

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR CHRIS MANKE
PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL April 30 – May 10, 2012

DAY 1 Monday – Depart Chicago on our way to Tel-Aviv.

DAY 2 Tuesday – Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in the late afternoon. Our guide greets us and gives us an overview of our pilgrimage as we ascend to Jerusalem for our first night in Israel.

DAY 3 Wednesday – Visit the model of the Old City of Jerusalem to orient ourselves. Walk through the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Armenian quarters of the Old City. See the Temple ruins and the Temple Mount. We follow the Via Dolorosa to the sacred Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 4 Thursday – In Jerusalem, we visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb and room of the Last Supper. In the afternoon, we will visit Yad Vashem, Memorial to the Holocaust. Overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 5 Friday – Today we drive to Masada, site of the zealots' last stand against the Romans. Later, drive to Ein Gedi to experience the salty water of the Dead Sea. Continue our journey to the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 6 Saturday – Today is a day at leisure. Your guide will direct you to places you may visit at your own pace. Possibilities might be The Jewish Museum, Mt. Herzl Cemetery, or you may like to explore the Old City on your own.

DAY 7 Sunday - Our day begins in Bethlehem where we will worship at Christmas Lutheran Church. We visit the ancient Church of the Nativity, Manger Square and view the beautiful Shepherds' Field. Overnight in Jerusalem.

DAY 8 Monday – Today we leave Jerusalem and head north toward the Sea of Galilee. Follow the Jordan Valley to the newly excavated Roman city at Beth-Shean. Visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's House, the Mount of Beatitudes and Tabgha – the site of the feeding of the multitudes. Overnight in Galilee.

DAY 9 Tuesday – This morning we drive toward the Golan Heights to Panias and Caesarea Philippi. Continue to the foot of Mt. Hermon on the Syrian-Israel border for a short tour of a Druze village. On to the Dan Nature Reserve, the source of the Jordan River. We enjoy a St. Peter's fish lunch followed by a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Go to Kibbutz Ginosar, location of the Jesus Boat Museum. Overnight in Galilee.

DAY 10 Wednesday – We drive to Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle. On to Nazareth to visit the magnificent Church of the Annunciation built on top of the Virgin Mary's house. Continue along the coast to Caesarea where St. Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius was baptized; visit the Roman Theatre, Aqueduct, and the Crusader ruins. Depart for Jaffa, along the coast, where we will have our farewell dinner. Transfer to the airport for our late-night flight back to the United States.

DAY 11 Thursday – Return flight back to the United States.