

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

MAY 2024

Volume 27 Number 5

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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WELCOME!
EACH SUNDAY
JOIN US for
WORSHIP at 9 am
COFFEE following
and SUNDAY SCHOOL
& BIBLE CLASS
at 10:30 am



WELCOME!
**COUNT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY
IN WITH THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!**

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Join with all of America on the National Day of Prayer, **Thursday, May 2**, to pray for our nation. The theme this year is **'Lift Up the Word – Light Up the World'** based on 2 Samuel 22:29-31. More information inside.



NEW TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY
A new Bible Study will begin **Tuesday, May 7, 2024**. **Bring your own lunch and meet for fellowship at Noon in the Beasley Room. Bible Study begins at 12:30 PM. The Bible Study will be of the Prophet Jeremiah, a prophet for today!!**

What was Jeremiah known for in the Bible? As a prophet, Jeremiah pronounced God's judgment upon the people of his time for their wickedness. He was concerned especially with false and insincere worship and failure to trust Yahweh in national affairs. He denounced social injustices but not so much as some previous prophets, such as Amos and Micah.

Make plans to join us this, or any other Tuesday for Food, Fun, Fellowship and The Word!!

**CELEBRATE ALL MOMS
THIS MOTHER'S DAY!
SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024**

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP DINNER OUT AT CHINA INN

Join us for our monthly Fellowship Dinner Out **THUR, MAY 16, 5:30 pm, at China Inn, 5061 Richmond Rd., Warsaw.** Good fellowship!
Dutch treat. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING SUN, MAY 19

2024-2025 Officer Elections
Immediately After Worship in the Fellowship Hall

STEPS OF PAUL

This is an opportunity for interested individuals to **join Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix (our Circuit Visitor) on a 12 day Pilgrimage - STEPS OF PAUL- Greece and the Greek Islands June 4-15, 2025.** More information can be found at <http://www.GoodShepherdTravel.com> and use the Group Reference Number in the search field **G060425**. Full details inside or contact Karen Ramming.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! CELEBRATING IN MAY

2 Rick Kohli
29 Linda Hobson
31 John Sweeney



TO PLACE CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Sunday Flower Chart is posted in the Hallway. Please consider signing up for your special occasions. There are two arrangements for a Sunday and the **Sundays may be shared**. To place flowers, sign up on the Flower Chart on the selected date, give your phone number and note the dedication. **The cost to dedicate flowers for a Sunday is \$75 or \$37.50 if shared.** Use a Flower Fund envelope provided at the chart, make checks payable to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church," and deposit in the offering plate. The Flower Coordinator will contact you to discuss your preferences.

If you would like to donate any amount to the Flower Fund to help cover the cost for flowers on any Sunday, use a Flower Fund envelope and deposit it in the offering plate.

**The Road of Life Is
Traveled By Faith
And Completed By
Grace**

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

"More than Expected"

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20

The parents of Minnesota's 10-year-old Mackenzie Moretter wanted to give her a birthday party.

To make that wish a reality they invited 10 girls to the festivities.

For whatever reasons, all ten girls were unable to be at the celebration. Naturally, Moretter, who has some speech and learning difficulties, felt she had been ostracized by people she had hoped were her pals. It was a dark time for her and the entire Moretter family.

But what could be done? After all, you can't force people to come to a birthday party.

Let me tell you what happened. First, Moretter's parents decided to try again. Her mom went on Facebook and explained the situation. She asked for a number of girls -- girls who were *strangers* -- to help her out and come to her daughter's party.

Mom got more than she bargained for.

People read that Facebook page and they were touched by Moretter's story. In a few hours, hundreds of people said, "We're coming!" Included in that list was the mayor of the town where the Moretter family lives. He came and he also declared the party day: "Mackenzie Moretter Day."

About 400 people showed up, including Minnesota Vikings wide-receiver Charles Johnson and his family. Some folks showed their support by sending money and local businesses donated food to feed the festive throng.

And Mackenzie ... how about Mackenzie? She said, "I have a hard time making friends in school, but thanks to all of you ... my voice was heard. I love you all." Her mom says they are going to use the extra money they had received to support organizations that put on birthday parties for sick children.

The whole story reminds me of the biblical narrative of Joseph. Having been sold into slavery by his brothers, years later, after the Lord had lifted him to a position of power, he told his brothers, "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good"

All of this means there is a lesson to be learned here.

There is no doubt there is evil in this world. But that doesn't mean God's people must accept it. There are times we can look evil in the face, dig in our heels, and ask the Holy Spirit to help us change things. That's what Moretter's mother did; it's what the mayor of Shakopee, Minnesota, did; it's what those businesses and guests at the party did.

WORDS TO PONDER

And it's what we can do too. It's what we do as we reach out to others in love, even as Jesus did the same for us.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, we live in a world which is very evil. Quite often that evil likes to push us around. Help us realize that we, in the Savior's Name, can push back in a most loving way. When we do, we pray the Holy Spirit will turn evil into good. In Jesus' Name I pray it. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,



Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour®
Lutheran Hour Ministries
May 5, 2015

SUMMER BUILDING SECURITY



When you leave the church facilities, please ensure that **all**

appliances used are off (fire safety); that **all interior doors** are closed (fire suppression); that **all lights** are off (utility conservation); that **thermostats** have been set back to 80 degrees (expense reductions) and that the **external doors used** are re-locked and then RATTLED (facility security) to make certain the doors are completely latched.

GROWING IN CHRIST - Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I can't tell you how much I love reading personal devotional resources, the sharing and insights God has given these writers regarding humanness and spiritual insight. God's Word is their joy, as it is ours! God has given them a gift of expressing their joy and understanding, in simple ways as well as challenging ways that helps us to grow. Sometimes their personalities get in their writings which makes the content even more challenging! When we are firm in the teaching of the Word, the Holy Spirit helps us to understand what is true and what is not.

Daily Bible readings and Devotional readings are a must for the spiritual growth of individual believers in Christ. Without them, we flounder in the mire of this world, that will pull us deeper and deeper if we let it. It's also helpful for families, or husband and wife, to make the Bible and Devotions a daily part of their life. In today's society we need to be ever careful when reading anything intended to be spiritual. Even some of the new Bibles are being mistranslated to include fitting in to the modern world's way of thinking; another reason to keep Jesus FIRST in our hearts and minds.

A recent Devotion, focused on how all we humans have ingrained in us a self-centered nature. Without Jesus first in our lives, we are tempted to give ourselves credit for doing something good, instead of giving the glory to the Lord. God wants us to put His Son FIRST in our lives. How true! Like a child, we give credit to ourselves, but putting Jesus first and knowing that He is the One who causes good to come from us, gives Jesus all the glory and puts things in holy order! God first,.... then ourselves! "Ourselves" should be submitted and humbled to, and before, the Lord. There's nothing wrong with being happy for doing good. We just need to remember it is He, who works "good" through us and through His love for us.



While helping a friend in the hospital a while back, knowing we could help, was a happy thing, but knowing Jesus was doing it through us, was an even happier experience. Before having Jesus first in my heart, I would have taken all the good feelings for myself. That's the human-nature we were all born with. The sinful nature we battle daily.

We who believe in Jesus and are redeemed by His Shed Blood have New Life with Him in His Resurrection and have a "peace that surpasses all human understanding"! We can be sure He is working in and for us. "His Word is a Lamp unto our feet"! Read it, know it and serve him as He calls. Our spiritual life depends on it!

In closing, know what it means "to dwell in the shelter of the Most High": Hebrew- "El Elyon". Read Psalm 91 and know it was written for you!

Dianne Bertsch

WOGS NEWS

The Chesapeake District LWML 2022-2024 biennium budget is coming to a close June 30, 2024. The budget had a mission goal of \$100,000 of which \$45,000 went to approved mission grants and they are on target to meet that goal, thanks to your mite offerings. Mites given toward the mission goal area are distributed according to these guidelines:





- 25% to **LWML** for funding approved grants
- 45% for funding our **District** mission grants
- 30% to "in-reach", which funds training, travel and expenses for District Leaders, supporting our delegation to the national LWML convention in 2023 and other necessary expenses for operations
- Please make sure that you deliver your last mite offering to **Ann Gross by June 2, 2024** so that she can write that last check in time to be received for the closing of the budget year



Approved Mission Grants 2022 – 2024 Biennium

1.	New Day Pregnancy Care Center, Dover, Delaware Funding to support ultrasound training for nurse	\$6,000
2.	Orphan Grain Train, Maryland Shipment of humanitarian aid to the Mission Gardens of Christ – South Sudan	\$6,000
3.	Southeastern District-LCMS, Alexandria, VA Provide student aid for Pastors and/or church workers to journey with the Lord.	\$6,000
4.	Faith & Work Enterprises, Baltimore, MD Promoting God-given hopes and dreams in the Sandtown neighborhood	\$6,000
5.	Changing Hearts One at a Time, Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC Provided needed items to underprivileged children through the year	\$4,000
6.	LCMS International Missions Direct support of LCMS Pastor Philip and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph	\$6,000
7.	Concordia Seminary Center for International Students, St. Louis, MO Providing support for international students preparing for ministry	\$4,000
8.	McClure River Valley Community Development Center Inc., Trinity, Henrico, VA Food Gift Certificates and Bibles, Bible Studies, Mealtime Blessings	\$4,500
9.	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Preschool, Roanoke, VA* Partial Funding for Platform Lift	\$2,500
Total grant funds approved by delegates in convention:		\$45,000

**Total amount requested \$6,000; will fully fund if possible.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Pastor Robert C. Hull Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Callao, VA 704-787-4999 roberthull1687@yahoo.com				NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 		
9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC 11:30a Council		Noon BC-E In F'Hall		Ascension Day		
Mother's Day  9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC		Noon BC-E In F'Hall 2p WOGS		5:30p Fellowship Dinner Out @ China Inn		
Pentecost 9a Comm TF Quarterly Voters' Meeting		Noon BC-E In F'Hall				
	7p CG Aux				Memorial Day	
The Holy Trinity 9a Comm 10:30a SS & BC	Memorial Day Weekend	Noon BC-E In F'Hall				

MAY

2024

1	2	3	4	5	6	1							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

APRIL 2024

JUNE 2024

NOTES:

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 2 – Pray for America
- 5 – Church Council Monthly Meeting
- 9 – Ascension Day
- 12 – Mother's Day – Celebrate All Moms!
- 14 – WOGS Meeting
- 16 – Fellowship Dinner Out @ China Inn
- 18 – Celebrate Our Service Men & Women!
- 19 – Pentecost/Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- 26 – Holy Trinity Sunday
- 27 – Memorial Day



**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Peggy Crittenden - shut-in.

Karen Henderson - shut-in.

Kathey Brodtman – shut-in.

Bev Horn – prayers for strength and relief from pain.

Lisa Sweeney – prayers for strength and healing following a fall for which she underwent surgery for a broken pelvis and sustained two compression fractures in her lower back.

Carl Wigginton – prayers for strength and healing following a stroke.

Ruth Cooper – prayers for healing following a fall in which she broke two bones in her right hand.

Linda Hobson – prayers for continued strength and relief from pain.

Kelly Krug (Larry & Gwen Krug's granddaughter) – prayers for a successful kidney transplant on March 20th.

Dianne Bertsch – prayers for strength and healing.

Larry Krug – prayers for relief of pain from arthritis and issues with Parkinson's.

Terry Cooper – prayers for continued strength.

Tootie Cornwell – prayers for continued strength.

Betty Cornwell - prayers for continued strength.

Diane Alkire – prayers for continued strength and healing.

Charles Bertsch, Dave and Dianne's son – continued prayers for Charles that he will remain strong in his faith and stay physically, mentally and spiritually healthy in his current situation.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
MAY 2, 2024**



**'LIFT UP THE WORD – LIGHT UP THE WORLD'
based on 2 Samuel 22:29-31**

**²⁹ For you are my lamp, O LORD,
and my God lightens my darkness.**

**³⁰ For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.**

**³¹ This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true;
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.**

On May 2, 2024, join thousands of Americans across our nation as we pray for America on the National Day of Prayer.

“This year’s theme, “Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World,” came from a significant time of fervent prayer and a bit of what I will call “holy frustration.” I am sure you have experienced “holy frustration” when God breaks your heart for what breaks His, or you know God’s will from His Word is not being regarded or accomplished. Our first response in these moments is to ask the Holy Spirit to “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24) In every situation that we find frustration leading to anxiousness we need to examine ourselves and honestly determine if we are participating in the problem, then repent and diligently seek God in prayer and Scripture to determine His holy solution.

In this case, I had become frustrated, even weary of hearing people talk so much about the “darkness” that they perceive is taking over America and the world. It seemed all conversations led to pointing out the darkness in all areas of our communities and Country. I could almost envision Satan smiling, taking a bow, and thanking us for praising all his work. **Satan is not an equal foe to God Almighty**, he is a fallen created being who days are short, and head is being crushed by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Gen. 3:15) The darkness was not just an issue of Satan’s work; sadly we, the Church, are to blame as well because **darkness is an absence of light**. Jesus pronounced that we, as His followers, are the light of the world, not to be hidden but to shine, to dispel the darkness. (John 8:12, Matt. 5:14)

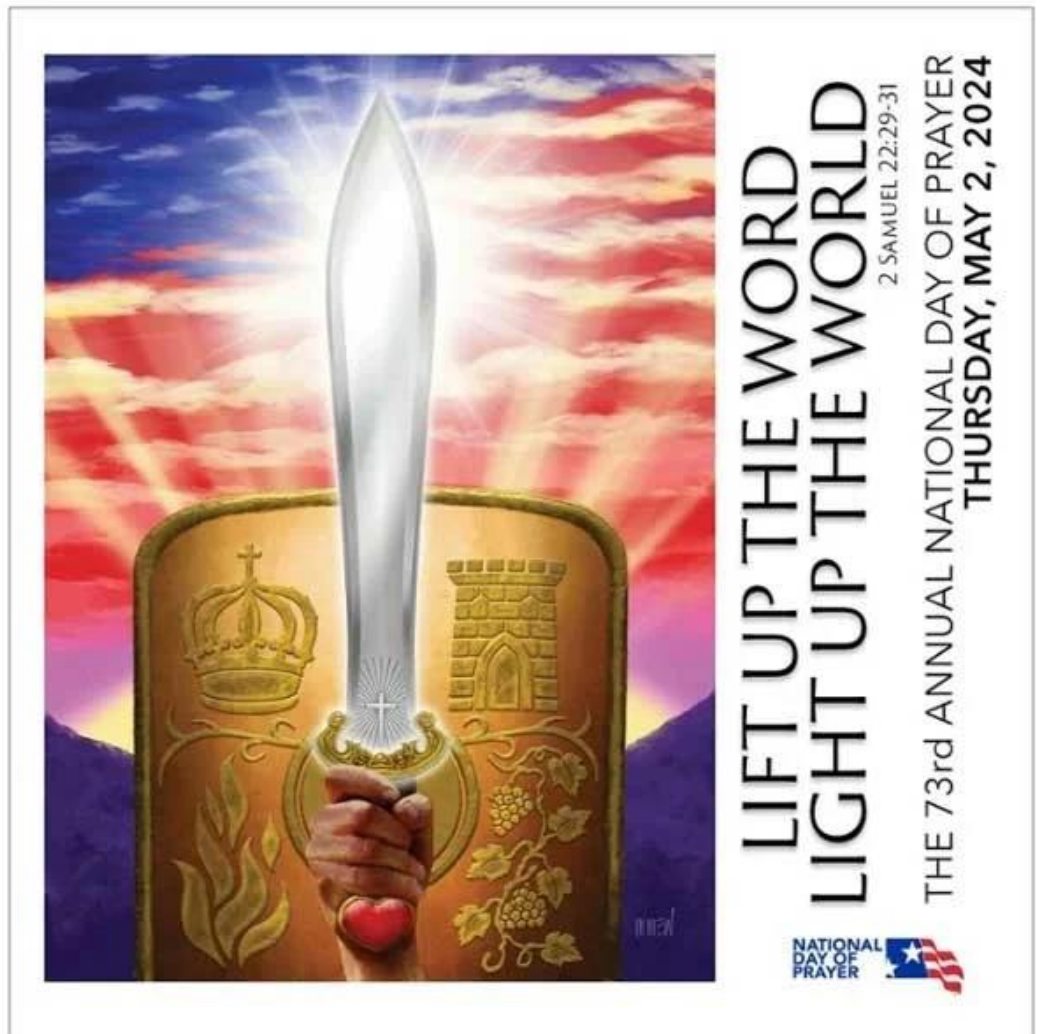
God is Light and in Him is no darkness. (1 John 1:5-6) He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into His Kingdom of Light. (Col. 1:13) **You and I do not stumble around in the darkness; we light it up! Our presence, our attitudes, words,**

and actions should brighten the day and way of everyone we encounter as we are filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus fills our hearts, God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. (Psalm 119:105)

God did not put a dimmer switch on His people. If our communities and country are getting darker it is because we are covering up our light; keeping quiet when we should speak up, only looking to our own interests when we should be tending to the issues of our towns. We are guilty of stepping back from the fight to maintain righteousness in our schools, government, entertainment, business decisions, defending the weak and oppressed, and even deciding to "keep the peace" in our family and church instead of obeying the Prince of Peace. Things seem "darker" in this world because we let it by refusing to "LIGHT" it. For every time we said, "I don't want to be 'that' person" or we were more concerned about offending someone instead of our Savior, we let the darkness take more ground."

~ Kathy Branzell, President
<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/articles/living-in-the-light-of-the-lord>

**"DON'T SHINE
SO THAT OTHERS
CAN SEE YOU.
SHINE
SO THAT
THROUGH YOU,
OTHERS
CAN SEE HIM.
C.S. Lewis**



The 2024 National Prayer for America can be found at
<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/equipping/2024-national-prayer>

ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 18, 2024

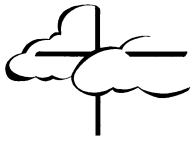
THE TROOPS



They soar in jets above the land,
They sail beyond the seas.
They march across the desert,
They crawl between the trees.
No matter what the role they play
Each chooses to protect
The lives of all Americans.
For this we owe a debt.

Today, and every single day
'Til each returns safe and sound,
Please say a little prayer with me
For the troops: air, sea and ground.

God please. . .
Grant them courage, when times seem bleak.
Grant them strength, when they feel weak.
Grant them comfort, when they feel all alone.
And most of all, God,
Please bring them all home.



**ASCENSION
DAY
MAY 9, 2024
AN ANCIENT
FEAST**

Rev. Christopher Seifferlein

Early Christians regarded the Feast of the Ascension as one of the major feasts of the Christian calendar. It was the final of the major festivals celebrating Christ's life. Ancient Christians celebrated the feast by taking part in celebrations and services in the open air, on a hill or in the countryside. Processions to those places imitated Jesus' journey with the disciples to the Mount of Olives. They celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with great joy even as the disciples were full of joy after Jesus' ascension (Luke 24:52). Joy does not seem so obvious after Jesus departed from them, but their hearts were filled with the messages of the ascension.

The ascension message proclaims that Jesus, who left heaven and came to earth, has returned to heaven having completed His mission. The visible presence of the Lord on earth may have ceased, but He does not cease to be with His earthly people in His flesh and blood sharing with them His divine life. His rule over all things has commenced as He sits at God's right hand on high. Christ, who forevermore lives in human flesh and blood, now reigns at God's right hand. He went there to prepare a place for us and will return in glory having put all our enemies, last of all death, under His feet.

In the first act of His rule, He sent His Spirit on Pentecost so that the apostles and pastors

could be sent to preach His name to all nations, bringing to all people the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life that He won on the cross. The ascension also includes the promise that we will ascend over every sin, death and even hell itself, passing over one day to our glorious rest in heaven. The celebration of this feast works this teaching and joy in us.

In former times, the joy of the feast spanned from Ascension to Pentecost, a 10-day mini season known as Ascensiontide. The color white remains on the altar. Special joyous ascension hymns are sung. The paschal candle may be moved from the altar to its regular place by the baptismal font. Some congregations extinguish the light of this Easter candle after the reading of the Gospel, marking the beginning of the time when we apprehend Christ not by sight but by faith.

The complete article can be found at:

<https://witness.lcms.org/2022/recovering-ascension-day/>



PENTECOST

AMAZING POWER

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024

When Jesus was arrested, his apostles had fled in fear. Peter found himself in a situation where fear compelled him to deny that he even knew Christ.

All of Christ's followers were in hiding – broken-hearted, totally confused, feeling absolutely hopeless. Then, **on the Jewish Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came mightily upon them. Suddenly, they were empowered.** Immediately they were galvanized. Right then and there, they were filled with enormous courage. Boldly, forthrightly, not far from the site of the crucifixion, they began to proclaim that Jesus was risen from the dead & that he was certainly the long-awaited Messiah. The fire of the Holy Spirit burned so vividly that people from all over came to see and hear what the apostles were claiming. Peter told them the story of Christ as best he could. Then Peter offered his hearers the opportunity to become Christ's followers. Amazingly, 3,000 people responded to the offer (Acts 2:41)! **We now call that event The Birthday of the Christian Church!**

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

May 26, 2024



Holy Trinity Sunday, the Sunday following Pentecost, is the day on which the Athanasian Creed is spoken and the Church confesses it's belief in the Trinity.

“On Trinity Sunday, the Christian Church ponders with joy and thanksgiving what the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of sinful humanity. It is brought to remembrance how Christians should respond to the love God has shown for us, praising Him and giving Him glory. We remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. Scripture that is read at Pentecost often include Psalm 8 which says, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength.” 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 appeals to

believers to aim for perfection and live in peace, ending with the prayer that the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all, including again the commission Jesus left for believers in Mathew 28:16-20.

Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of our ability, the clues written in Scripture to guide us to a fuller understanding of our triune God. The Father is God from the beginning (John 1:1). Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." Together, they sent the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us, "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one" (1 John 5:7-11). To understand the Trinity is to understand God more fully."

Lesli White is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and a concentration in print and online journalism. In college, she took a number of religious studies courses and harnessed her talent for storytelling. White has a rich faith background. Her father, a Lutheran pastor and life coach was a big influence in her faith life, helping her to see the value of sharing the message of Christ with others. She has served in the church from an early age. Some of these roles include assisting ministry, mutual ministry, worship and music ministry and church council.

The complete article can be found at: <https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/articles/what-is-trinity-sunday.aspx>

> *Did you know? The church has been confessing the Athanasian Creed since the fifth century.*

MOTHER'S DAY FUN

Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE QUIZ

MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

Match the question with the answer on the right.



Questions

- ___ Who was Jacob's mother?
- ___ Who was the mother of Isaac?
- ___ Who was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin?
- ___ Which mother in the Bible had a set of twins?
- ___ Who was John the Baptist's mother?
- ___ Who was the first mother mentioned in the Bible?
- ___ What was the name of Yeshua's mother?
- ___ Which female judge said she was "a mother in Israel"?
- ___ Who was the mother of King Solomon?
- ___ Whose mother placed him in a basket made from bulrushes?
- ___ What relationship was Naomi to Ruth?

Answers

1. Sarai (Sarah)
2. Mary
3. Elizabeth
4. Deborah (Judges 5:7)
5. Eve
6. Rebekah
7. Rebekah
8. Moses
9. Rachel
10. Bathsheba
11. Mother-in-law

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them. **Mt. 19:14** .. oh sure that's easy for Jesus to say, he was never a mom.

A NOTE FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Greetings from St. Louis!

At the time of writing this letter there is 1.5 Months or 6 Weeks or 42 days to Call Day, but who is counting. After almost 4 years of schooling, we are almost there! Interviews for calls began late January and ended the first week of March, now all that is left is to wait and pray that God's will be done, trusting He knows what is best for us and for the churches we will be assigned to.

If you are not familiar with the process, or it's been a while. First Calls are handled by the placement director at the seminary Dr. Nielsen (Who is just a wealth of knowledge and connections having placed some of the Fathers for guys in my class in their first calls.) and the LCMS council of presidents. Together they collect the names of all the eligible students and calling congregations around the country. Then based on the needs of the churches, the skills and abilities of the students, and their preferences for types of ministries (i.e. urban, rural, or suburban, small, or large church, traditional or contemporary worship, and sole or team ministry), they do their best to match everyone up with the help of the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance. Part of this process may include interviews especially for team ministry situations so that the current Sr. Pastor can connect with the potential new associate and make sure they will be a good fit for their church, and ministry team.

I personally was a part of two interviews, one with a large church and school in the south and the other with a small church out west which was a church merger just a few years ago. Just because I had an interview with these churches does not mean I will get a call to one of them. The church still has the ability to say no, and I have the ability after the interview to say I really don't think that church would be a good fit and here is why. Plus, the Council of presidents gets the final say and could chose to place you somewhere completely different that they think would be a better fit. With all of that both of the churches I interviewed with have their own positives and negatives. Which will be true for all churches, so I can't wait for Tuesday April 23rd which is Call Day. The service will be held at 7pm CT and streamed online. If you would like to watch you can do so at CSL.edu. Or wait for my next letter which will include all the details.

If you are wondering in all of this how the Navy chaplaincy is going, it is all coming along. The process is much longer than I thought but we are getting there. Since I don't have previous military experience, I will work for the Navy part time in the Reserves and for a church part time for two years after which time I can either decide to continue working part time for both or switch to Active-duty fulltime chaplaincy. One of the churches I have interviewed with is about 15min from a Navy base and the other is about 2hrs. that will be part of the pluses and minuses of these churches.

In the midst of all this excitement classes continue and so does the prep work for me as class president for all the end of year events here on campus for all the concluding students. Right now, I am working on planning the end of year Banquet for students and their spouses, a service project followed by a pig roast and bonfire just for the students as a time to celebrate together one last time. As well as planning the Class Gift we will leave behind and a gift our class will send to the concluding class at Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne. Fortunately, my classmates are helping out with all of this planning including one of the guys who found a site where we can order personalized copies of Luther's Sacristy Prayer which will be our gift to the Class at Ft. Wayne. The prayer is such a great reminder of the work God is doing in and through our lives in the office of the ministry.

I really can't wait to share with you where God will be leading me next, and I ask of your prayers in these concluding weeks, as senioritis has certainty stared to set in, but there is still much more to learn and time to be had together as a class before we go from here.

Peace I leave with you (John 14:27)



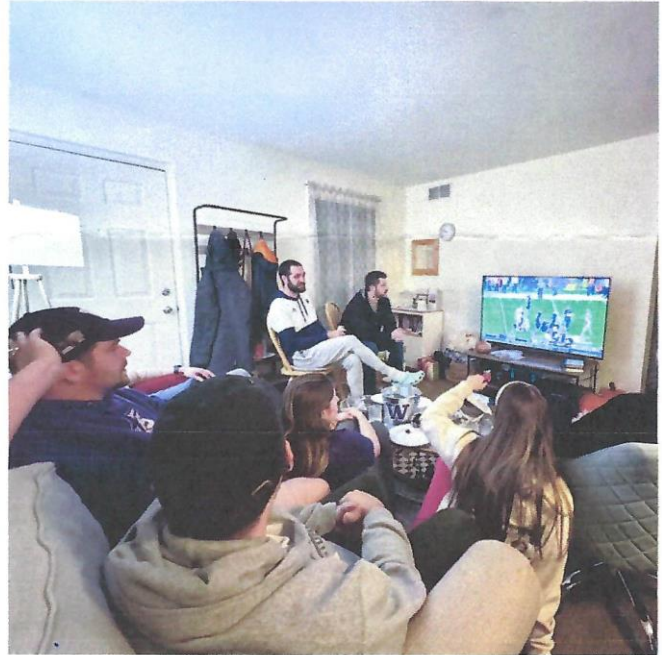
Kevin Sharp

A Few Recent Photos From Life On Campus

Building a project together with my adorable niece Adelin during some time off from class



Seeing how many people we can cram into one of the apartments on campus for the game.



The Last, First Day of Classes, and the final Semester of Seminary



Getting to lead 4/5th grade Sunday School at my fieldwork church.

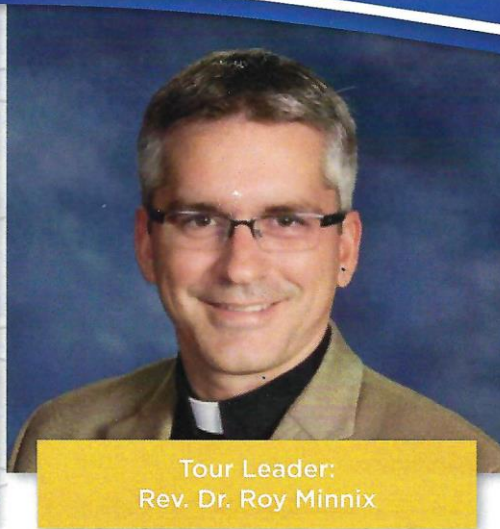
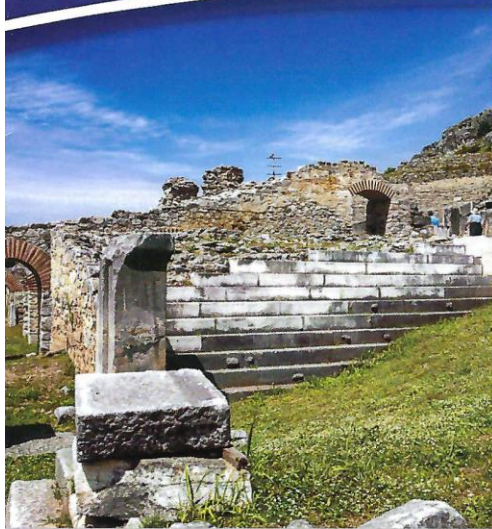




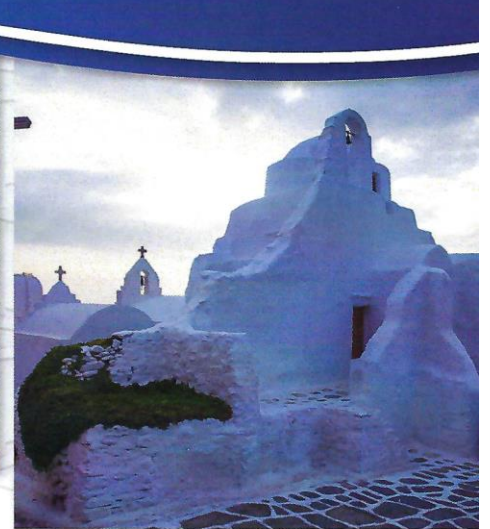
June 4 - 15, 2025 | Washington, DC (IAD) | Package Price \$4890

STEPS OF PAUL

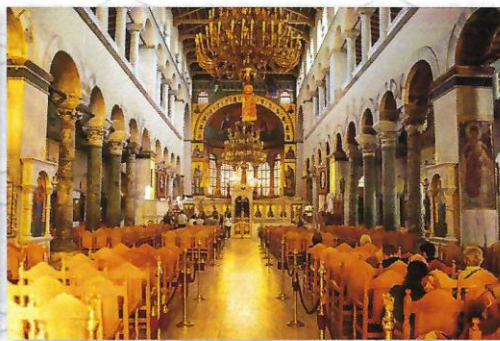
GREECE & GREEK ISLANDS



Tour Leader:
Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix



PACKAGE INCLUDES: Roundtrip Airfare | All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily | Sightseeing in modern, air-conditioned private bus
English-speaking government licensed tour guide | 3-day Cruise | 2 Shore Excursions | **And Much More**



Good Shepherd Travel
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2315 N Parham Road | Henrico, VA
804.270.4626

2025 PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & GREEK ISLANDS

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS | JUNE 4 - 15, 2025



DAY 1 | DEPARTURE

Depart for your overnight flight to Greece, meals will be served on board.

DAY 2 | ATHENS

The trip will start with your arrival in Athens airport where we will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, dinner and overnight in Athens.

DAY 3 | ATHENS CITY TOUR

Vist the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Royal Palace, Pan-Athenian Stadium, World Famous Acropolis, and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where St Paul preached. Walk around the historical churches including: Russian Church, the Holy Church of Lykodemos in Athens, Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, and Kapnikarea Church. The rest of the day is at leisure, dinner and overnight in Athens.

DAY 4 | ATHENS - PIRAEUS (EMBARKATION) - MYKONOS

Embark on a wonderful 3-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily while on board. Mykonos Island: Enjoy free time to explore this little paradise in the middle of the Aegean Sea.

DAY 5 | KUSADASI - EPHESUS - PATMOS

Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the ruins of Ephesus where St. Paul spent three years during his ministry and where he wrote the Epistle to Corinthians I. Visits include: Basilica of St. John, ruin of the famous Diana's temple with the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Odeon, the Arch of Hercules, the Temple of Hadrian, and the Agora and the theater. Your cruise continues to the island of Patmos, a beautiful and spiritual island where In 95 AD, St. John the Theologian - one of the twelve disciples of Jesus - was sent into exile. We will visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will see the Holy Grotto of Revelation and priceless icons and manuscripts. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this picturesque harbor.

DAY 6 | HERAKLION (CRETE) - SANTORINI

In the morning, the ship will dock on the island of Crete. Optional Tour to the Palace of Knossos. After lunch, the ship will travel to the most beautiful island in the Aegean Sea: Santorini

DAY 7 | PIRAEUS (DISEMBARKATION) - ATHENS - THESSALONICA

Early morning disembarkation, we will travel to Thessalonica. On the way, we will stop at Thermopylae, famous for its heroic defense by King of Sparta Leonidas and his courageous Spartans warriors against the Persian army. In Thessalonica we will visit the Museum of Byzantine Culture. Dinner and stay overnight in Thessalonica.

DAY 8 | THESSALONICA - PHILIPPI - KAVALA - THESSALONICA

Philippi Christian tour. Roman Theatre, probable site of the prison where Paul and Silas were held. City of Kavala and the ancient city of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. Visit the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. Dinner and overnight in Thessalonica.

DAY 9 | THESSALONICA - VERGINA - VERIA - KALAMBAKA

City tour of Thessalonica. Cathedral of St. Demetrius, the Protector Saint of the city, the Church of Saint Sofia, the great Church of Saint George, the Byzantine temple of «Panagia Chalkeon», the historical Church of Prophet Elias, the White Tower and the Byzantine fortress of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius Vergina, as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great Veria (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17:10-14). Depart for Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 | KALAMBAKA - METEORA - DELPHI

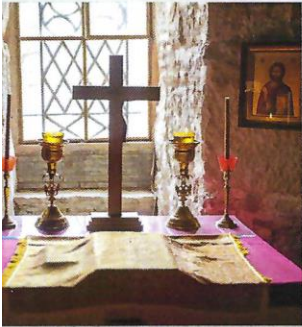
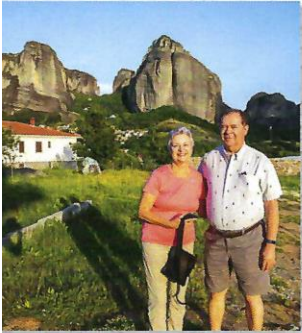
Visit the spectacular Meteora, the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ancient Byzantine monasteries on top of huge rocks, first built in the 14th century. Our next stop will be the most famous, the Great Meteoron, to admire superb icons, old manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. We will then continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

DAY 11 | DELPHI - CORINTH - CENCHREA - ATHENS

Exploration of Delphi - visit the archaeological site and museum. We will also tour the Monastery of Hosis Lukas, Ancient Corinth, the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's seat, the pillars, stairs, and the place of public worship, where Paul preached. Ancient Greek port of Cenchrea (Acts 18:18) and the ruin of the early Christian 5th Century basilica. Return to Athens, dinner and overnight

DAY 12 | ATHENS AIRPORT

According to the schedule of your return flight you will be taken to the airport of Athens.



Note: While we do our very best at making sure all items listed in your itinerary are included, there are times when conditions beyond our control affect your program itinerary, including but not limited to air carrier changes, delays, weather, political climate, time constraints, or changes by your tour leader and tour guide.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$1000.00 per person is due by December 4, 2024. The final payment is due no less than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour (March 04, 2025). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments will be accepted but will incur a 4% surcharge at the time of booking. Reservations received after March 04, 2025 may incur additional charges due to supplier contract terms.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: If a passenger cancels his/her tour membership there will be a cancellation fee of \$100.00 per person to cover administrative and communication costs up until 121 days before departure. For cancellations 120-91 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. 90-61 days before departure the cancellation fee will be 50% of the Cost per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 60 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to Good Shepherd Travel in writing. *Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.*

FARE INCLUSIVE. Roundtrip air transportation from Washington, DC (IAD) International Airport as indicated on the registration form. 7 nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four star hotels by (local standards). 3 nights Cabin accommodation in Standard Inside Cabin IB Category. All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Local breakfasts (B) at the hotel and Lunch. Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motor coaches, utilizing the services of a Government licensed, local English speaking tour guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motor coach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Foreign Country departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motor coach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are Not included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Good Shepherd Travel constantly strives to adhere to the specifics shown in the itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes. Such circumstances may require changes without advance notice during the tour. Good Shepherd Travel reserves the right to change the itinerary if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control force a change. Good Shepherd Travel is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances.

TOUR CANCELLATION: Good Shepherd Travel reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by Good Shepherd Travel, the sole and exclusive responsibility of Good Shepherd Travel is to refund all monies recovered.

NOT INCLUDED: Passport costs, visa fees (if any), and health documentation costs (when required); food and beverages (including coffee and tea) not usually included with the table d'hote meals; optional sightseeing tours and excursions; accident and baggage insurance; transporting and handling excess luggage; tips to persons rendering special personal services; items of a purely person-

al nature such as laundry, telephone, and cable expenses, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

AIR ROUTINGS: The brochure price includes IATA jet economy class transportation from the international departure city applicable on all IATA and ARC carriers, based on the 6/45 day Apex fare to the Europe. Good Shepherd Travel. Reserves the right to choose the air carrier, routing, and departure time for each passenger. Airfares used are based on contracted group fares and are highly restrictive. Payments for and restrictions on airline tickets are governed by the applicable fare. Cancellation fees levied by the airlines are applicable if you cancel or change your air ticket for any reason after purchase of air ticket. Ticketing must be completed 45 days prior to departure. Group fares do not permit deviations; passengers who wish to deviate may arrange their own airfare. An airline credit of \$1250.00 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify Good Shepherd Travel in writing on or before March 4, 2025. Seat numbers will be assigned by the airline at check-in; specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Passengers are responsible for providing frequent flyer information upon check-in.

HOTELS: Tour prices are per person, based on two people sharing a room in Deluxe hotels. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$1090.00 (tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge).

BAGGAGE: You may check no more than one (1) piece of luggage whose overall dimensions does not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. Checking a second bag will cost up to \$100.00. Each passenger may also bring one (1) piece of carry-on luggage. Tips to hotel porters are included for one normal sized piece of luggage, excluding carry-on bags which must remain in your possession at all times. These regulations may change without notice so please read the monthly correspondence you will receive from Good Shepherd Travel for the most current information. Garment bags cannot be carried. Under no circumstances may dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances be contained in any baggage. Medications, valuables, passports, and a change of clothing should be packed in your carry-on bag.

DISABILITIES: Due to the difficult terrain at sites we visit, persons requiring oxygen or oxygen therapy will not be permitted on the tour. For reasons of passenger safety and well-being, persons with impaired mobility, vision, or mental capacity will not be permitted on the tour. Good Shepherd Travel reserves the right to refuse passage to someone who is in such physical or mental condition as to be unfit for travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which the tour guide and tour host can provide. The tour requires a substantial amount of walking and the sites are not accessible by wheelchair.

INSURANCE: Acting only as agents for suppliers, Good Shepherd Travel is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of luggage and/or personal belongings, or for personal injury, accident, illness

and/or death as a result of any occurrences or conditions beyond its control, including, but not limited to, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, or theft. For your protection, it is important that you have adequate insurance to cover these possibilities. Additional information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied you prior to departure.

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required and must be obtained in person by each tour member. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office.

PRICE CHANGES: Tour conditions and air fares are subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC, and airline regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. All rates are quoted in US dollars and are based on tariffs and costs in effect on March 4, 2025, and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges of \$678.23 are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Good Shepherd Travel reserves the right to pass along additional fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

DISCLAIMER: Good Shepherd Travel acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation, sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of Good Shepherd Travel. All coupons, receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. By utilizing the services of the suppliers, you agree that Good Shepherd Travel shall not be liable for any accident, loss, injury, death, or damage of any kind to you or to those traveling with you. This includes, but is not limited to, conditions beyond its control, defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, strikes, terrorist attacks, hostage situations, kidnappings, hijackings, protests, riots, public demonstrations, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary or schedules. At the time of printing a TRAVEL WARNING as issued by the United States Department of State was in effect for parts of Greece. Remember also that all travel documents as well as compliance with customs regulations are your responsibility. The terms under which you agree to take these tours cannot be changed or amended except in writing, signed by an authorized officer of Good Shepherd Travel. Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time you are not on board the aircraft. The passenger contract in use by the airline, when issued, constitutes the sole agreement between it and you. By virtue of my signature on the registration form below I acknowledge and assume all risks associated with this trip and I agree that Good Shepherd Travel assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against Good Shepherd Travel, and Trinity Lutheran Church/ Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix.

ACCEPTANCE: Registration for trip and payment of deposit constitutes your acceptance of the "Fine Print."

TRIP DATE: June 4 - 15, 2025 | **PACKAGE PRICE:** \$4890 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** \$1090 (Private Room)

PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Round trip airline tickets
- Meet & Assist at Airports upon arrivals and departures.
- Three overnights in Thessaloniki (*hotel Kapsis or similar*) including breakfast daily
- One overnight in Kalambaka (*hotel Amalia or similar*) including breakfast daily
- Three overnights in Athens (*hotel Stanley or similar*) including breakfast daily
- 3-day cruise extension
- Air-conditioned motor coach throughout for all tours and transfers
- Services of English speaking professional, licensed guide for all sites and museums as per itinerary
- Dinners during tours includes one soft drink or glass of wine per person
- Welcome dinner in Thessaloniki includes house wine
- Transfers from and to airports

- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Road tolls and all applicable taxes
- Lunches

PACKAGE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Soft drinks.
- Tips for Guide, Driver.
- All Personal Expenses.
- Travel Insurance.
- Anything not mentioned as included.

I agree to the conditions as stated above:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Notes: *Rates are per person in US dollar in twin/double and include port and service charges (\$136.00 per person) and are All-Inclusive. Single Supplement + 50% except categories XF,SJ,SB, SG which are + 100% from given rates. Shore Excursions Package Deal (includes tour to Ephesus, Patmos and Rhodes) \$ 168.00 per person and is compulsory (Included).*

AIRLINE PREFERENCE

- Airline Ticket from IAD \$4890
- Airline Ticket from _____
- NO** Airline Ticket (-\$1050)
Please Select One!

Trinity Lutheran Church
Tour Leader: Rev. Dr. Roy Minnix
Pilgrimage to Greece and Greek Islands
June 4 - 15, 2025
 Group Reference Number: **G060425**



PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please complete one application per person)

Full Name (as printed on your passport)			
First Name:	Middle Name:	Last Name:	
Name (as you wish it to appear on your name badge)		Date of Birth:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Mailing Address:			
Street:	City:	ST:	Zip:
Mobile Phone:	Home Phone:	Work Phone:	
Email Address:			

PASSPORT INFORMATION

Country of Citizenship:	Passport Number:
Passport Date of Issue:	Passport Date of Expiration:
Frequent Flyer Number:	Known Traveler Number:

ROOM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

<p>Please Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Double/Triple Occupancy <input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy (Private Room - \$1090.00 additional)</p> <p><i>*All Prices are in US Dollars, based on per-person in a double/triple room. Passengers rooming alone are subject to single supplement.*</i></p>
If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate if known at time of booking:
If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please list the name, relationship, and phone number for a family member/close friend who is <u>NOT</u> traveling with you:
--

I agree to the terms and conditions as stated in this tour contract:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of your current passport and a deposit of **\$500.00 per person**, made payable to:
Good Shepherd Travel • 9021 Washington Lane • Lantana, TX 76226



Toll Free: 1.84HolyLand (1.844.659.5263) Fax: 1.844.659.5263
 www.GoodShepherdTravel.com | info@GoodShepherdTravel.com





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Welcome! Count Yourself and Your Family In!