 500: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER A PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY

September 12-22, 2017 11 Days

Hosted by the Reverend Ryan Michael Hersch
Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church

gtd
Group Travel Directors

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

TUE 12 SEP **Depart U.S.**

Begin your journey of discovery and faith today. Depart Phoenix and connect with the transatlantic overnight flight to Europe. (Meals in-flight)

WED 13 SEP **Arrive Frankfurt/Boppard**

Upon morning arrival in Frankfurt, meet your national guide and driver who are waiting to welcome you. Stop at the Gutenberg Museum, which lies opposite the cathedral in the heart of the old part of Mainz. This is one of the oldest museums of the book and printing in the world. Two original Gutenberg Bibles of the mid-15th century are among the most valuable treasures of the museum. Proceed to the Rhine River and cruise from Bingen to Boppard passing by picturesque towns, vineyards and castles atop the hills. Arrive at your hotel overlooking the Rhine River. Gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. Hotel Rheinlust (Meals in-flight, D) <http://hotel-rheinlust.de/englisch/index.html>

THU 14 SEP **Boppard/Würzburg**

Depart to Worms to visit the monumental sculpture of the Reformation. At the center stands Martin Luther in commemoration of the moment in April 1521 when he declared to the Imperial Diet, "Here I stand, I can do no other." Continue to Rothenburg o.d. Tauber, the best-preserved medieval town in Germany. Take a stroll through the quaint walled city along cobbled streets that wind amongst classic buildings of the Middle Ages. Later this afternoon arrive in Würzburg, which is known for its lavish baroque and rococo architecture. Check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight. Mercure Hotel Würzburg am Mainufer (B, D) <http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1697-mercure-hotel-wuerzburg-ammainufer/index.shtml>

FRI 15 SEP **Würzburg /Eisenach**

This morning visit the Mainfränkisches Museum at the Fortress Marienberg to view the world's largest collection of works by Tilman Riemenschneider. This prolific sculptor and woodcarver was active in Würzburg from 1483. His work is characterized by the expressiveness of the faces and detailed, richly folded clothing. Travel to Eisenach where Martin Luther attended parish school as a youth and where Johann Sebastian Bach

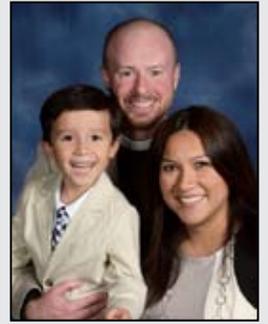


Members and Friends of Ascension,

My wife, Adriana, and I would like to invite you to join us on a very special pilgrimage. As you may or may not know, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. As part of our celebration of this momentous occasion, we will be traveling to Germany in September 2017. Because the people of Germany are making such special preparations for this important anniversary, there will never be a better time to walk in

the footsteps of men like Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Maybe you have been a lifelong member of Lutheran congregations

and it is the right time to draw closer to your theological heritage. Maybe you have just recently come to experience the Lutheran movement through Ascension, and you'd like to get to know us as Lutheran Christians better. Whatever the case may be, Adriana and I hope you will prayerfully consider joining us for this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage.



—Ryan

was born in 1685. Check in at your hotel for dinner and a two-night stay. Haus Hainstein (B, D) <http://www.haushainstein.de>

SAT 16 SEP **Eisenach**

This morning tour Wartburg Castle; it was here that Luther retreated after returning from the Worms debate and where he translated the New Testament from its original Greek into common German. Then take a walking tour through town passing Cotta House where Luther lodged as a schoolboy, and the Bach Haus where the young J.S. Bach lived. After a group lunch, enjoy free time for exploring on your own. Haus Hainstein (B, L)

SUN 17 SEP **Eisenach/Erfurt**

Drive to Erfurt, the spiritual home of Martin Luther. On July 2, 1505, during a violent thunderstorm, he vowed to become monk. On July 17, Luther walked through the gates of Erfurt's Augustinian Monastery to enter monastic life. After worship at the Erfurt cathedral, tour the Augustinian Cloister; the monastery is now a home to Protestant nuns. Continue to Buchenwald Concentration Camp to walk a sobering pilgrimage through the grounds as a reminder of human cruelty during WWII. Between July 1937 and April 1945, altogether 250,000 persons from all countries of Europe were imprisoned in Buchenwald, including the Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The number of victims is estimated at approximately 56,000. Return to Erfurt for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. Mercure Hotel Altstadt (B, D) www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-5375-mercure-hotel-erfurt-altstadt/index.shtml

MON 18 SEP **Erfurt/Wittenberg**

Depart for Eisleben, where Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, and died on February 18, 1546. Visit the late Gothic house where Luther was born and the house where he died, both now museums depicting different phases of Luther's life. Also see the church of St. Peter and Paul where he was baptized and Market Square with its Luther Memorial. Continue to Leipzig, city of Bach and books. Take a short tour with visits to the Nikolaikirche, the center of the peaceful demonstrations that brought about the fall of Communism in 1989, and the Thomaskirche, where Bach was organist for 27 years and where Luther preached in 1539. Continue to Wittenberg for hotel check-in and a special Luther-themed dinner. B.W. Stadtpalais (B, D) <http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/DE/Wittenberg-hotels/BEST-WESTERNStadtpalais-Wittenberg/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=95270>

TUE 19 SEP **Wittenberg**

This morning tour Lutherstadt Wittenberg, home of Martin and Katie Luther for 36 years. Visit the Castle Church, where Luther posted his 95 Theses; St. Mary's Church, where he preferred to preach; and the Lutherhalle, which was Martin and Katie's home and is now the world's largest Reformation museum. The afternoon is free for individual exploration. B.W. Stadtpalais (B, D)

WED 20 SEP **Wittenberg/Berlin**

Travel to Berlin and upon arrival, visit a special exhibit presented by the German Historical Museum in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation: "The Luther Effect" at the Martin-Gropius-Bau. What traces of Protestantism can be found in other denominations, religions and concepts of life? How did it change itself through these encounters – and not least of all, in what ways have people adopted and appropriated the Protestant doctrine, how have they shaped it and lived it? The exhibition tells a global story of effect and counter-effect that begins around 1500 and continues on into the present. Proceed to the hotel for check-in and dinner at a nearby restaurant. Amano Hotel (B, D) www.amanogroup.de/en/hotels/amano

THU 21 SEP **Berlin**

Enjoy a panoramic overview tour of Berlin this morning. In the West, see the memorial along the famous Kurfurstendamm Street (Kudamm) – Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (Memorial Church), which represents the horrors of war and the promise of the future. In the East, see the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the division of West and East and now of unified Berlin. Drive by the site of Checkpoint Charlie to a remaining portion of the wall that separated East and West Berlin during the Cold War until the fall of Communism in 1989. Then visit the Dietrich Bonhoeffer House. This was his parents' home, and Bonhoeffer lived here whenever he was in Berlin; it now houses a permanent exhibit of his life and work. The balance of the afternoon is free for visits to museums, churches and historic sites. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner. Amano Hotel (B, D)

FRI 22 SEP **Berlin/Return to U.S.**

This morning transfer to the airport for flight check-in and departure. Arrive home this same day enriched with your journey of faith, friendship and discovery. (B, Meals in-flight)

Code: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**
Itinerary subject to change.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of \$1000 is due May 8, 2017. Final payment is due July 7, 2017. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to May 7, 2017 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; May 8 - August 28, 2017 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; August 29, 2017 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than May 8, 2017. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Phoenix via Delta Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- ACCOMMODATION:** Nine nights accommodation in superior tourist and first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, one lunch and eight dinners as outlined in the itinerary.
- GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person. Luggage handling is not available in Erfurt and Wittenberg.
- EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Frankfurt through departure from Berlin.
- GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$104 per person has been included).
- TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$682 per person).
- ALL THE INFO YOU NEED:** Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when travel protection is purchased within 14 days of registration. Contact Travel Insured for more info. 800-243-3174

COST SUMMARY

\$ 4699

From Phoenix

Tour Gratuities (\$104).....Included
 Airport /Departures Taxes (\$682).....Included
 *Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room*.....\$499
 *In addition to base tour cost.
 Very limited availability on request basis.

Costs: The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Phoenix (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of March 2016, a minimum of 27 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only. *Not all bookings have been made and all space/rates are subject to availability at time of booking.*

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection section.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
- No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

RESERVATION APPLICATION • APPLY ONLINE AT: WWW.GTD.ORG G#170902 • OR CLIP AND MAIL

Ascension Lutheran: Germany • September 12-22, 2017 • (G#170902) • Group Travel Directors • 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Name as it appears (or will appear) on passport:

1. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

2. _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Month/Day/Year

Address (no P.O. boxes) _____ Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Roommate or single supplement _____ I will pay the supplement for a single room.

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/We will take the group flights from Phoenix.
- I/We will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/We will make all of my own flight arrangements.

DEPOSIT/TRAVEL PROTECTION (please check one)

Please reserve _____ space(s) for me/us; we choose the following deposit option:

\$ _____ \$673 per person **inclusive of travel protection.**

\$ _____ \$400 per person **without travel protection.**

I/We decline now, but understand it can be purchased later without the pre-existing waiver.

Form of Payment

- Check
- Charge my deposit(s) to
 Credit Card # _____
 Exp _____
 Security Code _____
 Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#170902

I/We have read and understand the conditions of this brochure. Parent or guardian signature is required for travelers under age 18.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 14 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174. Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation.....	up to Tour Cost*
Trip Interruption.....	up to 150% of Tour Cost**
Travel Delay.....	\$750
Missed Connection.....	\$300
Baggage.....	\$1,000
Baggage Delay.....	\$200
Medical Expense.....	\$50,000
Evacuation/Repatriation.....	\$500,000
Accidental Death.....	\$10,000
Political Emergency Evacuation.....	\$100,000
ID Theft Resolution Services.....	included
Assistance Service.....	included

* a maximum of \$5000 per person
** a maximum of \$7500 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$273 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company, Fairmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

EXCLUSION & LIMITATIONS

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being Intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician; the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment; due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

For more information, contact:

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