**Germany 2016**

**Lutherland with Pastor Charlie**

**Day 1: Wednesday, July 20, 2016**

Group members gather for the overnight flights to Berlin.

**Day 2: Berlin, Thursday, July 21, 2016**

We will arrive Berlin in the late morning (depending on your flights). After arrival formalities we will meet our tour manager and head to downtown Berlin for an orientation drive which includes the main sights, such as the bomb-damaged tower of Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and “Unter den Linden", the government district. Afterwards, continue to Wittenberg and check in at Colleg Wittenberg for the next three nights. D

**Day 3: Wittenberg, Friday, July 22, 2016**

Explore the city where Martin Luther lived and taught for 36 years. The first part of the city tour this morning includes the Town Church, where Luther preached thousands of times and the Castle Church, where he posted his “95 Theses,” thus sparking the Reformation. In the afternoon, we resume our tour with a visit to the Melanchthon House and the Luther House, which was Luther’s wedding gift from his prince in 1525 and now houses one of the world’s largest Reformation archives. Dinner and overnight in Wittenberg. BD

**Day 4: Leipzig, Saturday, July 23, 2016**

We travel to Leipzig. In May 1989, the people of Leipzig first organized the demonstrations that brought hundreds of thousands into the streets for the “Peaceful Revolution”. We will visit their rendezvous point at the Gothic St. Nicholas Church, built in 1165. Afterwards, have time and lunch on your own (we suggest to go for lunch to the historic Auerbachs Keller, where, in a scene made famous in Johann Wolfgang Goethe’s Faust, Faust and Mephistopheles drank with the local students before flying away on a barrel). In the afternoon, we will enjoy the Motet with the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir at the 14th Century St. Thomas Church, where Luther preached and where Bach served as cantor and choirmaster for 25 years. Later on, we will have a presentation on the Peaceful Revolution by a pastor who served in Leipzig in 1989. Afterwards, return to Lutherstadt Wittenberg for dinner. BD

**Day 5: Eisleben, Sunday, July 24, 2016**

This morning, we join the local congregation in Wittenberg for worship service. Afterwards, we drive to Eisleben where we will have a guided tour including Luther’s birth and death houses, his Bethlehem and Jerusalem. His home is typical of the Middle Ages. An exhibition interprets the spiritual environment of Luther’s childhood. We can further understand the foundation of Luther’s faith when we visit the Church of St. Peter and Paul, where Luther was baptized. The late medieval residence where Luther died is preserved nearby. Our tour includes a stop at St. Andrews, where Luther gave his last four sermons. In the evening, we head to Erfurt and check into our hotel. BD

**Day 6: Erfurt /Buchenwald, Monday, July 25, 2016**

Today, we will take a city tour in the footsteps of Martin Luther. See the University district, where Luther studied, and visit St. Mary’s Cathedral, where he was ordained and tour the Augustinian Monastery where Luther took his monastic vows and lived as a monk. After a break for lunch, we will travel to the former concentration camp Buchenwald, where a quarter million people were imprisoned between 1937 and 1945. All of them suffered and 50,000 of them died. Among the prisoners were Lutheran pastors Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Schneider, outspoken opponents of National Socialism. A private guided tour will allow us time for reflection and a service of reconciliation. Afterwards, we head back to Erfurt. No group dinner tonight. B

**Day 7: Eisenach/Wartburg, Tuesday, July 26, 2016**

This morning, we transfer to Eisenach and visit the Bach House - experience what a typical home looked like in the 18th century, see an interesting collection of antique instruments and enjoy a musical presentation using a variety of these pieces. After lunch on own, take the beautiful trip up the mountain to the Wartburg Castle. After his excommunication Martin Luther was kidnapped by his prince and was kept here for almost a year under the alias of “Junker Jorg.” We will see the room where Luther lived and made his translation of the New Testament. Back to Erfurt for dinner and overnight. BD

**Day 8: Nuremberg/Oberammergau, Wednesday, July 27, 2016**

Continuing south this morning, we will visit Nuremberg, where a local guide is waiting to show us the charming, medieval centre on a walking tour that will include the fortress and the Old Town. This is like a walk through time from the Middle Ages to the present, highlighted by a visit to the St. Lawrence Church and an opportunity to shop for Lebkuchen and pewter. Following some free time, we continue further south to Bavaria, the Alps and the Passion Play village of Oberammergau. Our next two days will be at the Hotel Alte Post, right in the heart of the village. BD

**Day 9: King Ludwig’s Neuschwanstein, Thursday, July 28, 2016**

Enjoy a scenic day as we travel along the north side of the Alps. Visit Neuschwanstein Castle, Europe's premier tourist attraction and the most photographed castle in the world. A local guide walks you through King Ludwig's fairy-tale castle on its craggy outcrop high above a sparkling lake. Later, we continue on a scenic route, stop at Church at Wies enroute, before we return to Oberammergau. BD

**Day 10: Munich, Friday, July 29, 2016**

This morning, see some final alpine vistas as we head north to Munich. On arrival a local guide will introduce us to the sights of Bavaria's capital, the Nymphenburg Palace, Marienplatz, Frauenkirche and the Olympic Stadium. This evening, we celebrate the past two weeks, sharing our stories and memories at our Farewell Dinner. Park Inn Munich Ost. BD

**Day 11: Goodbye!, Saturday, July 30, 2016**

All too soon our adventure draws to a close as we transfer to Munich airport and catch our homebound flight to the US. B

**Hotels proposed:**

Lutherstadt Wittenberg 3 nights Colleg Wittenberg

Erfurt 3 nights Radisson Blu Hotel

Oberammergau 2 night Hotel Alte Post

München 1 night Park Inn Ost

**The net rates per paid participant for the land arrangement are based on double occupancy (with at least 30 participants):** $ 1,520.00 per person - single room supplement is $250.00

**Cost for flights** will be determined in the coming months. Please figure that flights to Germany run about $1200 - $1700 Round Trip.