THE PASSION PLAY TOUR 2020 and

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER

HIGHLIGHTS OF GERMANY for the LUTHERAN SYNOD

*Please join us on this exciting tour of Germany! We'll explore charming and intriguing historical places that are significant in the history of Music, Christianity and Lutheranism as well as other sights of great historical interest. With breathtaking alpine vistas, cultural gems such as Salzburg, Austria, reverent Oberammergau and more, this unique tour is one you will always remember.*



A scene from Oberammergau’s moving and dramatic Passion Play

**Highlights:**

The world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau

Major “Martin Luther” sites: Eisenach, Eisleben, Wittenberg and Coburg

The “Bach House” Museum

The beautiful towns of Weimar, Nuremberg and Berchtesgaden

King Ludwig’s Fairytale castles: Neuschwanstein, Linderhof and Herrenchiemsee

Sound of Music sites in Salzburg, Mondsee and Hellbrunn

The world-famous Eagle’s Nest in Berchtesgaden

Boat trip on spectacular Lake Königssee in the National Park

Tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

A visit to the BMW Museum

Great food, great atmosphere!

**Airports and dates:**

Fly to Frankfurt on July 8th (arrive Frankfurt airport July 9th, 2020)

Fly out of Munich on July 19th, 2020

**Our bases:**

2 nights near Weimar

1 night in Nuremberg

3 nights in Berchtesgaden

2 nights in or near Oberammergau

2 nights in Freising

**Places and attractions:**

**Eisenach** is not only home to the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the Bible but also to the interesting **Bach House Museum** dedicated to the composer. **Eisleben** has some historic sites connected to Martin Luther, as does the town of **Wittenberg**, **birthplace of the Reformation**.

 

Wartburg Fortress Church door of the “95 Theses” in Wittenberg

**Coburg’s fortress**, the “Veste” was home to Luther for a while. The beautiful town of **Nuremberg** was the first to adopt the Reformation.

 

Martin Luther’s Room at Coburg’s Veste Fortress Nuremberg’s beautiful Lutheran Church

The **Sound of Music wedding church** is located in the colorful village of **Mondsee**. The city of **Salzburg** is rich in architectural and historic treasures. It was Mozart’s birthplace and features numerous times in *The Sound of Music*.

The **Berchtesgaden Alps** are best viewed from **Lake Königssee** and from the 6,000-ft-high **Eagle’s Nest**, once a diplomatic reception center for Hitler.

 

The church at Mondsee Salzburg: Mozart and the Sound of Music



World-famous **Neuschwanstein Castle** was built by **King Ludwig II of Bavaria.** Ludwig’s two other creations, **Linderhof Palace** and **Herrenchiemsee Palace** (on an island) are equally as impressive. **Oberammergau** is not only home to the world-famous **Passion Play** that is offered every ten years, it is also Germany’s premier **woodcarving** town and, thanks to its **painted house fronts,** one of the prettiest villages in Germany.

 

King Ludwig’s iconic Neuschwanstein King Ludwig’s bedroom at Linderhof Castle

 

Ludwig’s Hall of Mirrors at Herrenchiemsee Oberammergau: painted façade

**Itinerary:**

**Wednesday, July 8th, 2020** This morning we meet at the Minneapolis airport for our flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

**Thursday, July 9th** We arrive early to mid-morning at Frankfurt Airport. After meeting our tour manager, David Harper, we will board a private tour bus and travel to **Eisenach** where we visit the impressive medieval **Wartburg Castle**. Here we'll see the room where Luther translated the Bible. We’ll also visit the **Bach House**, a museum dedicated to the composer who was born in this town. We then continue to Weimar where we check into Hotel Dorotheenhof. After unpacking, we will be served a welcome dinner at the Hotel Dorotheenhof. Overnight Weimar.

**Friday, July 10th** After breakfast, we'll take an excursion to **Eisleben**, Luther's birthplace. Here we'll visit his last residence as well as St. Andrew's Church, where he preached his last sermon, and Church of St. Peter and Paul, where he was baptized. Continuing on to **Wittenberg**, home to Luther for some 30 years and birthplace of the Reformation, we'll visit the Luther House, Castle Church (95 Theses), St. Mary's Church (where he preached) and his tomb. This evening we'll enjoy dinner at our hotel. Overnight Weimar.

**Saturday, July 11th** After breakfast, we'll set off for **Coburg** where Martin Luther stayed for the Augsburg Imperial Diet. Here we will visit the impressive **Veste Fortress** where Luther spent some time writing and enjoying free time exploring Coburg’s handsome old town. We continue on to Nuremberg where we’ll have dinner and spend the night. Overnight Nuremberg.

**Sunday, July 12th** After an early breakfast, take a tour of the striking city of **Nuremberg** – the first town to accept the Reformation. Among the sights, we'll view the Lutheran church of St. Lorenz and the 3rd Reich Party Rally Grounds outside of town. Mid-afternoon we proceed to beautiful Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Edelweiss in Berchtesgaden.

**Monday, July 13th** After breakfast, we’ll head up to **Obersalzberg**, the site of Hitler's former retreat and headquarters. After a driving tour of the historic buildings, we’ll tour the **Obersalzberg Documentation Center**, as well as the **underground bunker system**, designed to serve the Third Reich's leaders as a fortress-like command post. Around midday we'll board a special mountain bus for a breathtaking ride up to the so-called "**Eagle's Nest**", a mountaintop tea-house constructed for Adolf Hitler. After the guided tour we'll have free time to enjoy the views and eat lunch. In the afternoon we’ll take a pleasant boat cruise over **Lake Königssee** in the heart of the Berchtesgaden National Park. We’ll then have free time for shopping at Königssee before dinner at the hotel and overnight Berchtesgaden at Hotel Edelweiss.

**Tuesday, July 14th** After breakfast, we'll head out to the **Austrian Lake District** making a stop to visit the beautiful Basilica at **Mondsee**, the site of the wedding scene in *The Sound of Music*. We head into **Salzburg** to discover the beauty of “Mozart's town” and its connection with the making of *The Sound of Music.* After plenty of free time for lunch, shopping and sightseeing on our own, we’ll stop at **Hellbrunn Palace** to stroll the grounds and visit the gazebo used in the movie. Upon our return to Berchtesgaden's old town center we'll be offered a glimpse of the fascinating history of Berchtesgaden, formerly an independent principality and the summer seat of the Bavarian kings. After free time in the town we'll be served dinner at our hotel. Overnight Hotel Edelweiss in Berchtesgaden.

**Wednesday, July 15th** After breakfast we drive to Oberammergau, making a stop en route at **King Ludwig’s Herrenchiemsee Palace** on the lake and at **King Ludwig’s Linderhof Palace near Obrerammergau**. Dinner and overnight in or near Oberammergau.

**Thursday, July 16th** After breakfast, we can take a stroll around **Oberammergau** and enjoy free time for sightseeing and shopping. Though the town's house-fronts are beautifully decorated with colorful paintings, Oberammergau is most well known for having perfected the fine art of woodcarving. This afternoon and this evening after dinner we attend the long-awaited **Passion Play.** Dinner and overnight in or near Oberammergau.

**Friday, July 17th** After breakfast, we'll depart early to visit the stunning **Wieskirche**, also known as “the Church in the Meadow,” on the way to touring King Ludwig’s iconic **Neuschwanstein Castle**. Early afternoon we continue to Hotel Zum Erdinger Weissbrau. Dinner and overnight Freising.

**Saturday, July 18th** After breakfast we tour the **Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site** as well as the interesting **BMW museum**. Dinner and overnight at Hotel Zum Erdinger Weissbrau, Freising.

**Sunday, July 19th** We transfer to Munich airport for the flight home.

Note: Hotels subject to change depending on availability.

**Inclusions:**

Roundtrip air from Minneapolis

11 days private tour coach transportation starting and ending Munich airport

11 days tour management

10 nights in superior tourist class / first class hotels

10 breakfasts from the buffet (9 breakfasts if departure flight is very early)

10 dinners of regional specialties

Welcome drink

Guiding throughout

All admission fees and special fares as per program

Good seating for the Passion Play

Luggage service

Gratuities for all included meals

**Lutheran Synod Passion Play 2020 & In The Footsteps Of Martin Luther**

**July 8 – July 19, 2020**

Tour Rate $5192.00 per person\* $420.00\*

Double Occupancy Single Supplement

\*price can change due to airline cost and Euro/Dollar exchange rate

**General Information**

**Reservations:** A non-refundable deposit of $300 per person is due no later

than **March 10, 2019**. Because of the group nature of the trip, payments must

be made by check. Please make your check payable to Higgins Travel Leaders.

**Payment Schedule**

* Non-refundable deposit due no later than **April 30, 2019** along with the optional insurance. Insurance must be purchased at time of deposit.
* Final payment is due January 8, 2020.

**Cancellation Schedule**

* From time of deposit until January 8, 2020 – Deposit + insurance is non-refundable
* From January 8, 2020 until July 8, 2020 – No refund

**Trip Insurance**

Trip insurance is optional, and the cost is 7.2% of your total price. Right now

the cost of insurance for the tour would be $374.82 for those in a double room

and $404.06 in a single room. At final payment, the insurance cost may have to

be adjusted if prices have changed.

Note: You must possess a valid US Passport for the trip and it must be valid a minimum of 6 months from your return date to the US. **(January 19, 2021)**

***Responsibility:*** *This tour is operated by Higgins Travel & Cruise Center. Ltd. DBA Higgins Travel Leaders at 2514 Golf Road., Eau Claire, WI 54701 and Tailor-Made Europe / David and Christine Harper, C/O 101 Churn Road, Bozeman, MT 59715. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper will act only as agent for tour members in arranging transportation, accommodations, sightseeing and admissions. We reserve the right at our sole discretion to make changes to the itinerary and are not responsible to any person for expense, loss of time or money or other circumstance that result from such a change. Rates are quoted upon tariffs and exchange rates current at time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the exchange rate change significantly, the price of the tour may be adjusted. Also, if fuel surcharges are imposed, the price of the tour may be adjusted. We may decline or accept any person as a tour member at any time. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper will not be responsible for any loss or damage to personal property or for injuries or damages incurred by a tour member. Higgins Travel Leaders and Harper may cancel the tour, should it become necessary, and refund all monies, thus releasing Higgins Travel Leaders and Tailor-Made Europe from any further obligation. We require a minimum of* ***28*** *participants to operate this tour.*

Registration Form

Passion Play 2020 & In the Footsteps of Martin Luther

**July 8 – 19, 2020**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first, middle & last legal names as they appear on passport)

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first, middle & last legal names as they appear on passport)

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a photo copy of the inside photo page of each passport with your application. (If applying new or renewing, send at a later date)**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Delta SkyMiles Numbers: Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Roommate (not listed above): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Special requests: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Any special occasion\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(For example; a birthday or anniversary while we are traveling.)

**Price:** $5192.00 per person based on double occupancy. **Single supplement:** $420.00

**Insurance:** Insurance is recommended but optional and must be paid with your initial deposit. The insurance becomes non-refundable once paid. Information about this insurance coverage will be provided to all participants. Insurance price is currently $373.82 per person in a double room and $404.06 in a single room.

Travel Insurance:

Yes, I wish to purchase optional insurance. No, I decline cancellation insurance

**Payment:** A $300 per person deposit is due to secure a place on our tour. Due to the group nature of our tour, payment must be paid by personal check. Please make checks payable to Higgins Travel and mail to 2514 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Final payment will be due January 8, 2020. We will send you an invoice.

In case of an emergency, please contact:   
Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**For more information contact: Elizabeth Bartsch, Northwest Synod,**

**Assistant to the Bishop- 715-859-6810**