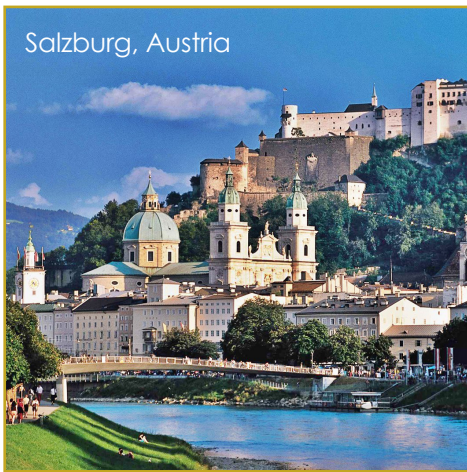


Salzburg, Austria



Erfurt, Germany



Florence, Italy



*Come join the MLC Alumni Association
for a guided tour to the*

Luther Lands, Austrian Alps, and Italy

June 18, 2018-July 4, 2018

Double Occupancy \$4395 | Single Occupancy \$4995

\$1000 less if you arrange your own flights

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Wartburg Castle, Wittenberg Castle Church, Eisenach, Erfurt,
Eisleben, Leipzig, Salzburg, Hallstatt, Venice, Florence, and Rome



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Steve Balza (alumni@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-1731)

Michelle Gartner (gartneml@mlc-wels.edu or 507-217-6157)

<https://mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours/>

Tour Overview

WELS members are invited to join the MLC Alumni Association for an affordable, enjoyable, and educational tour sure to provide memories that will last a lifetime. Tour managers Steve Balza and Michelle Gartner will do their best to keep us comfortable, safe, and on schedule. MLC professors Jim Danell, Paul Koelpin, Keith Wessel, and President Mark Zarling will lead daily devotions, provide previews, and share expert insights to enhance our enjoyment and understanding of the sights we'll see.

This year's tour will be unique. Two groups will simultaneously tour in opposite directions. One group will start in the Luther Lands and work their way south to Italy. The other will start in Rome and work its way north to Germany. The groups will join together for three nights in the Salzburg, Austria area.



Jim Danell



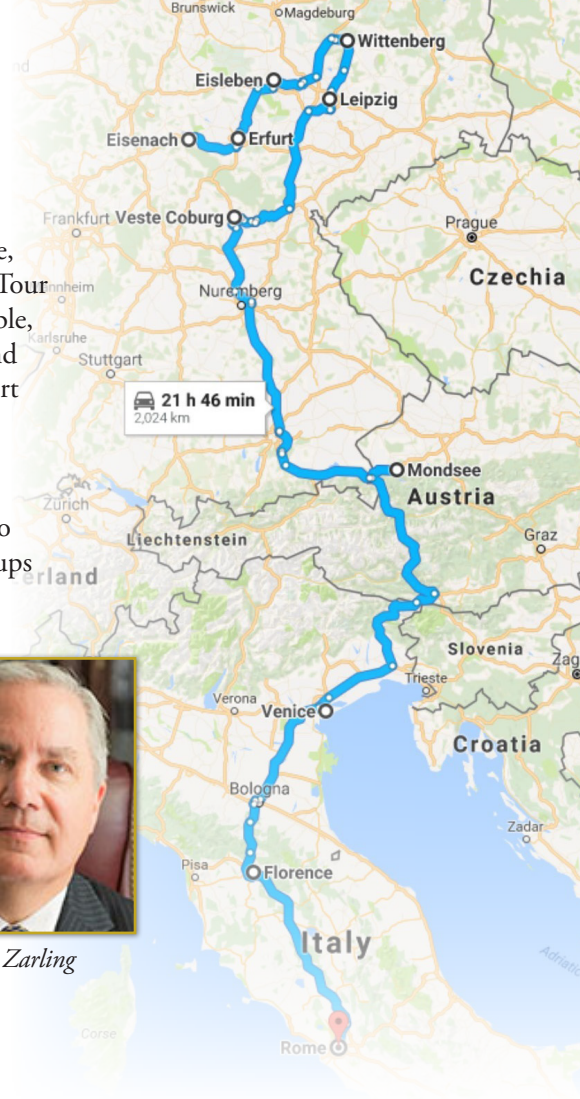
Paul Koelpin



Keith Wessel



Mark Zarling



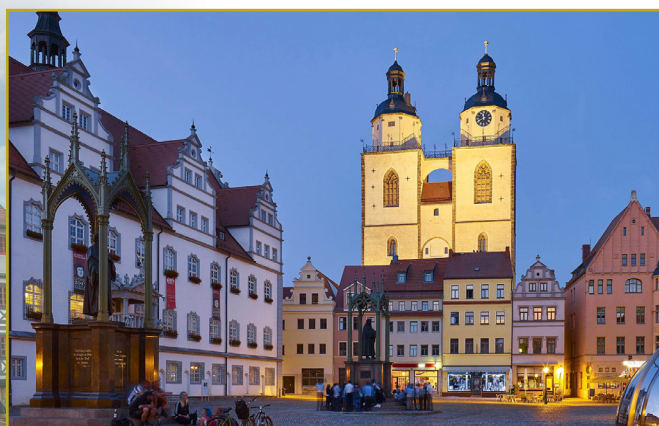
Luther Lands



On many Lutheran bucket lists is a trip to visit the sites associated with Martin Luther and the Reformation. Lord willing, our 6 days in Germany will take us to places of strong significance such as Wittenberg, where Luther posted the 95 Theses, taught, and raised a Christian family. Worms, where he took a stand for scripture. Eisleben, where he was born and where he died. Eisenach, where he sang for his supper, then hid out in the Wartburg as Knight George. Erfurt, where he studied law, then was frightened into the monastic life. Coburg, where he waited and translated during the Diet of Augsburg. We'll also visit Leipzig, where we will cross paths with the life and work of another famous Lutheran—J.S. Bach—and enjoy some fellowship with members of our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (ELFK).



Erfurt, Germany



Wittenberg, Germany

Austrian Alps

The incredibly scenic Salzburg region served as the setting for the beloved movie musical *The Sound of Music*. It was also home to the brilliant and eccentric classical composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Like Maria and Mozart, your heart may want to sing every song it hears as you stroll through the streets of Salzburg's Old City, mosey through Mirabelle Gardens, or explore one of the region's salt mines. You'll also have an opportunity to venture out into the Lake District, perhaps ascending a mountain via cog railway, enjoying a river boat cruise, or just relaxing at our beautiful, 4-star Mondsee hotel.

Hallstatt, Austria



Mondsee, Austria

Schafberg, Austria

Italy

When you hear someone speak of the “Big 3” of Italy, they are talking about a trio of cities generally considered the most historically important, artistically magnificent, and yes, heavily visited. Rome, the Eternal City: There Paul was imprisoned. There Luther was discouraged. There you'll visit the Colosseum, the Forum, the Pantheon, the Vatican, St Peter's, and the famed Trevi Fountain. Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance: There wealthy merchants commissioned Leonardo da Vinci, Brunelleschi, Michelangelo, and many more of the age's finest artists. There you'll visit the Duomo, the Baptistery, and some of the world's finest art museums. A possible excursion to Pisa's leaning tower completes your time in Tuscany. Venice, the Floating City: There grew a

commercial giant in silk, spice, and grain. There grew a cultural capital with beautiful bridges and buildings, connected by canals. There you'll have a chance to travel down the Grand Canal, tour Piazza San Marco, St Mark's Basilica, and the Doge's Palace. It'll be the middle of summer, but perhaps you'll be able to enjoy all “Four Seasons” by Venice's native son, Antonio Vivaldi.



Colosseum



Venice, Italy

Rome



COSTS, PAYMENTS, AND INCLUSIONS

- Rates are based on the number of people in your hotel room (1=single, 2=double). Triple and quad occupancy are not offered for this tour as most hotels cannot accommodate.
- Single occupancy cost is \$4995 and double occupancy is \$4395 per person. Those arranging their own flights pay \$1000 less (\$3995 single or \$3395 per person for double).
- Payments must be made by check to MLC Alumni Association and mailed to MLC Alumni Tour, 1995 Luther Ct, New Ulm, MN as follows: *\$1000 due by October 1, \$1000 due by December 1, \$1000 due by February 1, with the remainder due by April 1.*

Included in your tour cost is:

- Vehicle parking, deluxe motor coach service from MLC in New Ulm, MN or a TBD Twin Cities location to Minneapolis-St Paul Airport (MSP), and a hotel stay in the MSP area on July 4 if desired.
- United Airlines flights (with all taxes) June 18 afternoon from MSP (via Chicago or Newark) to Frankfurt (FRA) and Rome (FCO) with return to MSP on the evening of July 4. One meal and one checked bag is included each way.
- Deluxe motor coach transport throughout Europe complete with AC, Audio/Video system, two exits, restroom, and English speaking driver. Public transportation may be used within Italy's cities and will be covered by your tour cost.
- 15 nights in highly-rated 3- and 4-star hotels in non-smoking rooms with complimentary internet. Note: Some rooms may not be air conditioned. Stairs may be required to reach your room. Smoking may be allowed in the hotel.
- Breakfast will be provided each morning at the hotels. Lunch is typically on your own. Dinner (including non-alcoholic beverages) will be provided at least 8 of our 15 nights in Europe.
- Group photographers who will chronicle our journey and provide an image gallery at tour's end that you may download and use as you see fit.
- Local guides at various destinations along with full-time MLC personnel serving as guides, chaplains, and tour managers.
- Gratuities for the bus drivers, local guides, and group meal servers.
- Admission to all attractions that the group visits.

Items that are NOT INCLUDED: Passport (required for all; must be valid through January 5, 2019); portage at hotels (we will assist getting bags on and off the bus; getting them to your room will be your responsibility); lunches, half of your dinners, any adult beverages; gratuities for hotel housekeepers and non-group-meal servers; trip insurance (see note below and additional information on our website); cell phone calls/SIM cards; laundry; excess baggage fees; free time excursions and admissions (on your own time, on your own dime)...other items of a purely personal nature.

Current USD to EUR exchange rate as of August 15, 2017 is \$1 = 0.85 EURO. If the rate falls below \$1 = 0.80 EURO at time of travel, we reserve the right to impose an additional surcharge to prevent loss.

Any funds remaining in the tour balance after all bills are paid will be donated to the MLC Alumni Association. You will receive a "gift credit" letter for your share of the balance.

REGISTRATION - CONFIRMED AND WAITLIST STATUS

Registration will open on Saturday, September 2 at noon Central. Based on past alumni tours and the very high amount of interest expressed in this year's trip, we believe the approximately 80 available spots may sell out very quickly. We truly wish we could take everyone interested along but we are limited by our hotel and bus capacities. The preferred method is to register via the online form that will be available on the tour website (also linked from the [mlc-wels.edu](https://mlc-wels.edu/homepage) homepage). You may also register by phone with Steve Balza or Michelle Gartner between noon and 4PM Central (contact information on brochure cover). Each individual must use a separate registration form. You may register for as many people as you'd like, but you will need to know the date of birth, contact information, emergency contact name, and emergency contact phone number for each person. In the event that over 80 register on the first day, a random draw from all September 2 registrants will be done to determine who is "confirmed" and who is added to the waitlist. Spouses and roommates will not be split but both must register on September 2 to be part of the random draw. In the past, many who start on the waitlist end up as confirmed passengers. You will be notified of your status by September 9. Those on the waitlist are not required to send any payments until a confirmed spot becomes available for them.

MOBILITY AND HEALTH CONCERNS

The planning team sincerely wants everyone on the tour to have an unforgettable experience (for all the right reasons). With that in mind, we offer the following notes regarding physical activity levels and accessibility limitations: We ask all those considering joining us to evaluate their physical condition and perhaps speak with your physician if you have concerns about your capabilities. Traveling in Europe is exhilarating, but it can also be exhausting and very challenging for those with physical limitations. Historic city centers often have narrow, uneven roads and much of Europe is far from ADA compliant. Travelers on this tour can expect to walk an average of 4-5 miles each day. Lines (especially in Italy) can be extensive and you may need to stand for well over an hour without sitting.

CANCELLATION POLICY AND TRIP INSURANCE

All cancellations must be submitted in writing (email or printed note).

- Cancellations between October 1-November 30 will be refunded minus a \$250 penalty.
- Cancellations between December 1-January 31 will be refunded minus a \$500 penalty.
- Cancellations between February 1-March 31 will be refunded minus a \$1000 penalty.
- Cancellations between April 1-May 31 will be refunded minus a \$2000 penalty.
- Cancellations after May 31 will be refunded minus a \$4000 penalty.

In each case, if a replacement individual or couple is available to take your spot(s), the penalty will be cut in half. We recommend that passengers purchase Trip Insurance to protect from unforeseen medical, family, or other emergencies that may occur before or during your tour. In many cases, purchasing the insurance within 15 days of making your first payment provides a greater benefit. Information on travel insurance and several recommended options are available on the tour website.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND QUESTIONS

MLC is not offering academic credit for the tour. Those interested in learning more about the various destinations we plan to visit are encouraged to visit the tour website at <https://mlc-wels.edu/alumni/tours/>. The site is and will continue to be a "work in progress." Our intent is to include a basic daily itinerary and a recommended reading list along with web links to videos, reviews, and web pages that provide extensive information and images. Feel free to contact Steve Balza or Michelle Gartner (contact info on the front of the brochure) with any questions.