



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January, 2024

Dear Members of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am delighted to extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join me on a spiritual journey to the Holy Land from June 18 to June 29, 2024. This pilgrimage is made possible through the gracious invitation from Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, and Bishop Pedro Suarez of the Florida Bahamas Synod who will be travel with constituents from their respective synods.

This sacred journey is an opportunity for us to deepen our faith, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and experience the rich history and culture of the Holy Land. Together, we will visit Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and the Jordan River, among other sacred sites. Exploring the places where Jesus lived, preached, and performed miracles will undoubtedly be a transformative and enriching experience.

Traveling together as a community will strengthen our bonds, create lasting memories, and provide us with a shared spiritual journey that will continue to inspire and uplift us long after we return home.

Enclosed you will find detailed information about the itinerary, accommodation, and logistics for the trip. I encourage you to prayerfully consider joining me on this sacred pilgrimage. For any general questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Yvonne Curtis via email at ycurtis@sepa.org (in the subject line list Greece Tour), or text or call her mobile 267-237-8595. *All who register with the initial deposit will be invited to a group informational session scheduled and led by Good Shepherd Travel.*

May the Lord bless our preparations and guide us on this holy journey.

In His service,

Bishop Patricia Davenport

God's work. Our hands.

7241 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19119-1723 phone 267.323.3737 fax 267.323.3777 www.ministrylink.org

Steps of Paul

GREECE & GREEK ISLANDS

Package Price : \$4,890.00 From Newark, NJ (EWR)

JUNE 18 - 29, 2024

Package Price Includes

- * Round - Trip Airfare
- * All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- * Daily breakfast and lunch
- * 9 days sightseeing in modern air conditioned private bus
- * English speaking government licensed tour guide on duty
- * 4 day cruise
- * 2 Shore excursions (Kusadasi + Patmos)



Bp. Patricia Davenport



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Phone: (267) 323-3737

7241 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA



Good Shepherd Travel

Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263

www.goodshepherdtravel.com



Greece & Greek Islands

June 18 - 29, 2024

Athens – Mykonos – Kusadasi Ephesus - Patmos – Crete Heraklio – Santorini
Thessalonica – Philippi- Kavala- Veria – Vergina- Kalambaka Meteora – Delphi – Ancient Corinth – Cenchrea

DAY 1 Tuesday:

Departure

Depart for your overnight flight to Greece. Meals will be served on board!

DAY 2 Wednesday:

Athens

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

DAY 3 Thursday:

Athens City Tour

After breakfast we will go on a city tour where we will visit the main points of interest in the city: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Royal Palace, Pan-Athenian Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and visit the world famous Acropolis, with its new Museum as well as Monastiraki (the Old Flea Market) and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentile Nation. The tour will continue on a walk around the historical churches found in Athens. We start from what is known to Athenians as the Russian Church, the Holy Church of Lykodemos Sotira is one of the oldest and largest Byzantine churches in Athens. The next stop will be located on Monastiraki Square, the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, or Pantanassa, was once called the Great Monastery, and today is known commonly as Monastiraki. This 10th-century arched basilica was first mentioned in a 17th-century document when the church was managed as part of the Kaisariani Monastery. Kapnikarea Church will be the final stop and it stands out as a major landmark in Athens' Byzantine past. Dating from the 11th century, the church lies in the middle of Ermou Street and is dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary. The church was built atop an older, Christian temple, commissioned in the fifth century AC by the Byzantine empress Eudokia, wife of Theodosius the Younger. Constructed on foundations of the ancient temple of Athena or, perhaps, Demeter, Kapnikarea Church is today owned by the University of Athens. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and Overnight in Athens.

CRUISE EXCURSION

DAY 4 Friday:

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, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands, is your first stop. This charming, mountainous island is known for the hundreds of tiny chapels, white-washed buildings and beautiful windmills that dot its landscape. Don't miss taking a stroll down Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. Enjoy free time to explore this little paradise in the middle of the Aegean Sea.

DAY 5 Saturday:

Kusadasi / Ephesus / Patmos

Breakfast and stop at the Turkish port of Kusadasi for an included excursion to the ruins of Ephesus where Paul the Saint spent three years during his ministry and where its inhabitants were the recipients of Paul's famous epistle. Ancient Ephesus was the Roman capital of Asia Minor and an important center for Christianity from AD 50s. During AD52-54 Saint Paul lived here working with the congregation and organizing his missionary activity and taught the Word of God (Acts 20:31) and this is where he wrote the Epistle to Corinthians I. Additionally this was one of the seven cities found in the Book of Revelation(Acts 2:1-7), indicating a strong church. We will visit the house of Virgin Mary where she lived with John, on the hill behind the city.

After this amazing experience we will have lunch and then visit the Basilica of St. John as well as the ruins 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, the Agora and the Greco-Roman theater. Continue your cruise 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. St. John remained on the island for eighteen months during which time he lived in a cave below the hilltop temple of Diana. In this cave exists a small hole in the rock wall, from which derived a series of oracular messages that Prochoros, a disciple of St. John, transcribed as the Biblical chapter of Revelations. During his time in the sacred cave, now known as the Holy Grotto of the Revelation, St. John also composed the Fourth Gospel. During our time there we will visit the Monastery of St. John the Theologian UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will see the Holy Grotto as well as priceless icons and manuscripts. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque harbor.

DAY 6 Sunday:***Heraklion (Crete) / Santorini***

In the morning the ship will dock at the port of Heraklion on the island of Crete. In Heraklion Paul met the owner and captain of the ship, who warned him about continuing his journey to Rome. You can take a tour (optional) to the Palace of Knossos, the center of the Minoan civilization. After lunch, the ship will travel to the most beautiful island in the Aegean Sea known as the "Black Pearl of the Aegean", the volcanic Santorini where we will enjoy the breathtaking Panoramic View. Latest excavations have suggested that Santorini might be the lost sight of Atlantis.

DAY 7 Monday:***Piraeus (Disembarkation) / Athens / Thessalonica***

After early morning disembarkation, we will travel towards the largest city on Northern Greece, Thessalonica which was an early center for Christianity, where Paul visited and preached during the winters of 49-50 A.D. and wrote two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. On the way we will make a 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, one of the finest museums in the world devoted to Byzantine art and civilization with an impressive collection of many Byzantine and early Christian frescoes, icons and artifacts. We will have dinner and stay overnight in Thessalonica.

DAY 8 Tuesday:***Thessalonica / Philippi / Kavala / Thessalonica***

After breakfast we depart for our one day Philippi Christian tour. Philippi is the town where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. "And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days..." (Acts 16:12-18). Paul arrived here with Silas and Luke in the winter of AD 49 to AD50. There the first Christian baptism was performed, of a woman named Lydia. Although they were prosecuted and arrested, they received God's help to escape from prison (Acts 16: 11-23) where there was the conversion of the jailer (Acts 16: 23-26). We will visit the Roman Theatre, probable site of the prison where Paul and Silas were arrested. We will continue towards the city of Kavala and the ancient city of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. It was later renamed Christoupolis, meaning city of God, because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will visit the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. Dinner and overnight in Thessalonica.

DAY 9 Wednesday:***Thessalonica / Vergina / Veria / Kalambaka***

Breakfast and city tour of Thessalonica, where Paul preached the gospel in the second and third missionary journey. For the early Christians of this city he wrote epistles "To the Thessalonians.". We will visit the Cathedral of St. Demetrios, the Protector Saint of the city, the Church of Saint Sofia, the great Church of Saint George which is hosted in a medieval building, 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 starting at the Via Egnatia, once a strategic artery of the Roman Empire. Then we will head to Vergina, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered as a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great and conqueror of Greek territories which resulted in the expansion of Hellenism. Next stop will be Veria (Berea), another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17:10-14). When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more "noble" Jewish community where he preached and created an important Church.

This is where Paul met Sopatros, who would later become a valuable comrade who followed him on his return journey to Asia. We will visit the ancient synagogue where we will see the Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. According to tradition it was at this place where he preached. Depart for Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 Thursday:

Kalambaka / Meteora / Delphi

After breakfast the trip continues with a visit the spectacular Meteora, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a mountainous region of stunning scenery. You will see hundred-year-old Byzantine monasteries on top of huge rocks, during the Middle Ages, first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. We will visit the most famous of them, which is now a popular museum, the Great Meteoron, to admire superb icons, old manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. We will continue to Delphi for dinner and overnight.

DAY 11 Friday:

Delphi / Corinth / Cenchrea / Athens

Breakfast and exploration of Delphi. Delphi is the famous oracle where the priestess of Apollo, Pitia, influenced, with their prophecies the history of cities and states of antiquity. Visit the archaeological site and museum. The museum houses an impressive collection associated with ancient Delphi, including the earliest known notation of a melody, the famous Charioteer, golden treasures discovered beneath the Sacred Way, and fragments of reliefs from the Siphnian Treasury. Close to the exit is the inscription that mentions the Roman proconsul Gallio. The reference to proconsul Gallio in the inscription provides an important marker for developing a chronology of the life of Apostle Paul by relating it to the trial of Paul in Achaea mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (18:12-17). In the same region you will find the famous Monastery of Hosios Lukas. This is a historic walled monastery and one of the most important monuments of Middle Byzantine architecture and art, and has been listed on UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. We will continue towards ancient Corinth (Acts 18:1-18). It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and writing two of the epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. We will see all the sites that are associated with his ministry: 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. All these visits will certainly enhance the understanding of Corinthians I and II. Before ending the tour and return to Athens, we will visit the ancient Greek port of Cenchrea (Acts 18:18) where Paul was during his second missionary journey and the ruin of the early Christian 5th Century basilica. Return to Athens, dinner and overnight.

DAY 12 Saturday:

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 March 29, 2023. The final payment is due no less than 60 days prior to the departure date of the tour (April 29, 2024). 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 April 29, 2024 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 Goodshepherd Travel in writing. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

FARE INCLUSIVE: Roundtrip air transportation from Newark, NJ (EWR) International 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., maître d', table waiter, etc.) are Not included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE: Goodshepherd 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. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to change the Itinerary if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control force a change. Goodshepherd Travel is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances.

TOUR CANCELLATION: Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by Goodshepherd Travel, the sole and exclusive responsibility of Goodshepherd 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'hôte 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 personal 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. Goodshepherd 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 Goodshepherd Travel. in writing on or before April 29, 2024. 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 \$950.00 (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 Goodshepherd 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. Goodshepherd 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, Goodshepherd 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 travel insurance to cover these possibilities. Additional information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied to 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 in March 2023, and are subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges of \$687.00 are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Goodshepherd Travel reserves the right to pass along additional fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

DISCLAIMER: Goodshepherd 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 Goodshepherd 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 Goodshepherd 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 Goodshepherd 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 Goodshepherd Travel assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against Goodshepherd Travel., or Pr. Khader EL-Yateem, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA, Bp. Patricia Davenport

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

Trip date:
June 18 - 29, 2024

Package Price: \$4890.00

Single supplement is \$950.00 (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
- 4-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).



RESERVATION APPLICATION

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Spiritual Leader: Bp. Patricia Davenport

Pilgrimage to the Greece and Greek Islands

Group Reference Number: **G061924D**

(June 18 - 29, 2024)

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:	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Mailing Address:	Street:	Mobile phone:	Home phone:
City:	State:	Zip code:	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

Please check one: Double/Triple occupancy Single occupancy (**Private Room**) \$950.00 additional

All prices are in US Dollars based on per person in a double/Triple room, Passengers rooming alone is subject to single supplement

If choosing double occupancy, please indicate the name of your roommate if known at the time of booking:

If choosing single occupancy, would you be willing to share a room with another person? Yes No

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a copy of current passport and a deposit of **\$500.00 per person** made payable to

Goodshepherd Travel

9021 Washington Lane
Lantana, Texas 76226

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Toll Free: 1-84HolyLand (4-659-5263) FAX: 1(844)659-5263
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