

“And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home[a] of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them;” (Rev 21:2-4)

It’s been a sad day ever since I opened my eyes this Tuesday morning. Before I was even awake, I was receiving text messages on my phone and so knew something was up. I responded to the texts and phone calls to find that our tour group decided to cancel our trip to the Holy Land as of this morning. **BUMMER!** We were just getting excited to prepare for the trip and begin packing to go!

The tour company was verifying our itinerary and found there were a number of locations that might not have been open to visitors because of the Covid pandemic. That, with the fact, if one of us were to have gotten sick or tested positive for the Covid we would have been forced to quarantine at our hotel at our own expense.

However, not all has been lost! **We STILL have the opportunity to go...** even if this will be the third year of planning! There is another tour being planned through the synod to go to Jerusalem with our Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod.... And YOU too are invited to come!

This will be a unique and meaningful pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The tour will include visits to Biblical and historical sites, worship opportunities, learning about our relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land (ELCJHL) and connections with Lutheran World Federation through Augusta Victoria Hospital, as well as hearing first hand the stories of the living stones, the people of the land.

Our tour group will meet monthly starting in the summer of 2022. If you are interested in being a part of NEXT YEAR’S adventure go to :

<https://www.eliastours.com/tours/bishop-deborah-k-hutterer-grand-canyon-synod-holy-land-trip>

Peace be to all of you in this New Year!

Pastor Tony