

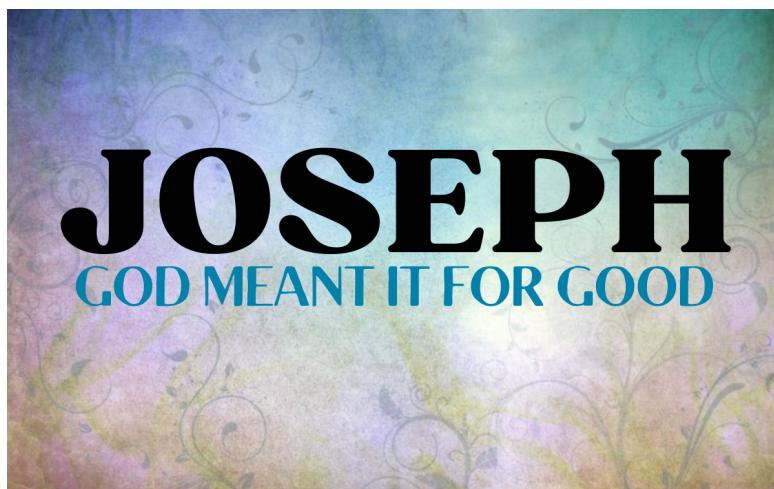
Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 5

May 1, 2023

Joseph - God Meant It For Good Sermon Series Continues

One of the most well-known stories in the Old Testament is about Joseph. Movies and musicals have been made about his life. The climax of the story is when Joseph makes himself known to his eleven brothers 22 years after they had sold him off as a slave and told their father he was dead. In that moment, Joseph totally forgave these same brothers who had treated him so badly those many years before. Learning to forgive like that didn't happen overnight for Joseph. His life was shaped by God through difficult and challenging circumstances to make Joseph the man He had planned for him to be. Joseph went from being a bratty little brother to the most powerful man in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. He became a man of great faith and God used Joseph to save the lives of thousands of people. God had meant it all for good!



As you go through life and especially when you face difficult circumstances, have you ever considered that God might be shaping you to be the person He needs you to be to make a difference in the lives of others? As we look at the key events in his story, it is hoped that this series will also be an encouragement to consider how God may be shaping you. Invite your friends and join Pastor Dorn in diving into the life of Joseph recorded in Genesis chapters 37 through 50.

For those who would like to read ahead and prepare for the Sunday message or use the life of Joseph for personal devotions, here's a breakdown of the remaining weeks in the series:

May 7	(Easter 5)	Genesis 41 - Pharaoh's Dream
May 14	(Easter 6)	Genesis 42-43 - The Brothers Come to Egypt
May 21	(Easter 7)	Genesis 44 - Joseph Tests His Brothers
May 28	(Pentecost)	Genesis 45 - Joseph Revealed
June 4	(Trinity Sunday)	Genesis 46-50 - God Meant It for Good

Confirmation Class of 2023

On Palm Sunday, April 2nd, the six young people pictured below confirmed the faith into which they were baptized. We offer our congratulations and pray that God blesses them as they continue their walk with Him.

Nathan Thomas DeVries



*Oh, taste and see that
the Lord is good! Blessed
is the man who takes
refuge in Him!*
Psalm 34:8 (ESV)

Benjamin John Garrett



*Know this, my beloved
brothers: let every person
be quick to hear, slow to
speak, slow to anger.*
James 1:19 (ESV)

Alexander Lázló Kecskes



*Sing to the Lord, bless
His name; Proclaim good
news of His salvation
from day to day.*
Psalm 96:2 (AMP)

Ryan Alexis Lyda



*Be kind and
compassionate to one
another, forgiving each
other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.*
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Mark Aiden Andrew Menke



*These are written so that
you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the
Son of God, and that by
believing you may have
life in His name.*
John 20:31 (ESV)

Sophia Eileen Oncken



*There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts
out fear. For fear has to
do with punishment, and
whoever fears has not
been perfected in love.*
1 John 4:18 (ESV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

University of Houston Concert Chorale in Concert

A stylized illustration featuring a large, smiling yellow sun with orange rays in the top left corner. To its right is a teal flower with yellow centers. In the bottom left and right corners are yellow tulips with teal leaves. The background is a light pink color with faint, larger versions of these floral and sun motifs.

**The University of Houston
Moore School of Music
presents**

Members of Concert Chorale

Betsy Cook Weber, conductor

CANTARODE PREVIEW CONCERT

Sunday, May 7, 4:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church

Join us on May 7th at 4:00 p.m. for a special opportunity to hear thirty-two members of the University of Houston Concert Chorale in concert at Trinity. The free concert will preview the music the Concert Chorale will be performing at the CantaRode Choral Competition in Kerkrade, Netherlands.

The University of Houston Concert Chorale, under the direction of Betsy Cook Weber, has been recognized as one of the finest collegiate choral ensembles in the world. They have been featured multiple times at state and national conventions and have won or placed in prestigious competitions in the UK, France, Germany (2), Hungary, Italy and Norway.

Betsy Cook Weber (Choral Conducting, Division Head) is active internationally as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. In the summer of 2013, Weber became the thirteenth person and first woman to receive the Texas Choral Director Association's coveted Texas Choirmaster Award. She is editor of the Betsy Cook Weber Choral Series with Alliance Music Publishing. Weber also served for eight seasons as Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus, during which time she prepared choral-orchestral masterworks for some of the world's greatest conductors, including Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Christoph Eschenbach, Juraj Valcuha, Jane Glover, and Nicholas McGegan among many others.

Weber has prepared singers early music orchestras Ars Lyrica and Mercury Houston, and is also routinely called upon to prepare singers for touring shows, including Josh Groban, NBC's Clash of the Choirs, Telemundo's Latin Grammys, Star Wars in Concert, Andreas Bocelli, Legends of Zelda, It's a Wonderful World, Dreamworks, and Final Fantasy. Before coming to the University of Houston, Weber taught vocal music (K-12) in the public schools. She holds degrees from the University of North Texas, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Houston.

Stephen Ministry—Confidential, One-On-One Care

Stephen Ministry is a program that provides confidential, one-on-one care to people who are experiencing a difficult time in their lives. This program is designed to support those who are struggling with a variety of challenges, including grief, divorce, illness, and other life transitions. Stephen Ministers are trained laypeople who provide care and support to those in need.

The benefits of Stephen Ministry are numerous. Often, individuals who are going through difficult times may feel isolated and alone, and having someone to talk to who is trained to listen and provide guidance can be incredibly beneficial.

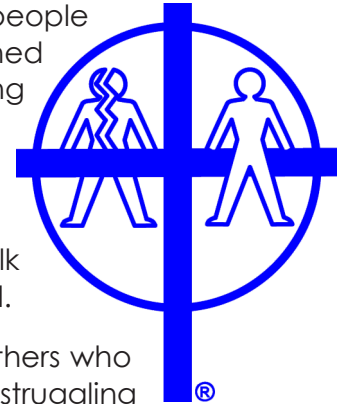
Stephen Ministry can **provide a sense of community and connection** with others who share their beliefs and values. This can be especially helpful for those who are struggling with spiritual or existential questions.

Stephen Ministry can help individuals **develop coping skills and resilience**. By working with a Stephen Minister, individuals can learn strategies for managing their emotions and thoughts and can develop a stronger sense of self-efficacy. This can help them to navigate future challenges with greater confidence and ease.

Stephen Ministry is run by volunteers **who have received 50 hours of classroom training, along with twice-monthly continuing education**, which means that it can be offered without charge to participants. This makes it accessible to a wide range of individuals, regardless of their financial situation.

Finally, **Stephen Ministry is highly confidential**. Great care is taken to ensure that the confidentiality of each individual's interaction and information is maintained.

Stephen Ministry is a valuable resource for those who are going through difficult times. If you or someone you know is struggling (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.



Finance Corner - April 2023

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter were especially meaningful this **year as we magnified the Lord together in Trinity's refreshed Sanctuary. In-person participation in the Holy Week and Easter services was 1,174, which is 5% more than worshipped with us in 2019! Counting on-line participants, 1,628 folks participated in these services in 2023.**

Renovations to the Sanctuary were completed on-schedule, and the generosity of God's people continued in abundant gifts to the Magnify Capital Campaign. Through March 31, 2023 the campaign recorded over \$737k in pledges, coming very close to our \$750k campaign goal, and received over \$518k in gifts.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to make a pledge to the Magnify Capital Campaign, please prayerfully consider doing so. You may find a commitment card as you enter the Sanctuary, or you may record your Magnify pledge online [here](#).

Tithes and offerings for the month of March were 16% lower than our monthly budget, but our expenses were also a bit lower than budgeted. So far in 2023, our tithes and offerings are 8% under budget, while our expenses are 1% lower than what was budgeted. Average worship attendance in March was 366, which is 41 worshippers fewer than the same period in 2022.

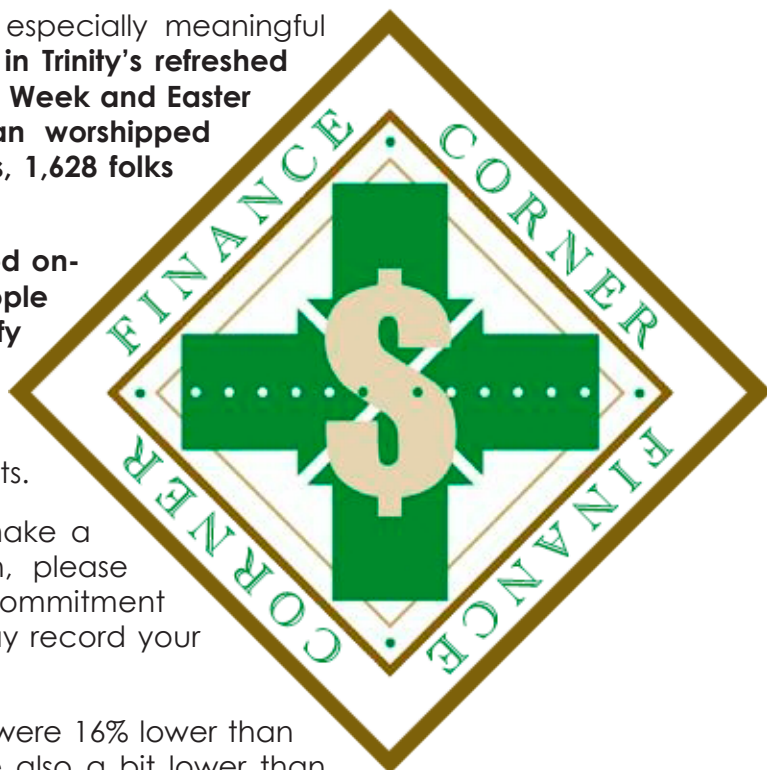
Here's a quick summary of "visible results" for March:

March 2023 Summary

	In-person	Online
Average Worship Attendance	219	147
	Adults	Students
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	148	50
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted
March 2023 discretionary offerings	\$130,653	\$155,000
Year-to-date 2023 discretionary offerings	\$371,503	\$405,000
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 03/31/2023	\$518,000	\$750,000

May your heart be filled with Easter joy!

Ron Lacy
CFO



Hey, Trinity!

Check out these amazing pictures as our Easter-in-a-Box got used! Over 100 boxes were made and received and impacted kids all over Houston and across the country!! It is truly one of my favorite parts of ministry! We especially loved the He is Risen Pillow!



Last month our middle school and high school students took to the road and went Go Karting! It was a blast! My favorite part? A youth mom and chaperone beating all three of her sons on the go kart track! (See pictures on following page.)

May looks forward to a service day off site and laser tag "capture the flag" for our middle school and high school students. May also will feature a fan favorite for kids ministry - Water Games! All of these events are really wonderful!

Keep our mission teams in your prayers, June is coming quickly and we have 10-15 students going on each trip! God is moving in mighty ways with our ministry here!

Blessings in Jesus' Name,
Haley Davisson



Holy Smokers Memorial Day Meat Sale — May 21st

Our Holy Smokers Team will be cooking brisket and pulled pork for you to enjoy on Memorial Day weekend. All proceeds from the meat sales will be contributed to the Harms/Benken Mission Fund. Meat will be ready for pick up on Sunday morning, May 21st in the Gathering Space. To place an order, call Stephanie (713.224.0684) at our Welcome Desk Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. or stop by the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings to place your order.

- Pulled Pork - \$15/lb. (minimum order is 2lbs.)
- Brisket Whole or Half - \$20/lb. (whole briskets average 6lbs. when cooked)
- Brisket sliced - \$22/lb. (minimum order is 1lb.)



All meat will be professionally shrink wrapped, refrigerated, and ready to take home. For questions or to make other arrangements, please contact Mark Anderson(713.582.1450). The Holy Smokers will be cooking on May 19-20 so that you'll have it fresh for pick up on May 21st.

Magnify Campaign Update

- The first worship service in the refreshed Sanctuary occurred on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. The congregation processed from the Gym to the Sanctuary while singing and waving palm branches. We returned to magnify the Lord and thank Him for His ultimate gift and sacrifice made in the cross and the resurrection of Easter. (See pictures on following pages.)
- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. While we continue the fulfillment phase of the campaign, we also begin to focus on how we can use our renovated space to bring others into our Trinity community.
- Pledges through March 31, 2023 totaled \$737,000, over 98% of our total pledge goal. We are also pleased to report we have received gifts totaling \$518,000 which puts us at 69% of our goal. We are grateful to the Lord and to our Trinity family for their generosity and response to this request.
- The Magnify Campaign will continue through the end of 2023. While most of the costs associated with the Sanctuary refresh have already been incurred, we have been able to fund these up-front payments by "borrowing from ourselves" using Trinity's cash reserves.
- **We will celebrate the milestones we've reached on Sunday, May 7th immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service. You can participate by coming by the Gathering Space (on your way to your Discipleship Hour class) to pick up some donuts and coffee!**

Magnify Capital Campaign Team,

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Magnify Prayer Request/Prayer Warriors

We fall on our knees in gratitude for Your grace in providing us a refreshed Sanctuary in which we can magnify your name, and for the generosity of your people in providing the necessary funds. Please continue to guide us so we might use this new space to bring others to join us in worshipping You, Lord.



Prayers Warriors for our Capital Campaign are needed to pray for God's guidance in Trinity's stewardship in completing the refreshing/updating of our Sanctuary. You may pray with other prayer warriors in person on Sundays in the Gathering Space or by Zoom on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Please call Rick or Betty Berg at 281.455.5413 or 281.455.5426 for more information.



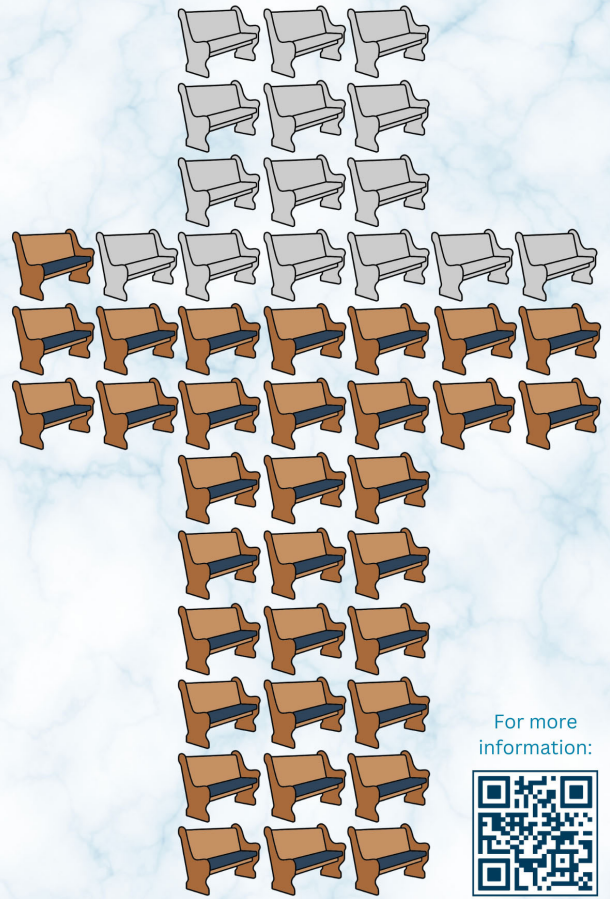
As of March 31, 2023

Pledge Goal:
\$750,000

Pledges to Date:
\$737,000

Donations to Date:
\$518,000

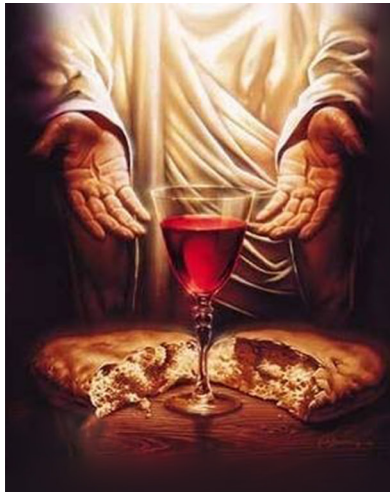
Months Remaining: 9





Easter 2023 at Trinity!





First Communion

Congratulations to the following students who received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6.

Nathan Thomas DeVries
Abigail Joy Flaviani
Alexander László Kecskes
John Mark Leonard, Jr.
Clara Margrethe McGarvey

Evelyn Sage Mermis
Sophia Eileen Oncken
Eliana Marie Richert
Ava Giuliana Wingate

Trinity Ladies Circle Ministries Meeting and 105th Anniversary Celebration

The next meeting of Ladies Circle Ministries is May 4th. We will meet in Room 124 at 10:00 a.m. for a short business meeting. After the business meeting we will carpool to Cafe Brussels for lunch in celebration of our 105th anniversary. Please RSVP to Trinity Garrett at tgarett@trinitydt.org.

For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or tgarett@trinitydt.org.



Orphan Grain Train Opportunity

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. Contact Delynda Cruz at delynda@juno.com for more information on how Trinity Downtown works with OGT.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

On Sunday May 7 at 2:00 p.m., OGT will break ground for the OGT Servant Center. Please join them outside as they turn some dirt to start the construction of the Servant Center. After a few words and a few shovels please stay for a dessert reception (weather permitting). Location: 5050 E. Sam Houston Parkway S., Pasadena 77581.

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.956.1899
Mike Gilmore	mdgilmore85@gmail.com	713.569.2371
Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Chris Sonneborn	csonneb@gmail.com	713.854.8692
Mike Sterling	nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

Save the Date • Hymn Marathon - August 12

Organist, Benjamin Kolodziej will play through all 635 hymns in the Lutheran Service Book live from Trinity Downtown on Saturday, August 12 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Playing on Trinity's 50 rank Holtkamp/Reuter organ, Kolodziej will play a creative introduction and one stanza of each hymn with this endeavor ending about 7:00 p.m. that evening. The church will be open for anyone to drop in and listen live or you may listen throughout the day as we live stream this marathon on Trinity's YouTube channel or Facebook page.

Benjamin Kolodziej is the organist/choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas and is the organist for the Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University. Kolodziej recently published a book, *Joyful Singing: A Story of Lutheran Sacred Music in Texas*.



Blood Donor Sunday - June 4

Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held June 4, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 125. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at www.commitforlife.org. While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups.



We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.



2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey (Vice chair)
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder/Secretary)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org. Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

Nursery (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds - Room 233

Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds - Room 232

Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade - Kingdom Hall (basement)

Casa 'de Oracion Spanish (all grades) - Room 209

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Escape from Egypt: Exodus

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

Trusting God sounds simple, but can be often very, very difficult to do so with the things that matter most to you. Join us as we study the book of Exodus. You'll see that Israel faced similar struggles to trust God completely. In this story of hardship and hope, you'll discover along with Israel that God—and God alone—is worthy of our trust. Discussion-oriented.

Faith Discovery

Led by Pastor Michael P. Dorn - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 123 - In Person

Class for those interested in becoming a member of Trinity Downtown and those desiring a refresh on Christian Doctrine.

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person (Spanish Speaking)

Participants are encouraged to join this study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him.

Liturgical Arts

Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday.

The Bible Alive ... God In Action

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.



The Gospel According to John

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

The Apostle John wrote his Gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." In our day when the good news of Jesus is a stumbling block or just plain foolishness for many people, the Gospel according to John will serve well to deepen and strengthen our faith in Jesus as the Christ. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at pbdom6@gmail.com if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

United in Christ - A Study of Ephesians

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

In Ephesians Paul reminds us that "by grace you have been saved through faith" and then how "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand."

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part II

Led by Karen Maynard - 10:00-11:30 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

This study is part of the *LifeLight* Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3ldVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09> Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

The Sermon on the Mount

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual (In person the last Wednesday of the month) (Begins May 10)

Wednesday Women's Bible Study will spend the late spring and summer looking carefully at the *Sermon on the Mount* and Jesus' familiar words from Matthew 5-7 about what it means to be part of His kingdom. Join us to explore Old Testament references to help us gain a deeper understanding into the context of His words.

We will continue to meet on zoom each Wednesday evening and will get together in person on the last Wednesday of each month for fellowship. All women are welcome!

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

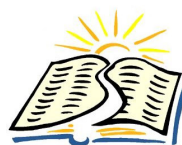
Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

This member-led virtual class primarily discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. We plan to follow this member-led format while Pastor Black is recovering from his recent illness. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.



Explore God's Word With Us!

Join Pastor Michael & Veloyce Dorn for a Ten Day Life-Changing
tour of the

HOLY LAND

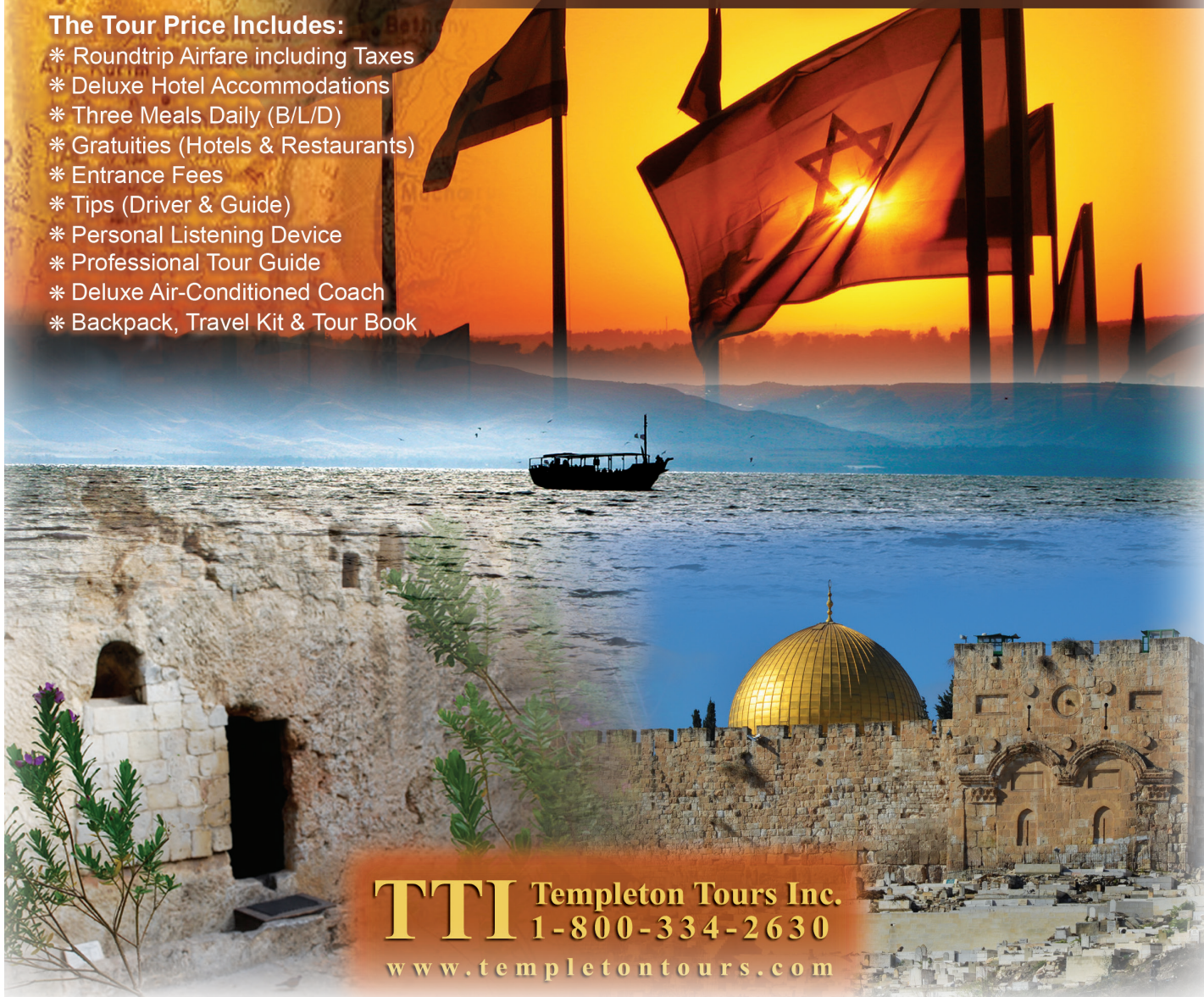


October 16 - 25, 2023

\$5,295.00 from Houston, TX

The Tour Price Includes:

- * Roundtrip Airfare including Taxes
- * Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- * Three Meals Daily (B/L/D)
- * Gratuities (Hotels & Restaurants)
- * Entrance Fees
- * Tips (Driver & Guide)
- * Personal Listening Device
- * Professional Tour Guide
- * Deluxe Air-Conditioned Coach
- * Backpack, Travel Kit & Tour Book



TTI Templeton Tours Inc.
1-800-334-2630
www.templeton tours.com

October 16 - DEPART USA

Today we meet at our international departure airport where our host will assist with check-in formalities. This evening we will enjoy a delicious dinner high above the Atlantic.

October 17 - ARRIVE TEL AVIV - JOPPA

We arrive in Tel Aviv this morning. Upon arrival, our TEMPLETON TOURS representative will meet us and assist us in gathering our luggage. After airport procedures are completed, we will meet our local guide and driver and begin our tour of the Holy Land. We start with a visit to Joppa, Jonah's port of embarkation for Tarshish. Joppa was also the home of Tabitha (or Dorcas) who was raised from the dead by Peter. It was also here that Peter learned that God was interested in the salvation of the Gentiles. We then transfer to our hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea for dinner and overnight. (D)

October 18 - TEL AVIV - CAESAREA - MOUNT CARMEL - MEGIDDO - NAZARETH - TIBERIAS

After breakfast at our hotel we will travel up the coast to Caesarea by the Sea. There we will visit the Crusaders' castle, the Roman theater, the seaport from which the Apostle Paul sailed to Rome, and the Roman aqueduct system. We will continue along the coast to Mount Carmel to see the site of Elijah's triumph over the prophets of Baal. After lunch we continue north to Megiddo on the Plain of Armageddon to see King Solomon's stables and water supply system. Prophecy will come alive at Megiddo as we look over the Valley of Armageddon. We then travel to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, to visit. We will also visit The Precipice, where they wanted to throw Jesus off the "brow" and kill Him. On our way to Tiberias we will stop in the little town of Cana where Christ turned the water into wine. Then we'll proceed to our hotel in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)



Sailing on the Sea of Galilee

October 19 - TIBERIAS - SEA OF GALILEE - CAPERNAUM - MOUNT OF BEATITUDES - PETER'S PRIMACY - MAGDALA

After breakfast we take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. While on the boat we'll pause for a brief worship service and remember the many miracles our Lord performed in this area. We'll dock at Nof Ginossar to visit the "Jesus Boat" museum to see a boat that dates back to the time of Jesus. Then we'll proceed to Capernaum to see the remains of an early church, the ruins of Peter's house, and the ancient synagogue. After lunch we'll travel to the Mount of Beatitudes



Capernaum

above the Sea of Galilee to read the Sermon on the Mount while overlooking the Jordan Valley. Next, we stop at the Primacy of Peter where Jesus commanded Peter to "Feed my sheep." Before returning to our hotel, we will visit the town of Magdala where recently a synagogue has been excavated from the time of Jesus. (B/L/D)

October 20 - BEIT SHE'AN - JERICHO - BETHABARA - JERUSALEM

This morning we will leave the Galilee area travel south through the Jordan River Valley. We will stop and visit the new excavations at Beit She'an, the city where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and Jonathan. After a brief worship service we'll travel through the Jordan Valley to Jericho, one of the oldest cities in the world. If conditions permit, we will enter Jericho to see the excavations of the ancient walls, view the Mount of Temptation, and see Elisha's Spring. Next we'll stop at Bethabara, where John baptized those who came to him (John 1:28). This is also known as the "place of crossing" and is near the area where the children of Israel crossed into the Promised Land (Joshua 3:14-17). We then travel to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel for over 3000 years, and pause on Mount Scopus where our guide will lead us in the traditional Jewish Welcome. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel in Jerusalem. (B/L/D)

**October 21 - MASADA
- DEAD SEA - EIN GEDI
- QUMRAN - VALLEY OF
THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

This morning we will get an early start and visit the mountain fortress of Masada, truly a remarkable piece of history. We'll ascend by cable car to visit the magnificent ruins of the fortress where the Jewish zealots made the last stand of the Judean revolt against Rome. Today the remains of Herod's buildings, palaces, storehouses, cisterns, and a 6th Century Byzantine church are still in view. After our exciting tour of Masada we will continue to the Dead Sea, where you will have the opportunity to take a dip. The Dead Sea is 1300 feet below sea level and is the lowest spot on the earth. We will then stop at Ein Gedi, a green oasis in the middle of the desert, and see the area where David hid while fleeing from King Saul. Afterwards we will travel to Qumran to see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. After lunch we will return to Jerusalem. On the way, we will stop to view the St. George Monastery, an active monastery since the 5th century. We will also get a glimpse of "the Valley of the Shadow of Death." (B/L/D)

**October 22 - TEMPLE MOUNT - POOL OF
BETHESDA - MOUNT OF OLIVES - MODEL CITY
-BETHLEHEM**

This morning we will begin our tour with a visit to the Temple Mount where the Jewish temple stood until its destruction by the Roman Legions in 70 A.D. There we will see the Dome of the Rock Mosque built over the rock where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Golden Gate. We'll continue our walk through the Old City to the beautiful Crusader Church dedicated to St. Anne and the nearby Pool of Bethesda. Then we travel a short distance to the Mount of Olives for a breathtaking view of the city of Jerusalem. While we are here, our guide will point out all of the important sites of Jerusalem. After lunch, we will visit the Model City of Jerusalem as it was in 69 AD. If conditions permit, we will then take a short drive to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity, built over the cave of Christ's birth, as well as the Shepherd's Field and plains of Boaz. We will also see the ancient crafts of Bethlehem, dating from Crusader times, and visit one of the famous Bethlehem gift shops. (B/L/D)

**October 23 - WESTERN WALL TUNNEL -
PILATE'S PALACE - UPPER ROOM - JEWISH
QUARTER - SOUTHERN WALL EXCAVATIONS -
CITY OF DAVID**

We begin with a visit to the famous Western Wall and Tunnel Excavation site. Here we will walk on the very stones where Jesus trod to Herod's "second temple" and see the place where our Savior taught the Scriptures. Then we will visit the Antonia Fortress, site of Pilate's Palace. We'll pass many of the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa and also



Praying at Gethsemane

see part of the old colorful oriental market. We will continue our walk and visit the restored Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo, the main street of Jerusalem in Roman times. We will then proceed to Mount Zion to visit the Upper Room, traditional site of the Last Supper and the fire of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We will be visiting the Southern

Wall excavation site. Here we will walk on the very stones where Jesus trod to Herod's "second temple" and see the place where our Savior taught the Scriptures. At the end of the day, we will see the City of David and Hezekiah's Tunnel and then return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)

**October 24 - GETHSEMANE - POOL OF SILOAM
- HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS - LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE RESURRECTION**

Today is our last day in the Holy Land so we want to make the most of it. We will begin with a visit to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus had His agony and was betrayed. There we will pause for devotion and prayer time in a private garden. After our worship service, we will take a short walk through the Valley of the Tombs. Along the way we will pass the traditional tombs of Absalom and Ezra. After our walk we will visit the recent archaeological discovery of the Pool of Siloam. This is the place where Jesus told the blind man to wash the mud from his eyes so he would see. Then we will visit the House of Caiaphas where Peter denied Christ three times. After lunch, we will conclude our tour of the Holy Land with a visit to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, where we can remember Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection and share in the Lord's Supper. After communion we will return to the hotel for dinner. (B/L/D)

October 25 - ARRIVE USA

Today our memorable journey comes to an end. We will transfer to the airport in Tel Aviv and board the plane for our return flight home. In flight we can fellowship with our friends and remember the many things we shared together.



**Lutheran Church
of the Redeemer**

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$250.00 per person is required to make a reservation. An additional payment of \$750.00 per person is due June 13, 2023. The final payment is due no less than 60 days prior to the departure date of the tour (August 17, 2023). Payment can be made by personal check or money order. Credit card payments beyond the initial deposit will be accepted for an additional non-refundable fee of 3%. Reservations received after June 13, 2023 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 one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per person up until 91 days before departure. For cancellations 90-60 days before departure the cancellation fee will be \$250.00 per person. There will be no refund for cancellations within 59 days of departure, no-shows, or partially completed tours. All cancellation requests must be addressed to TEMPLETON TOURS INC. in writing.

COVID PROTOCOLS: There are presently no COVID requirements for visiting Israel. Registered passengers will be notified of any changes to the COVID protocols.

FARE INCLUSIVE: Roundtrip air transportation from Houston, TX (IAH). Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations, based on two people sharing a double or twin-bedded room in four-star hotels. All meals as outlined in the brochure consisting of full Israeli breakfasts (B), lunches (L), and table d'hôte dinners at the hotel (D). Sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary by private motorcoaches, utilizing the services of a local English speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions if applicable. All transfers between airports and hotels by private motorcoach. Service charges and taxes normally levied by hotels and restaurants. All U.S. & Israeli departure taxes are included in the price of the tour. Tips to guides, motorcoach drivers, hotel porters, and restaurant staff (i.e., maitre d', table waiter, etc.) are also included. The brochure price is per person in US dollars.

TOUR ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE: TTI strives to adhere to the printed itinerary; however, circumstances may necessitate changes without advance notice during the tour. TTI reserves the right to change the itinerary, and is not responsible for any changes caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

TOUR CANCELLATION: TTI reserves the right to cancel or withdraw the tour at any time. In the event of a cancellation deemed necessary by TTI, the sole and exclusive responsibility of TEMPLETON TOURS 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, room service orders, etc.; transportation between the home city and the international departure city.

AIR ROUTINGS: The 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 Middle East. TTI 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 \$1,295 will be given to those passengers who arrange their own airfare. Passengers planning to arrange their own air transportation must notify TTI in writing on or before August 2, 2023. 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. Single rooms are subject to availability and at an additional cost of \$1,295. (Tour participants without a roommate will have to pay single room surcharge.)

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: One (1) piece of checked luggage whose overall dimensions do not exceed 62 inches (length + width + height) and whose weight does not exceed fifty (50) pounds in total. One (1) piece of carry-on luggage & one personal item (i.e. purse, laptop bag, backpack). 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. Regulations are subject to change without notice. Please read the monthly correspondence from TEMPLETON TOURS for the most current information. Dangerous articles such as firearms, explosives, oxygen, or combustible substances are prohibited in your luggage. 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 will 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. TEMPLETON TOURS, INC. 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, TEMPLETON TOURS 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. Information and application forms for all types of coverage will be supplied you prior to departure.

PASSPORT: Each tour member is required to present a valid passport with an expiration date of April 24, 2024 or later. Complete instructions and application forms for passports can be obtained by contacting your local courthouse or post office. Name on Registration Form must match name as it appears on your Passport.

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 subject to change without notice. Taxes and fuel surcharges are included in your tour cost and are subject to change without notice. Templeton Tours reserves the right to pass along fuel surcharges or additional taxes imposed by the airline.

DISCLAIMER: TEMPLETON TOURS INC. acts as a tour operator and only a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation and sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of TTI. 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 TTI 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 Israel and the West Bank. 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 TTI. 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 TTI assumes no liability of any kind and I hereby expressly waive any and all possible claims against TEMPLETON TOURS, Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church, or Pastor Michael & Veloyce Dorn

For additional information call Templeton Tours at 1-800-334-2630 or online at www.templetonontours.com

COMPLETE AND MAIL WITH DEPOSIT PAYABLE TO: TEMPLETON TOURS PO BOX 2630 BOONE, NC 28607

Tour# 31016

Pastor Michael Dorn Holy Land Tour Registration Form - October 16 - 25, 2023

☐ Enclosed is my payment of \$250 per person by ☐ check or ☐ credit card as a deposit for the \$5,295 per person tour from Houston, TX
☐ For an additional fee, please arrange my air transportation from my local airport of: _____ (city/state).
Single Passenger-Choose one: ☐ Single Occupant - additional \$1295.00 ☐ Please assign me a roommate.

Name _____ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Nametag Name: _____

Name _____ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Nametag Name: _____

Name _____ Name as it appears on your Passport Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Nametag Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell (_____) _____ Home (_____) _____ Email _____

☐ My roommate(s): _____ (if sending in a separate registration form)

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Home (_____) _____ Work (_____) _____

I have read and agree to the Tour Conditions as stated above. _____ (Signature)

Credit card payments will be accepted for the \$250 per person deposit. Additional payments will be subject to a 3% fee.

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____ CSC _____ Name on Card _____
(Master Card, VISA, or Discover) (month/year) (security code on back)

I agree to the conditions as stated above and authorize TTI to charge my credit card. _____

Signature

Life Quote 2023 - May 21

"God has chosen each one of us from the beginning of creation. God has also chosen our body to be a temple. He gave us the beautiful gift of a body, and we are called to be stewards of that body, to take care of it and be aware of what we do with it. God also chooses each one of us to belong. We all have a spot and purpose in God's family—and not one of us is useless or random. God chose us with a purpose. Nothing He does is random."

Kambria Steinhaus, Knights4Life
– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



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Article submission deadline is **May 19** for articles to be published June 1, 2023.

Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.