

2009 Bishops' Academy
January 3-6, 2009—Ready Bench\Jordan Trip
January 6-14, 2009—Academy
January 14-16, 2009—Optional Galilee Extension

A. Purpose of the Trip:

In 2005 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed the “Strategy for Engagement of Israel and Palestine” which encouraged the congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to be engaged in awareness building, accompaniment, and advocacy. It is the hope the 2009 ELCA/ELCIC Bishops' Academy held in Israel, Jordan, and Palestine will accomplish the following to equip ELCA/ELCIC bishops to better support this strategy. On this trip we hope to:

Deepen Awareness: Learn about the situation in the Holy Land, share information, and build networks. It will be important to hear both the Palestinian and Israeli perspectives, so upon our return home, we can demonstrate, even though only experiencing a glimpse of the complexity, that we had the opportunity to hear, see, and experience both sides of this issue. We will also better understand the impact of Christian, Islamic, and Jewish theologies in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Demonstrate Accompaniment: Build relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the ministries of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and other ecumenical and interfaith companions engaged in the pursuit of peace in the Holy Land.

Strengthen Advocacy: Increase our ability to intensify advocacy for a just peace in the region, building upon Evangelical Lutheran Church in America/Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and predecessor body policies and to engage with the public media in this effort.

Strengthen Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations: The world cries for peace with guidance so it will be important to pray faithfully to answer that cry together. The ELCA has long-standing ecumenical and inter-religious dialogues in multiple contexts, from local to international. We will work towards addressing and resolving conflict, from the stigmatization of our Muslim neighbors, to instances of anti-Semitic rhetoric in public media.

B. Final Itinerary – December 2008:

Friday, January 2, 2009 (In Flight)

Some traveling to Amman, Jordan; arriving January 3, 2009

Saturday, January 3, 2009 (Jordan/In Flight)

Some traveling to Amman, Jordan; arriving January 4, 2009

Transportation from airport to Jerusalem Hotel in Amman, Jordan

Check in at hotel

24 hour Food Service available in hotel

8:00 PM – Evening prayer

Sunday, January 4, 2009 (Jordan/In Flight)

Transportation from airport to Jerusalem Hotel in Amman, Jordan for those arriving from the US on 1/4/09; check in at hotel

(Petra Participants)

5:00 – 5:45 AM – Breakfast in hotel (might be a “box breakfast” in route!)

6:00 AM – Bus to Petra; AM prayer on bus

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM Tour of Petra

1:30 PM - Box lunch in route back to Amman
5:00 PM – 6:15 PM Dinner at Jerusalem Hotel
6:30 PM – Bus to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7:00 PM – Worship: Confirmation Service; reception to follow
9:30 PM – Bus back to Jerusalem Hotel
10:00 PM – Evening Prayer and Reflections (Other time options for reflections? over dinner; next morning at breakfast; other ideas?)

Monday, January 5, 2009 (Jordan)

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM – Breakfast at hotel
8:15 – 9:15 AM – Morning prayer; Welcome; Orientation

Small Group

10:00 AM – Meet the Chief of Staff and other officials of His Majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Lunch

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM – Meet with Fr. Nabil Haddad from the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center; Signing Ceremony

6 PM – Transport to Reception at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Large Group

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM – Large group to Madaba and Mt. Nebo

Lunch in route

4:30 PM – Bus arrives back at hotel

6 PM – Transport to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Whole Group

6:30 PM – Reception with key Jordanian religious and governmental leaders

8:30 PM – Dinner hosted by Fr. Nabil Haddad of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center

10:00 PM – Transport back to hotel

10:30 PM – Evening Prayer and Reflections (Other time options for reflections? over dinner; next morning at breakfast; other ideas?)

1/5/09 – Remaining Bishops Academy participants depart United States/Canada

Tuesday, January 6, 2009 (Jordan/Jerusalem)

6:00 – 7:30 AM – Breakfast at hotel; Check-out; luggage outside doors before leaving for breakfast

7:30 – 8:15 AM – Morning prayer; meeting

8:30 AM – Transport to the baptismal site, accompanied by representative of King Abdullah II

9:30 – 12:00 PM – Tour of Baptism site and Eucharist at the River Jordan

12:00 – 12:45 PM – Bus transportation

12:45 – 2:30 PM – Lunch at the Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Center

2:30 PM - Bus to King Allenby Bridge border crossing

3:30 – 4:30 PM – Transportation to Jerusalem

1:00 – 5 PM – Remaining Bishops' Academy participants arrive Tel Aviv; transported by buses to hotels: Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and Knight's Palace

6 PM – Buffet dinner at Notre Dame; Welcome and Introductions

7:30 PM – Evening Prayer for Epiphany at Notre Dame

8:30 PM – Orientation; Brief meeting

9:30 Evening Dessert Reception

10:00 PM – 2:00 AM – Orthodox Christmas Eve Midnight Service held in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem for those who signed up.

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 (Jerusalem/Old City)

6 – 8 AM – Breakfast at hotels

8:30 AM – Walk into the Old City to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

9:00 AM – Eucharist at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM - Reception
11:00 AM – Tour of Haram Esh Sharif and El ‘Aqsa Mosque with the Grand Mufti Muhammad Ahmad Hussein
12:30 Lunch at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer’s Refectory
1:30 PM – Walking tour of the Old City
5 PM – Return to the hotels by this time
6 – 7 PM – Dinner Buffet at Notre Dame
7:00 PM - Presentation by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
8:00 PM – Presentation and conversation with an Israeli and a Palestinian representative from the Parents Circle – Family Forum organization
9:15 PM – Dessert reception; to include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) pastors and spouses
10 PM – Closing worship

Thursday, January 8, 2009 (Guests of Israel in Jerusalem)

6 – 8 AM – Breakfast at hotels

8:30 AM – Morning prayers

Small Group

AM – Meetings with Israeli Government Officials: Prime Minister, President, Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism, Chief Rabbis

Large Group

AM – TBD by our Israeli Hosts

Whole Group

Lunch

1:00 PM – Visit Yad Vashem: Holocaust Museum – Wreath Laying Ceremony

4:00 PM – Visit Western Wall (Old City)

6:00 PM – Dinner guests of Israeli hosts

10:00 PM – Evening prayer and reflections at hotels

Friday, January 9, 2009 (Jerusalem/Bethlehem/Beit Jala)

6 – 7:30 AM – Breakfast at hotels; check-out/load buses based on the color-coding on luggage tags

7:30 AM – Walk into the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

8:00 – 8:45 AM – Morning worship service at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

9:30 AM – Board buses back at Notre Dame to Augusta Victoria Hospital

10:00 – 2:00 PM – Augusta Victoria Hospital tour and LWF presentation

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Transport to Bethlehem/Beit Jala; check into hotels

3 – 6 PM – Guests of the Kol Hana Synagogue for discussion and participation in a Shabbat service, with prior sign-up required

6:30 PM – Board buses from hotels to travel to International Center of Bethlehem (ICB)

7:00 PM – Dinner at ICB

8:30 PM – Evening prayer at Christmas Lutheran Church

9:30 PM – Board buses to return to hotels

10:00 PM – Reflection groups back at hotels

Saturday, January 10, 2009 (Bethlehem/Hebron)

6 – 8 AM – Breakfast at hotels

8:00 AM – Buses leave hotels for Christmas Lutheran Church

8:30 AM – Morning prayer at Christmas Lutheran Church

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM - Tour of the International Center Bethlehem by Dr. Mitri Raheb

9:45AM – 10: 15 AM - Break

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM - Presentation by Bishop Munib Younan, “Accompaniment of ELCA and ELCIC with the ELCJHL”

12:15 PM – Box lunches

12:30 PM – Board buses for tour of Hebron/surrounding areas

5:00 PM – Buses return to hotels

6:00 PM – Board buses to the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB)
6:30 PM – Dinner at ICB
8:30 PM – Evening prayers
9:00 PM – Board buses to hotels for reflection groups

Sunday, January 11, 2009 (Beit Jala/Beit Sahour/Bethlehem/Jerusalem/Ramallah)

6:00 – 8 AM - Breakfast at hotels
7:30 – 8:00 AM – Depending on which church one attends, with smaller groups traveling to different ELCJHL congregations
Worship and lunch with ELCJHL congregations
3:30 PM – Board buses to return to hotels
5:00 - 5:30 PM – Depending on where the reception is, board buses from hotels
6:00 PM – Reception with the Minister of Tourism for the Palestinian Authority (PA)
8:30 PM – Board buses to return to hotels
9:00 PM – Reflection groups

Monday, January 12, 2009 (Guests of Palestine in Ramallah)

6:00 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast at hotels
8:30 AM – Board buses for Ramallah; morning prayer on buses
Small Group
10:00 Meet with the President of the Palestinian Authority, President Mahmoud Abbas and the Prime Minister, Dr. Salam Fayyad
Large Group
10:00 – 12:15 PM – Visit Lutheran School of Hope: tour and conversation with students; presentation by the School of Hope's dance troupe
Lunch
1:00 PM – Visit to the H.E. Yasser Arafat Memorial
1:30 PM – Tree planting ceremony and prayer service at the Separation Wall
4:30 PM – Board buses to leave for hotels
6:00 PM – Canadian Bishops meet with the Representative Graeme McIntyre from Canada (Abraham's House)
6:30 PM – Buses to International Center Bethlehem (ICB)
7:00 PM – Dinner at ICB with heads of churches, US/Canadian Consulate representatives, and local mayors
9:00 PM – Board buses back to hotels
9:30 PM – Reflections and evening prayer

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 (Bethlehem/Beit Jala/Beit Sahour)

6:00 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast at hotels
Small group
8:00 AM – Visit ministries in Gaza
Large group
8:15 AM – 12:00 PM – Board buses to visit ELCJHL schools
12:00 PM – Board buses to ICB
12:30 PM – Lunch and orientation by an Israeli organization regarding Jerusalem housing
1:30 PM – Board buses to Gilo checkpoint; walk through the checkpoint
2:15 PM – 5:00 PM – Tour of Jerusalem, to include driving through an Israeli settlement
5:30 PM – Buses return to hotels
6:30 PM – Board buses to Beit Jala
7:00 PM – Worship and Eucharist at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation
8:15 PM – Final dinner at Abraham House

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 (Galilee)

6 – 8 AM – Breakfast at hotels for those going to Galilee or staying on at the Intercontinental
Checkout and transportation to airport for those departing to USA
8:00 AM – Load/board buses for Galilee; morning prayer on buses
Touring Sites

- Caesarea
- Nazareth
- Cana
- Mt. Carmel
 - Lunch
 - Worship at a Holy Site

4:00 PM – Check-in at Sheraton Tiberias

6:00 – 8:00 PM – Dinner Buffet at hotel

8:00 PM – Evening prayer and reflection

Thursday, January 15, 2009 (Galilee)

6:00 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast at hotel

8:30 AM - Morning prayer on buses

Touring Sites

- Mt. of Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount)
- Capernaum
- Tabkha (Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fishes)
- Church of the Primacy of Peter
- Kursi
 - Worship at a Holy Site
 - Lunch

6:00 – 8:00 PM – Dinner buffet at hotel

8:00 PM – Evening prayer and reflections

Friday, January 16, 2009 (Transport to Tel Aviv airport)

Early morning checkout and departure to airport, usually 1:00 AM or 2:00 AM for 5:00 AM flights back to the US/Canada (Box Breakfast available for those leaving in the early morning hours)