



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

EGYPT AND THE HOLY LAND

March 21 – April 3, 2023 14 Days

Hosted by Pr. Peter and Michele Johnson



Pastor Peter and Michele Johnson seek to provide a one-of-a-kind trip to the Holy Land and Egypt that combines the historic sites of faith in the Holy Land with their unique personal and professional life living in the dynamic Middle East.

Pastor Peter's experience in the Middle East began at a young age with his missionary parents, living in Cairo, Egypt from 1978 to 1982. Later, his parents were based in Jerusalem where his father served as Regional Representative for the Lutheran World Federation. Pastor Peter and Michele met while students at Gustavus Adolphus College. Michele joined him in Jerusalem when Pastor Peter worked at St. George's College Jerusalem, an Anglican retreat center that orientated Christian travelers to the biblical, socio-political, historical and geographical complexities of the Holy Land. While attending Luther Seminary, Pastor Peter earned a Master's

of Divinity and a Master's of Arts in Islamic Studies.

Pastor Peter and Michele lived in Rochester, New York, and Minneapolis while Pastor Peter served two congregations and Michele continued to develop her business marketing and communications career from 1998-2008. Pastor Peter and Michele moved their family to Cairo, Egypt, in 2008 where he served as Regional Representative for the Middle East for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Mission, managing relationships with church companions and social service agencies related to the ELCA partners. His administrative responsibilities brought him to Jordan, Lebanon and Jerusalem, including the facilitation of two ELCA Bishop's Academy trips to accompany



the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land. Also while in Cairo, Pastor Peter served as pastor of St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo and Executive Director of St. Andrew's Refugee Services. Pastor Peter and Michele led a trip of St. Andrew members and friends to the Holy Land six years ago.

Pastor Peter and Michele were privileged to share the experiences of missionary life with their sons Alex, Andrew and Liam (now 22, 19 and 17 years old). Together they enjoyed the adventures of foreign living while navigating its many complexities. Highlights include the diverse friendships developed with families from many countries, the rich conglomeration of diverse friendship within and outside the church, a personal and experience of Middle Eastern historical and political complexities, and the adoption of Egyptian street cats named Smudgie and Wally.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

TUE 21 MAR Depart U.S.

The day is here for your biblical journey! Depart Minneapolis /St. Paul for the transatlantic flight to Cairo. (Meals in-flight).

WED 22 MAR Arrival in Cairo

Connect in Europe with the continuing flight to Egypt. Upon arrival in Cairo meet your Egyptian host and guide, Romani Gaballa. Transfer to your hotel for overnight and dinner. Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel (Meals in-flight, D)

THU 23 MAR Cairo

Visit the Grand Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to view the unique collection of Pharaonic art with a Special Pass to the renowned Collection of treasures of King Tutankhamen. Stop for a lunch of typical foods at Felfela Restaurant, then, we visit Ibn Tulun, the Oldest Mosque in Cairo with its twisted minaret and a chance to climb it. Top your day experiences with a remarkable visit will be to the Zabbaleen garbage district where residents (mostly Christian) collect two-thirds of Cairo's waste and recycle 85% of that. Steigenberger Pyramids Hotel (B, L, D)

FRI 24 MAR Cairo/Anafoura

Today worship at St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo where Pr. Peter and Michele served from 2008 to 2012. St. Andrew's is an interdenominational and international congregation, which partners with the ELCA. Meet the pastor of church, the pastor of the refugee congregation and StARS staff. In 1979, StARS was founded by St. Andrew's to serve refugees (mostly of Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia) through English language instruction and community support. StARS was one of the first organizations in Egypt dedicated to improving the quality of life of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants. Enjoy lunch at the famous Andria's chicken restaurant. Proceed to the Giza Plateau to see the only remaining site of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, the Great Pyramid of Cheops (Khufu), which dates from 2600 B.C.E. Nearby see the pyramids of Chefren and Mykerinos, and the majestic Sphinx, guardian of the plateau. Depart for the retreat center in Anafoura for dinner followed by vespers. Anafoura Retreat Center. (B, L, D)

SAT 25 MAR Anafoura/Cairo

This day will be devoted to learning about Coptic Christian beliefs and exploring Wadi Natrun. Christianity reached the area with St. Makarios the Great who retreated there in 330 C.E. Then the area became a sanctuary for Christians who were fleeing the systematic Roman persecution in the 4th century and there they started to develop a monastic order. The area once flourished with tens of monasteries of which only four survived. Visit the ancient Monastery of St. Makarios with the crypt of John the Baptist and El Surian Monastery with lovely 4th century frescoes. Return to our hotel in Cairo for check-in, dinner and overnight. Holiday Inn City Stars Hotel (B, L, D)

SUN 26 MAR Cairo/Tel Aviv/Tiberias

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Tel Aviv. Upon arrival at Ben Gurion airport, meet your guide and driver. Drive to Caesarea, once the Roman capital of Palestine. See the Crusader fortifications, the Roman Theater and aqueduct, and the harbor from where the Apostle Paul was taken to Rome. Pass by Megiddo, one of Solomon's chariot cities, before traveling to Nazareth to visit the Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well. Later today arrive in Tiberias on the shores of the Galilee. Kibbutz Nof Ginosar (B, D)

MON 27 MAR Tiberias

Sail on the peaceful waters of the Galilee. See the ancient synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum, where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others. Drive to the Church of Multiplication on the north shore, built on the site of the miracle of the fishes and loaves. Share in communion here. Visit the lovely Church of the Beatitudes. In the course of the day stop for lunch at a restaurant overlooking the Sea of Galilee (own expense). Kibbutz Nof Ginosar (B,D)

TUE 28 MAR Tiberias/Bethlehem

Drive through the Jordan Valley to Aida Refugee Camp where Palestinians have lived since 1948 – tour the site and talk with residents. If possible, the group will join a cooking class at Noor Weg Women's Empowerment and then eat the lunch. Continue to Shepherds' Fields in Beit Sahour. This is the best place to view Bethlehem as it would have been seen by shepherds at the time of Jesus' birth. Next visit the Israeli settlement of Efrat where a resident will introduce you to his community. Hotel check in and dinner. St. Gabriel Hotel (B,L,D)

WED 29 MAR Bethlehem

Begin the day with a guided walking tour of the Old City of Bethlehem visiting the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square. Tour the region's only arts college, Dar al-Kalima University of Arts & Culture. Meet with The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (subject to his availability), faculty, staff and students to learn how arts and cultural initiatives ensure that today's Palestinians have abundant life. This university also serves the needs of the broader community through a range of contextual and holistic programs via Dar al-Kalima's Outreach program for Older Adults, Youth and Families. DAK partners with Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the U.S. Hear a presentation by a representative of the Parents' Circle of both Israeli and Palestinian bereaved parents. St. Gabriel Hotel (B,D)

THU 30 MAR Bethlehem

Drive to Jerusalem to visit the Western Wall and visit to the Haram al Sharif (Temple Mount) with views of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque (inside visits not available). Then meet with the Lutheran World Federation representative at the Augusta Victoria Hospital campus. Learn about the healing work being done for the Palestinian community. Savor the stunning panoramic view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Continue to Yad Vashem, the moving memorial and museum grounds that commemorate, document and educate about the Holocaust. Return to Bethlehem and enjoy some free time. Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem. St. Gabriel Hotel (B,D)

FRI 31 MAR Bethlehem/Jerusalem

Travel to the lowest point of the world, the Dead Sea. Take time for an optional float in this unique body of water at Ein Bokek. Enjoy a short hike at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve. Take the cable car up to Masada, where the Jewish Zealots held their last resistance against the Roman conquerors. From the road view the caves at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. In Jericho view the Mount of Temptation and the site of the oldest city in the world. Proceed to Jerusalem for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. Gloria Hotel (B,D)

SAT 01 APR Jerusalem

Receive a comprehensive overview of the Old City of Jerusalem. Begin your walk along the Via Dolorosa at the Church of St. Anne, stop the Church of the Sisters of Zion (Ecce Homo) to see the original

street level pavement from the time of Jesus. Arrive at the Church of Holy Sepulchre which houses the final five Stations of the Cross. Meet with the English-language pastor to learn about the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and see how the world's only Arabic-speaking Lutheran church ministers to its context. Gather for a festive party at a local restaurant. Gloria Hotel (B,D)

SUN 02 APR Jerusalem

Worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. This afternoon proceed to the Mount of Olives and join the annual Palm Sunday procession that follows the steps of Jesus down the Mountain and through the Kidron Valley to the ancient city of Jerusalem. Along the way, you'll pass the remarkable, tear-shaped Church of Dominus Flevit, the Garden of Gethsemane and Basilica of Agony. You'll enter the Old City through the Lion's Gate, and the procession will continue along the Via Dolorosa, the route Jesus is said to have walked between his condemnation by Pontius Pilate and his Crucifixion and Burial. The procession ends at the Church of St. Anne. Gloria Hotel (B,D)

MON 03 APR Return to U.S.

Transfer this morning for flight check-in and departure. Arrive home enriched by your encounters with the people and places of Egypt and the Holy Land. (Meals in-flight).

Code: Breakfast, Lnch, Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.
Speakers subject to availability.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ **AIRFARE:** Round-trip economy class airfare from Minneapolis/St. Paul to Cairo on Lufthansa airlines, Egypt air or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carriers.
- ✓ **ACCOMMODATION:** Twelve (12) nights' accommodation in superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities
- ✓ **MEALS:** Breakfast and dinner daily with four lunches as outlined in program. Farewell dinner at traditional restaurant in Bethlehem or Jerusalem
- ✓ **GROUND TRANSPORT:** Transfers and transportation by deluxe motor coach throughout.
- ✓ **SIGHTSEEING:** Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included as per program.
- ✓ **PORTERAGE:** Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- ✓ **EXPERT GUIDES:** An experienced English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Cairo through departure from Tel Aviv. Samir Baboun confirmed as one of guide in Israel and Palestine.
- ✓ **WHISPER SETS:** Individual whisper sets throughout the tour along with two transmitters (for guide and tour leader) \$15 per person.
- ✓ **GRATUITIES:** Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel and restaurant staff (for your convenience, \$170 per person has been included).
- ✓ **VISA:** Egypt Entry Visa cost and services included.
- ✓ **TAXES:** Airport/foreign departure taxes
- ✓ **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.

COST SUMMARY

***\$5,329**

Group Flights from Minneapolis/St. Paul

Tour Gratuities (\$170)..... Included

*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room (in addition to base tour cost)..... \$1050

Costs : The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Omaha (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of March 2022, a minimum of 30 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.

This tour requires considerable walking. Please check with your tour leader if you have any questions.



TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$500 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 November 15, 2022. Final payment is due no later than Jan 20, 2023. The fee for late payment is \$50 per traveler. **For credit cards, STT accepts Visa and MasterCard (1.5% service charge). PayPal is also an option if needed (subject to service charge of 3 % processing fee).**

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 Nov 15th, 2022 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; November 15th – March 10, 2023– Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; March 10 2023 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 October 01, 2021. A minimum fee of \$100 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.

TO REGISTER FOR TOUR

To register for this tour, please complete the **Reservation Application online at: <https://shepherdstours.com/package/st-andrew-lutheran/>** or send us an email to tours@shepherdstours.com and we will email you the Online Application Form.



TRAVEL PROTECTION

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. STT offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Seven Corners Insurance. 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 20 days of the initial trip deposit. To review the full plan, get a quote and purchase please visit: <https://purchase.sevencorners.com/policygroup/HW7C6WH/HGP5DXM/>

You may contact our Sales Agent at Seven Corners Travel Insurance for further information before making your decision.

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TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS

Trip Cancellation
Trip Interruption
Travel Delay (6 hours)
Missed connection (3 hours)
Baggage
Baggage Delay
Medical Expense
Emergency Dental Expense
Medical Evacuation & Repatriation of remains
Political Emergency Evacuation
ID Theft Resolution Services
Assistance Service

Note: If you prefer to purchase your travel insurance from a different company, please make sure that the Policy includes coverage for any COVID related illness as this is now a prerequisite for entry into Israel.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Shepherds Tours & Travel (STT) provides customized travel planning throughout Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt 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 STT in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from STT. In offering these travel arrangements, Shepherds Tours & Travel (STT) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. STT maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. STT 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 STT; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of STT. STT 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. STT 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...their respective organizations.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:

Be assured that Shepherds Tour and Travel (STT) continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed the U.S. State Department Travel Advisory for this destination was Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution); refer to the following website for current information or call STT & Travel. <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

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