

January Interim 2025 – Opportunities as of 22 October 2024

Wartburg Theological Seminary

This particular document is still a work in progress, to be updated as new information becomes known. Please contact the faculty leader/advisor listed for each J-Term opportunity for more information about that particular J-Term course, including questions of tentative dates and anticipated costs.

See the summary list below (Part B, starting on Page 2) for courses planned for this coming January (or arranged to have travel or be taught in May or August, but still registered for in January). Please follow all e-mailed instructions from the WTS Registrar on submitting the needed preference form to express a request for your interested J-Term course(s). January courses can normally be taken by all Masters students (both degree students and Discovery non-degree students), as well in the case of some travel courses sometimes including spouses or guests of students or the seminary.

For more detailed information on courses, as it becomes available, see Part C of this document.

PART A – J-TERM REQUIREMENT

The January Interim Requirement: All WTS degree students must complete one or more January Interim (aka “J-Term”) courses, one for each year of primary coursework as defined for their program. Master of Divinity degree students currently must complete three (3) J-Term courses. Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree students currently must complete two (2) J-Term courses. Students in the current one-year Master of Arts degree program (Fall 2019 and following) need to complete one (1) J-Term course.

The Cross-Cultural “January” Requirement: For students in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, as well as students in the older two-year Master of Arts degree program (but not students in the new one-year degree program), one of your J-Terms currently must be reserved for completing the Cross-Cultural requirement. Normally the means of fulfilling the cross-cultural requirement is by completing a designated course that is designed as a group-based course that involves immersion activities (and often travel of some form). Most of these eligible cross-cultural courses are January courses. Independent studies are normally not allowed for meeting the cross-cultural requirement except in situations approved ahead of time by the Academic Dean upon petition.

J-Term Course Grading: All J-Term courses are graded with Credit/No-Credit grading only.

Limits to January Registration – One “J-Term” Course Per Year. Due to financial aid restrictions (by the U.S. Department of Education and their Title IV program), only one course per year can be registered for in each January Interim. This includes courses where travel occurs outside of January (such as in August or May) if they are considered meeting the January course requirement and/or the cross-cultural requirement. This restriction includes independent studies. January courses have their own tuition fee.

PART B – COURSE OFFERINGS

I. CROSS CULTURAL COURSES

The following courses all meet the MDiv/MADM (and older MA degree) cross-cultural degree requirement when completed as a cohort, including pre- and post-January meetings. The faculty person named is the local contact for the course, and in most cases the person you will work with in completing the pre- and post-trip requirements for the cross-cultural requirement, as well as sign off on the final grade. Please see that person for more information about the specific trip or course. All cross-cultural courses are usually numbered MN 398W unless noted otherwise.

These cross-cultural courses will have some number of cross-cultural travel subsidies available for that course as provided through Wartburg's Financial Aid Office, which can be used by students completing their first cross-cultural experience as required for their degree program to offset some of their travel expenses. (See Barb Roling, Financial Aid Office, for details on how these cross-cultural travel subsidies work and your eligibility.) The number of these travel subsidies is currently left unspecified, to allow for some flexibility in reassigning monies to a different trip if one is over- or under-subscribed as compared to another.

2025 International Cross-Cultural Travel Trips (travel and course in January):

FOR INTERATIONAL TRIPS, PLEASE DIRECTLY CONTACT THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR LISTED FOR THE LATEST DETAILS ON SPACE AVAILABILITY.

- **Greece/Turkey** (MN 398W-L1) - led by Prof. Troy Troftgruben, troftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu See further details in Part C below.
***** THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL *****
- **Japan** (MN 398W-L2) – led by Profs. Man Hei Yip (myip@wartburgseminary.edu) and Martin Lohrmann (mlohrmann@wartburgseminary.edu) See further details in Part C below.
***** THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL *****
- **Tanzania** (MN 398) — led by Profs. Beth Hanson and Cheryl Peterson
THIS J-TERM COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED

2025 Domestic Cross-Cultural Courses (Travel and Course in January):

- **Tucson Immersion: Mission at the Borderlands** (MN 398W-L3) – led by Prof. Craig Nesson (cnessan@wartburgseminary.edu), with Pr. Mateo Chavez. January 5-14, 2025. Taught on-site/in-person in Arizona. See further details in Part C below. ***** THIS COURSE IS NOW FULL *****
- **Dismantling Racism: A Process of Introspection and Attaining Awareness toward Faith Action** (MN 398W-L4) — ***** THIS COURSE IS NOW FULL ***** Led by Prof. Jan Schnell (jrippentropschnell@wartburgseminary.edu), with the Rev. Lamont Wells. January 8-22, 2024. Tentative enrollment limit of 20

students. Taught as a Hybrid course (on-campus and by Synchronous Zoom), but not asynchronous. Description from Prof. Schnell:

Dismantling Racism is open to any of our students; each student will be expected to take responsibility for describing their own need to learn. It is being offered with honest awareness that white students have specific work to do. This course aims for students to have a significant encounter with, arguably, two cultures previously less-than-familiar to them:

- a. BIPOC: Black, Indigenous, People of Color are people of culture with many diverse perspectives of excellence. Hearing from many authors and speakers of color, learning how not to center white selves, recognizing the grinding impacts of constant, systemic racism, thinking theologically about contexts that include structural racism, and learning to celebrate BIPOC cultural excellence will help form valued leaders and hopefully shape the ELCA to act in alignment with antiracism.
- b. Whiteness; I would argue that many white students are as yet unfamiliar with their own whiteness. It is crucial to recognize one's own racial identity in order to care about all people being treated with dignity and to work for equity in our church and world. This course will invite students, in a supported, accompanied manner, to recognize their own whiteness and begin to come to terms with the immunity/privilege it affords them, and therefore the responsibility they are perfectly free to work with. Thus, this course has repercussions for how students view their own culture.

II. Other January-Held Courses that can meet other degree (or concentration) requirements:

- **MN 397W-L1 J-term Rural Immersion:** North Dakota, Western Iowa, and Shalom Hill Farm
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen
Probable Dates: To Be Determined.
Fulfills: Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Requirement
Course Description Students, together with clergy and lay persons from small town and rural congregations, study issues affecting America's small town and rural (STaR) communities in a highly experiential learning environment. Clergy and lay persons from STaR congregations and communities are engaged as part of the course. Contexts include southwestern Minnesota, western Iowa, eastern South Dakota and North Dakota. The first week of the experience will be centered at Shalom Hill Farm www.shalomhillfarm.org. Implications for ministry and leadership in these contexts are explored.
- **MN 397W-L2 South Dakota Pastoral Practicum.** Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen is the point of contact, but not the instructor, as this will be locally led by the South Dakota Synod office in conjunction with congregations. Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Ministry requirement. Details are still being worked out. Students will be placed in an active, thriving congregation, where they will learn not only about the ministry of the congregation, but the specific context that shapes its character. Students will be matched with a seasoned pastor or deacon, who can serve as a mentor. This person will not only mentor the student, but also make sure that the expectations for both congregation and student are realistic, and give confidence and structure for the student.

III. ELECTIVE J-TERM COURSES

A. Elective Courses Held during January

Watch for more courses to be possibly announced in Fall Semester in 2024.

- **MN 297W-L2 Topics in Pastoral Care: Prayer, Praise & Poetry.** Taught by Prof. Nathan Frambach. January 6th—10th; 13th—17th (dates/times for Zoom sessions TBD closer to the J-term in consultation with synchronous students), with all assignments due by the conclusion of the J-term (Friday, January 31st). Class is structured as a seminar for synchronous and asynchronous students (minimum of three [3] students needed for a viable asynchronous cohort). *See further details in Part C below.* ***** THIS COURSE IS NOW FULL *****
- **MN 383W-L2 When Faith Hurts: Recognizing and Responding to the Spiritual Impact of Child Abuse.** A 2-credit version of the course that we've had taught several times (as a 1-credit, 3-day intensive course usually in the fall semester). Instructor: Victor Vieth. Class dates: January 13-17, 2025, with pre- and post-work due. *See further details in Part C below.*
- ~~**MN 396W-L1 Preaching, Embodiment, and Performance.** Taught by Prof. Samantha Gilmore, January 13-24, 2025 (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays only), In-Person/Synchronous Zoom instruction only.~~ **THIS J-TERM COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED**
- **MN 396W-L2 Loss, Grief, and Hope: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource.** Taught by Prof. Helen Chukka. January 13-24, 2024, with approximately 2.5 hours of class time each morning. *See further details in Part C below.*
- **MN 396W-L3 Holden Village Winter Sojourn & Seminar - Worship, Wilderness, & Community.** Taught and led by Pr. Ben Stewart, a WTS Adjunct who has taught for us at previous times as a sabbatical replacement instructor and who is on the board for Holden Village. One full week (January 14th—22nd, Wednesday to Wednesday, not including travel days before and after). *See further details in Part C below.*
- **MN 103W Pastoral-Diaconal Practicum** (arranged between you and a pastor/church, with a faculty member's oversight). A specialized independent study whereby the student focuses on ministry in a church setting (e.g., "shadowing" a pastor, or completing a specialized ministry project, etc.) **All pastoral practicums and independent studies must be PRE-approved by the Academic Dean.** Students will complete an independent study form as part of the registration process in order to outline the goals of their practicum. *See the section below on independent studies for more information on the amount of work that needs to be arranged for.*

B. Elective Courses that Actually Meet July-August (Summer 2024), before January, and can be registered for as your one “J-Term” option for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- NONE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME

C. Elective Courses that Actually Meet in May-June (Summer 2025), after January, and can be registered for as your one “J-Term” option for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

- *In Development*– A course on **Ministry Among People With Disabilities**; to be taught in partnership with the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), which is leading the planning and organizing for this course. *Details will be announced as they become available. NOTE: THIS COURSE WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE MAY 2025, AND IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE A BRIEF (TWO-DAY?) ON-SITE VISIT TO A MOSAIC FACILITY IN THE VICINITY OF CHICAGO (POSSIBLY ROCKFORD, IL).*

IV. Known J-Term Opportunities that are offered by/through another ELCA seminary:

Each year there are courses shared between the ELCA seminaries. Oftentimes such courses are shared through a long-standing cross-registration agreement between these seminaries whereby the student normally pays their home seminary the expected J-Term tuition fee, and then the student only pays the other host seminary any additional expenses needed for their local onsite participation. NOTE: Courses completed through the other ELCA or other seminaries normally do not meet other WTS degree-specific requirements (such as our cross-cultural requirement) beyond that of just meeting the general need for so many January courses unless one has received prior approval of the WTS Academic Dean.

The following TWO (2) courses are being offered in January by Luther Seminary, with one course being taught on-site in Illinois (at a spiritual center), and the other course being taught IN-PERSON at Luther Seminary, followed by an extended asynchronous period. If interested, after submitting your J-Term Preference Form, please also contact the WTS Registrar (Kevin Anderson, registrar@wartburgseminary.edu) directly for further steps:

- **HC4337 DIACONAL MINISTRY: History, Formation, and Spirituality Seminary Intensive** January 5-10, 2025, as held **in person** at the Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien, Illinois. Brought to you by the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and offered through Luther Seminary. More details at: <https://deaconesscommunity.org/2025-j-term/>. There is usually a scholarship offered from the ELCA to cover part of your expenses. Registration usually involves your first telling me of your interest (through the J-Term Preference Form), after which I submit a cross-registration form to Luther Seminary. They in turn have you then apply for admissions as a non-degree student with Luther Seminary for January, at which time after you are admitted that you then get your own LutherSem email address for access their web portal site for actual registration when their January/Winter Term registration opens up. *See further details in Part C below.*

- **EL 3539 CHRISTIAN ED AND DISMANTLING RACISM.** Instructor Dr. Mary Hess. 3-day intensive at Luther - January 4-6, 2025, with online asynchronous extended session. (Student pays for their own travel and accommodations during the three-day intensive time.). This course analyzes institutionalized racism and proposes a series of frameworks from within Christian education for engaging and dismantling racism, and for supporting multicultural and intercultural congregational learning.

The following two course are being offered in January by PLTS (Berkeley, California) for cross-registration by students at other ELCA seminaries. These are IN-PERSON COURSES ONLY (i.e., NOT hybrid as WTS students know it), and instead require attendance on the PLTS campus in Berkeley. If interested, after submitting your J-Term Preference Form, please also contact the WTS Registrar (Kevin Anderson, registrar@wartburgseminary.edu) directly for further steps:

- **INTRO FAITH-ROOTED SOC TRANSFORM (RSFT-1300) Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda 01/13/2025-01/17/2025**
In this course participants will explore the basic arts and tools of faith-based community organizing from a biblical and faith-tradition perspective, through a racial equity lens. The course will deal with attitudes and behaviors around building and exercising public power, cultivating justice-centered relationships, developing leaders, working with interfaith and non-faith-based partners, taking public action, and changing public policy and institutional and corporate practices to reflect the just and beloved community God intends. The course will draw upon and integrate students' knowledge gained in previous courses in theology, ethics, Bible, and practical theological disciplines. This course prepares participants to lead ministries that work for justice using the disciplines of community organizing. This course is offered as a one-week intensive the week of January 13-17, 2025 (M-F) in Berkeley from 8:10 am - 5:40 pm.
- **FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING (RSFT-2300) Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Ray Pickett 01/06/2025-01/31/2025**
This course will introduce the arts and theology of social transformation where it is rooted in and guided by practices and beliefs of Christian faith traditions, critically and constructively engaged. Students will explore and develop beginning competencies (spiritual, theological, social theoretical, and strategic) for social transformation ministry as it involves faith communities "gathered" for worship and "sent" into the world. Emphasis will be on theologies, analysis, and action at the race-class-gender-earth nexus. For PLTS students, an emphasis will be on resources of Lutheranism, including the ELCA and the global Lutheran communion. This course is offered as a one-week intensive offered the week of January 27-31, 2025 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

The following course is being offered in January the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and is a HYBRID course (Zoom for specified days, followed by asynchronous). If interested, after submitting your J-Term Preference Form, please also contact the WTS Registrar (Kevin Anderson, registrar@wartburgseminary.edu) directly for further steps:

- **ML 404 The Ministry of Administration.** Instructor Craig Mueller. This is a practical course integrating administration skills within the context of congregational ministry and spiritual leadership. Much of our Zoom class time will be spent with consultants and other rostered leaders sharing their personal wisdom and experience. Class meets 1/6-1/24; MTWR 9am-12pm, and 1/6-1/16; TWR 9am-12pm, plus 1/21-1/24 asynchronous.

The following THREE (3) courses are being offered in January by the United Lutheran Seminary (ULS). If interested, after submitting your J-Term Preference Form, please also contact the WTS Registrar (Kevin Anderson, registrar@wartburgseminary.edu) directly for further steps:

- **HTH 255 IZ Theologies of Reconciliation** – Instructor Natalia Marandiu. Monday-Friday, January 13-17, 2025 – **fully Zoom**. This course examines classic and contemporary theologies of reconciliation and their limits, with a view toward human thriving. We will consider possibilities of reparations and justice in contexts of social-political and interpersonal injuries, focusing on gender and sexuality, racism, and economic exploitation. We will consider multiple understandings of reconciliation with attention to how they are conceptualized theologically and lived practically. We will engage in depth the concepts of grace, salvation, justice, mercy, forgiveness, trauma, and community. The course will approach this cluster of theological topics in conversation with the concreteness of ministry needs and with the aim of shaping church leaders to respond to such needs wisely. [Prerequisite ULS HTH 100, which translates to **Prerequisite: Wartburg Seminary's HT 140W Systematic Theology course**].
- **PRAX 411 IZ Theology and Practice of Disaster and Spiritual Care** – Instructor Storm Swain. January 13-17 **fully zoom**. This course prepares religious leaders to provide spiritual and emotional care during deployment to disaster sites as well as within their own communities. The course covers a Trinitarian pastoral theology of disaster chaplaincy, grounded in a 9/11 case study, explores comprehensive response, including disaster operations, disaster spiritual care, disaster mental health, and self-care for caregivers. This curriculum is compliant with NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) and incorporates FEMA Incident Command System 100 training, complies with the National VOAD Points of Consensus for Disaster Spiritual Care, and includes NDIN (National Disaster Interfaith Network) training which upon ordination/credentialing may lead to deployment in a disaster as a chaplain or local spiritual care worker. [Prerequisite ULS PRAX 110, which translates to **Prerequisite Wartburg Seminary's MN 270W Pastoral Care in Context course**]
- **PRAX 444 IG When Faith Hurts: Recognizing and Responding to the Spiritual Impact of Abuse in the Christian Environment** (**which is NOT EXACTLY the same as the Wartburg Seminary course, although it is very similar and overlaps – if possible, we'd rather steer you to our own course first with the very same co-instructor, Victor Vieth, as our primary instructor**) – Instructor Nancy Gable. **In-Person in Gettysburg (PA) or with a Zoom option.** January 6-10, 2025. The purpose of this course is to examine the impact of abuse (broadly defined as cruel and violent treatment of a person) in the lives of the children of God: child abuse; elder abuse; abuse of persons with developmental needs; sexual abuse;

physical abuse; emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. The impact of such abuse follows a child of God throughout life and needs to be examined through the lenses of faith formation, theology, the Bible, law, and behavioral science (education, psychology, counseling/pastoral care and cognitive science). The public record documents that religious leaders might well be the abuser – or those in religious leadership are the secondary abuser because of a lack of understanding of the legal systems in place to respond to accusations. All too often faith community leaders offer inappropriate and careless responses to those victims and families, as well as to survivors of earlier abuse . My co-teacher for the course is Victor Vieth, Esq, who is the Chief Program Officer, Education & Research, of the Zero Abuse Project (www.zeroabuseproject.org) AND adjunct faculty at Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) where he teaches “When Faith Hurts: Recognizing and Responding to the Spiritual Impact of Child Abuse”. Victor holds an MA from WTS and his thesis is the foundation of his text, *On This Rock: A Call to Center the Christian Response to Child Physical Abuse in the Life and Works of Jesus*. The faith formation lenses through which I offer this will be both transformative learning theory AND intersectionality. [Prerequisites: ULS BIB 201; HTH 100; PRAX 149 or PRAX 144 or PRAX 145, which translates to Prerequisites of a prior WTS Bible course (for an understanding of hermeneutics), Wartburg Seminary’s HT 140W Systematic Theology course (for understanding creation and sin), or background in faith formation, education, pastoral care, etc.]

V. Other known January opportunities that are not part of the ELCA cross-registration program

From the Hispanic Scholars Program (<https://hispanicscholarsprogram.org/>): “Latine/a/o Biblical Hermeneutics”, Rev. Dr. Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy, Reed College, January 6-17, 2025, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Eastern Time (“online,” whereby I believe this means Zoom or its equivalent, so synchronous learning). This course explores the history and evolution of Latine/a/o biblical interpretation. Students will evaluate the intellectual histories of our scholarly elders and consider how these scholars have embraced new, decolonial readings of scripture. In doing so, students will critically assess the role of scripture in the academy and Church in order to examine the social implications of biblical interpretation. **Signing up for the HSP January course usually involves their collecting applications first (which are supposed to go live in mid-October), after which you will be told later this fall whether you are selected or not.**

VI. INDEPENDENT STUDY or PASTORAL-DIACONAL PRACTICUM

For those students who do not complete one of the cross-cultural courses or specified organized activity courses listed above, your remaining option is to complete an independent study or a pastoral-diaconal practicum. *For students MDiv, MA, and MA in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, all J-Term independent studies are expected to meet the requirements for a 2-credit course (which equates to a minimum of 90 to 95 hours of work).* All Independent Studies in January must be approved by the Academic Dean before they can be registered for. There is an Independent Study Contract Form to be completed in conjunction with the faculty member who will oversee your independent study or pastoral-diaconal practicum, and the form is also signed by your faculty advisor and the Academic Dean. These contracts need to be finalized by the December registration week.

PART C
J-TERM 2025 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(Not all courses may have further detailed description available at this time;
See the Registrar or the faculty contact person/instructor for more details)

MN 398W-L1 GREECE / TURKEY

See pages 19 to 23 at the end of this document for details from the instructor and the travel agency involved.

***** THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL *****

MN 398W-L2 JAPAN

Instructors: Dr. Martin Lohrmann and Dr. Man-Hei Yip
2 credit hours (credit/no credit only)

***** THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL *****

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This cross-cultural trip offers experiences of and reflection upon the history, experiences, and challenges of Christian ministry in Japan. Participants will learn through cultural immersion, conversation, visits to congregations and social ministries, readings, and journaling. A guiding theme will be the relationship between faith and culture facing Christians in Japan.

OBJECTIVES

1. To deepen personal knowledge and faith through experiences of diverse religious cultures and Christian life in Japan.
2. To build relationships with and learn from Lutherans and other Christians in Japan through visits, conversation, and study.
3. To learn the blessings and challenges of being Christian in contexts where Christianity is a minority religion.

PROCEDURE

- A group of approximately 12-20 participants will spend about two weeks in Japan, beginning in Tokyo and the Lutheran college and seminary in Mitaka. The group will then travel to other parts of Japan—including Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Kumamoto—to learn about Japanese culture, Lutheran ministries, and international movements for peace.
- Priority for participation will be given to Wartburg Seminary students completing their cross-cultural immersion requirement. If capacity allows, other WTS community members (including alums and family members) will be welcome, with the understanding that they will participate fully in the immersion.
- Participants should expect significant amounts of walking.
- Tentative dates for travel: leave US on January 5, 2025, to arrive on January 6 in Japan; return trip to the US will take place on January 22, 2025.
- Estimated trip costs (including airfare): \$4000 per student.
- Current passports and updated influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations are required.

EVALUATION

Course evaluation will be based on active participation and the completion of a journal that records experiences, questions, impressions, and insights.

PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Silence by Shūsaku Endō

Mount Fuji and Mount Sinai: A Critique of Idols by Kosuke Koyama

A Song for Nagasaki: The Story of Takashi Nagai by Paul Glynn

The Boy and the Heron (film), directed by Hiyaoy Miyazaki (Studio Ghibli, 2023)

MN 398W-L3 TUCSON IMMERSION: Mission at the Borderlands

*** THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL ***

Course Description: This immersion gives students the opportunity to experience the borders of religion, politics, and culture. Students participate in an immersion trip to the US/Mexico border (Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico) to experience borderland ministries. Students will encounter the church's witness at the intersection of multiple cultures, legal jurisdictions, and socioeconomic situations as they listen to the people who live, work, and gather there. Students are invited into a learning space characterized by generosity, receptivity, and compassionate presence to one another and those they meet. Worship, spiritual practices, and mutual conversation will center the immersion.

Objectives:

1. (Knowing) recognize and describe issues relevant to ministry in Latine contexts in the Southwest, as well as political, socio-demographic, and pastoral issues associated with immigration to the United States, especially from Mexico and Central America.
2. (Doing) summarize clearly and generously at least three key characteristics of pastoral ministry in Latinx contexts, as well as migration ministry.
3. (Being) cultivate pastoral dispositions of self-awareness, empathy, courage, and justice.

Procedure: The course/immersion meets for 10 days in the Tucson area, **January 5–14, 2025**. Lodging and most meals are provided at the Iglesia Lutheran San Juan Bautista (1130 East Bilby Road, Tucson, AZ), hosted by Pastor Mateo Chavez. The immersion will include cultural competency, pastoral awareness, and theological preparation with on-site exploration of life on the US-Mexico border. The format includes reading, daily journal reflections and a final reflection paper that will be due on January 24. The cost, including room, breakfast, and dinner, is **\$1250.00** (payable to Wartburg). Students are asked to bring meal money for lunches for each day in order to provide the opportunity to experience local cuisine. Students should bring their passports and make their own travel arrangements to and from Tucson. The congregation of Iglesia Luterana San Juan Bautista is looking forward to hosting you who are interested in getting a close view of what Latino Ministry is evolving into within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Evaluation:

1. Class preparation (readings) and participation in the experience.
2. Daily journaling to explore questions and observations that arise from the encounters with people and ministries in the borderland.
3. A critical reflection paper that captures the learning and insights from the experience with specific reference to the three objectives of the course.

Required Texts:

- Jacqueline Maria Hagan. *Migration Miracle: Faith, Hope and Meaning on the Undocumented Journey*
- Maxwell E. Johnson. *The Virgin of Guadalupe: Theological Reflections of an Anglo-Lutheran Liturgist.*
- Robert Chao Romero. *Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity*
- Chart with summary of U.S. interventions in Latin America
<http://www.zompist.com/latam.html>

Recommended Resources:

- Kat Armas. *Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us About Wisdom, Persistence, and Strength.*
- Stephen Bouman and Ralston Deffenbaugh. *They are Us: Lutherans and immigration*, 2nd edition.
- ELCA Latino Ministry Strategy Plan:
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Latino_Strategic_Plan_English.pdf
- ELCA Social Statement on Immigration, Declaration of Sanctuary Denomination and AMMPARO Resources on Sanctuary Overview and Basic Steps for ELCA Congregations to Observe the Sanctuary memorial at www.elca.org
- Virgilio Elizondo. *Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise*
- Daisy L. Machado. “The Unnamed Woman: Justice, Feminists, and the Undocumented Woman” pg. 161-174 chap 8) in *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology: Religion and Justice*, ed. Maria Pilar Aquino, Daisy L. Machado, and Jeanette Rodriguez.
- *The River and the Wall* (film). Available on Amazon.
- Albert R. Rodriguez. “Transcultural Latino Evangelism: An Emerging New Paradigm,” *Anglican Theological Review* 101:4 (2019): 673-683.
- Stephen Talmage. “We Are All Cousins: A Biblical Mandate.” In “Bishops on the Border: Pastoral Responses to Immigration,” by Mark Adams, Minerva G. Carcano, Gerald Kicanas, Kirk Smith, and Stephen Talmage.

Critical Reflection Paper (6 pages, double-spaced): addressing the following three areas:

- A. What do you see as the top 2-3 pressing social, political, and/or pastoral issues related to immigration in the United States (esp. from Mexico and Central America)?
- B. What would you identify as the 2-3 most important characteristics of faithful ministry in the borderlands among people in Latinx contexts?
- C. Select, identify, or create some form of artistic expression (for example, artwork, picture, poetry, painting) that captures important aspects of your experience. Briefly explain its significance in the paper and be ready to share it at a debriefing meeting in late January.

Due January 24, 2025.

Some Highlights:

- San Xavier Mission, Yaqui Museum and Presidio

- Slide Show featuring Magdalena de Kino, Sonora, Mexico and Trip to Sentinel Peak
- Arizona Justice for our Neighbors
- Introduction to Lutheran Rosary
- Asylum-Seeker Shelter, La Casa de Misericordia de Todas las Naciones in Nogales

MN 297W-L2 TOPICS IN PASTORAL CARE: Prayer, Praise & Poetry

Instructor: Nathan Frambach

Class is structured as a seminar for both synchronous and asynchronous students (minimum of three [3] students needed for a viable asynchronous cohort)

***** THIS COURSE MAY BE FULL, DEPENDING ON SYNCHRONOUS VERSUS ASYNCHRONOUS INTEREST FOR UP TO TWO (2) MORE POTENTIAL STUDENTS (as of 10/8/2024 at 3 p.m. Central Time). *****

Elective open to all; can be tailored to meet Youth, Culture & Mission concentration elective
2 credits; credit/no credit

Class schedule: January 6th—10th; 13th—17th (dates/times for Zoom sessions TBD closer to the J-term in consultation with synchronous students). *All assignments due by the conclusion of the J-term (Friday, January 31st)

Description:

This course will focus on the poetic dimension of pastoral leadership and the relationship between prayer, praise and poetry in the ministries of pastoral care. A variety of prayer practices will be considered as we explore the spiritual and pastoral dimensions of poetry and the way in which poetry can function as prayer and an invitation for wonder and self-reflection for leaders in ministry. The course will feature contemplative, careful reading and hearing of the poetry of Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, Joy Harjo and a variety of other poets.

Objectives:

1. To explore the biblical, theological, and pastoral dimensions of praise and the various ways in which poetry evokes and expresses wonder, reflection, and praise (*practice of biblical and theological wisdom*).
2. To foster conversation about the relationship between prayer, praise, and poetry in the ministries of pastoral care (*practice of curiosity*).
3. To explore and better understand the way in which poetry can serve as a form of prayer in the care of souls (*practice of pastoral concern*).
4. To read and contemplate the poetry of Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, Joy Harjo and other poets as a way of cultivating the essential pastoral practices of observing, paying attention, noticing, and holy listening (*practice of immersion in the context*).

Procedure:

This is a reading, reflection, and discussion seminar, and will involve shared, collaborative, seminar-style learning and student participation.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on full, active participation in the seminar, including mutual accountability for reading and discussion. All participants in the seminar will share responsibility for facilitating conversation in class sessions based on readings and sharing short written and spoken reflections.

Bibliography: (Required)

“*Invitation to Wonder: Why we need Mary Oliver’s poetry*” by Debra Dean Murphy (Christian Century, April 26, 2017)

**Please note that we will be using a selection of poems from the work of Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, Joy Harjo and other poets. These compilations represent the best collections of their poetry, and more clarity about sources and resources will be provided closer to the J-term.*

Devotions by Mary Oliver (*selected poems*)

This Day by Wendell Berry (*selected poems*)

Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light by Joy Harjo

Recommended:

Upstream by Mary Oliver

MN 383W-L2 WHEN FAITH HURTS: RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO THE SPIRITUAL IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE

Instructor: Victor I. Vieth & Craig L. Nessian

Class Meets January 13-17, 2025, with pre- and post-work

Elective

2 Credit; letter grade or credit/no credit

This course assists current and future faith leaders in developing the skills to recognize and respond with excellence to cases of child sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect. Special emphasis is placed on the spiritual impact of child abuse and the importance of coordinating pastoral care with medical and mental health care. Students will also learn best practices for church child protection policies, including policies for managing a sex offender within the congregation.

OBJECTIVES

1. To draw on biblical and Lutheran confessional resources to articulate a Christian and Lutheran theological basis for prioritizing the needs of maltreated children within the church and community.
2. To better understand Martin Luther’s experience of physical abuse and how this experience influenced his theology.
3. To better understand the significance of Wilhelm Loehe’s legacy in meeting the Christian obligation to protect children from abuse and to help them flourish.
4. Develop culturally sensitive skills in responding to troubling texts often used to justify hitting a child as a means of discipline, to withhold medical or mental health care, to avoid reporting a case of child abuse, or to keep the confidence of a sex offender or other perpetrator.
5. To assist students in recognizing signs of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect, including an overview of normal and concerning sexual behaviors of pre and post adolescent children.
6. To understand the physical, emotional and spiritual impact of child abuse and to have a working knowledge of adverse childhood experience and poly-victimization research.

7. To become familiar with the SAMSHA standards for trauma-informed care and to be able to apply these standards when reading and teaching accounts of trauma in the sacred texts.
8. To become conversant in best practices for child protection policies and the coordination of pastoral care with medical and mental health care in cases of child abuse.
9. To better understand how to apply the Lutheran concept of clergy-penitent privilege when working with survivors and offenders.
10. To better understand the mindset of sex offenders and to coordinate pastoral care with sex offender treatment.
11. To better understand the potential role of a chaplain in a Children's Advocacy Center

EVALUATION

1. Class preparation and participation in group exercises
2. Students must review and critique a sample church child protection policy.
3. Written 6 page paper at end of course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

1. Victor I. Vieth, *On this Rock: A Call to Center the Christian Response to Child Abuse on the Life and Words of Jesus* (2018).
2. Basyle Tchividjian & Shira M. Berkovits, *The Child Safeguarding Policy Guide for Churches & Ministries* (2017).
3. *Child Abuse & the Church: Prevention, Pastoral Care, and Healing*, 45 *Currents in Mission & Theology* 6-60 (2018).
4. Victor I. Vieth, *Child Abuse & the Lutheran Confessional: A Call to Elevate Christ's Teachings on Child Abuse Above Church Traditions*, 46 *Currents in Mission & Theology* 50-55 (2019).
5. Victor I. Vieth, *Augustine, Luther & Solomon: Providing Pastoral Care to Parents on the Corporal Punishment of Children*, 43 *Currents in Mission & Theology* 25-33 (2017).
6. Victor I. Vieth, *What Would Walther Do? Applying Law & Gospel to Victims and Perpetrators of Child Abuse*, 40(4) *Journal of Psychology & Theology* 257-273 (2012).
7. Victor I. Vieth, *The Need for a Trauma-Informed Lutheran Theology: A Case Study on Lutheran Study Bibles*, 51(3) *Currents in Theology & Mission* 52-66 (2024)
8. Victor I. Vieth, *Providing Pastoral Care to Survivors of Child Abuse*, 24(2) *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* (2024)
9. Victor I. Vieth, *A Bird in the Air or a Nest in the Hair? Pastoral Care for Adults Expressing a Sexual Attraction to Children but who Deny Acting on these Thoughts*, 49 *Currents in Theology and Mission* 33-45 (2022)
10. Victor I. Vieth, *Until the Blood Ran: A Call to Re-Appraise the Experience of Child Physical Abuse in the Life and Works of Martin Luther*, 47(4) *Currents in Theology and Mission* 60-73 (2020)
11. Pete Singer, *Toward a More Trauma-Informed Church: Equipping Faith Communities to Prevent and Respond to Abuse*, 51(1) *Currents in Theology and Mission* 62-76 (2020)
12. Craig L. Nesson, *Grounding Child Protection in Six Core Commitments: Theology & Ethics*, 23(6) *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* (December 2023/January 2024).
13. Craig L. Nesson, *Rational for a Social Statement on Child Abuse & Child Protection*, 48(2) *Currents in Theology and Mission* 43-56 (2020)

14. Victor Vieth, et al, *Keeping Faith: The Potential Role of a Chaplain to Address the Spiritual Needs of Maltreated Children and Advise Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Teams*, 14(2) Liberty University Law Review 351-380 (2020).
15. Pamela J. Miller, Judith S. Rycus, & Victor Vieth, *Intrafamilial Child Torture: Victim Impact and Professional Interventions*, Child Maltreatment Policy Resource Center (2022).

~~MN 396W-L1 PREACHING, EMBODIMENT, AND PERFORMANCE~~
THIS J-TERM COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED

MN 396W-L2 LOSS, GRIEF, AND HOPE: Lament in the Hebrew Bible as a Congregational Resource

Two Credits

Grade or Credit/No credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew Bible I

Helen Chukka, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible

January 13-24, 2024, with approximately 2.5 hours of class time each morning.

Residential/Synchronous Zoom (although if 3 or more commit to asynchronous learning, that option could also be made available)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Loss, Grief, and Hope introduces the biblical understanding of suffering and its effects represented in the pious practice called “lament.” The strategies of protesting, coping, and trusting God amidst various losses are accessible in the laments in the Hebrew Bible. This course explores these various responses of individuals and communities in the Scripture. It will look at expressions and specific forms of lament, as well as the biblical figures as models of piety and prayer and intends to present lament as a powerful and pious expression of faith in and for the Christian church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- grow in understanding the nature, function, and power of laments
- describe the various forms of lament in the Hebrew Bible
- recognize the complexity of grief in the Hebrew Bible and distinguish it from the various stages of grief in psychology
- appreciate lament as a pious and powerful expression of faith
- transfer knowledge about lament in the Scripture as a congregational resource for various events including funeral services or personalized devotions

EVALUATION

Students will be primarily evaluated on written assignments and class participation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required

Bible (NRSV or NRSVue)

Billman, Kathleen, and Daniel Migliore, eds. *Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006.

Recommended (select chapters will be required but purchase is not required)

Kelly, Melissa M. *Grief: Contemporary Theory and Practice of Ministry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.

MN 396W-L3 HOLDEN VILLAGE WINTER SOJOURN & SEMINAR: Worship, Wilderness, & Community

January 2025: 2 credit hours (credit/no credit only)

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart (former village pastor & WTS adjunct)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Enjoy an opportunity to spend one full week (7 days, Wednesday to Wednesday) at Holden Village for a winter spiritual sojourn, around the themes of *Worship, Wilderness, and Community*. We will join the Holden winter community in this beautiful and rugged setting in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. The rhythm of daily life will mirror the rhythm of the Holden community, including worship, prayer, reading, conversation, work, play, and table fellowship. Our conversations and reading will explore the intersection of Christian worship, community, and the natural world. We will especially attend to our experience of village life and to the spirituality of the cardinal times of the day (sunrise, sunset, night) and seasons (how earth's seasons relate to our liturgical year). Our conversations about liturgy, ecology, and community life are enriched by texts that include poetry and spirituality of place.

OBJECTIVES

1. To reflect theologically on the experience of Christian life at Holden Village.
2. To describe appreciatively the relationship between natural cycles of days/seasons and the cycles of Christian worship, and to graciously lead others into these practices.
3. To experience personal and communal renewal through cycles of play, prayer, work, conversation, and rest in a wilderness retreat center community.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart is Distinguished Affiliate Professor of Worship at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Pastor to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Two Harbors, Minnesota. A former Village Pastor to Holden Village and an occasional adjunct instructor at WTS, Ben is author of *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology*.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

You may choose your preferred mode of travel for this trip. Prof. Stewart will travel by train with the following general itinerary: departing from Lacrosse, WI on a Sunday evening (Jan. 12th), arriving into Wenatchee early Tuesday morning (Jan 14th), spend the day and overnight in Wenatchee, take the boat up Lake Chelan to Holden Wednesday morning (Jan 15th), arriving at Holden Village mid-day on Wednesday; leaving Holden mid-day on the following Wednesday (Jan 22nd), arriving back into Wenatchee Wednesday afternoon, boarding the train Wednesday evening (Jan. 22nd) for the return trip, arriving into Lacrosse, WI on Friday morning (Jan. 24th).

- Course dates are January 14th—22nd (*not inclusive of travel*).
- *If traveling by train*, twelve (12) days total; dates for this J-term offering are January 12th—24th, 2025. If you choose other modes of travel, please see below.
- **Cost:** Estimated total cost of \$1,300—\$1,400 based on the following breakdown and dependent

on your mode of travel (all costs approximate at this point):

1. **Travel** (round trip): \$300-\$500 per person; rooms on the train incur added cost per person (rooms include meals in Dining Car, access to shower on board). Check Amtrack.com for current fare & room rates or your preferred airline.
 2. **Holden Village**: \$600 for the week (this reflects the revised, “post-pandemic” weekly rates set by Holden for J-term participants)
 3. **Lady of the Lake** (Lake Chelan boat/ferry): \$36.00 round trip
 4. **Wenatchee, WA**: one night hotel (shared) and meals; ≈ \$125.00
 5. **Misc**: you will need money for food/drinks as you travel, especially if you travel by train and do not have a sleeper (sleepers are nice and include meals, but are pricey); you can also bring food & drinks (within reason) on board the train; and they do have a store at Holden Village with all sorts of stuff for purchase—from candy bars to books to music to apparel.
- If you wish to travel **by train**, the route you will choose is the **Empire Builder**, originating at Chicago’s Union Station and terminating in Seattle, WA (but the *destination stop is Wenatchee, WA*).
 - If you wish to travel by **air**, please plan on arriving in Wenatchee on Tuesday, January 14th and departing on Thursday, January 23rd. This will likely involve another overnight, whether in Wenatchee or close to SeaTac airport.
 - If you choose to **drive**, please plan on arriving in Wenatchee on Tuesday, January 14th. We will return to the Chelan/Wenatchee area late afternoon on Wednesday, January 22nd.

Please feel free to contact Instructor Ben Stewart (bstewart@wartburgseminary.edu) with any questions – he’s glad to help with logistics and identify the best travel options for individuals.

EVALUATION

Based on active participation and reflective journaling.

PROPOSED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Woodley, *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth*
- Cole-Dai and Wilson, *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*
- ELCA, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship & All Creation Sings*
- Pre-reading: Stewart, *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth’s Ecology*



Diaconal Ministry: History, Formation and Spirituality

HC4337 – Luther Seminary <https://inside.luthersem.edu/registrar/registration/>

The Deaconess Community of the ELCA, also serving in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, created this January seminary elective course to share the history, spirituality, and impact of diaconal ministry with the whole church.

This Course is for the whole church as it introduces participants to the historical, theological, and social contexts in which the work of diaconal ministry has been expressed through the church's history;

- provides a particular focus on ways in which that history continues to impact the present;
- provides opportunity for the development of spiritual disciplines and vocational discernment;
- meets the formation requirements for those entering the Word and Service Roster;
- includes pre-work.

Course Goals:

- To present a theological grounding for discernment.
- To learn about the ministry of Word and Service throughout the church's history.
- To experience and talk about intentional community.

This course, containing both an on-line and on-site component, is offered through Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is available for cross-registration for all ELCA Seminary students. It is also open to non-degree participants.

Dr. Susan McArver, H. George Anderson Professor of Church History at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina and Sister Davia Evans, STM, Spiritual Theology and Spiritual Director are the instructors for this class.

(Although the rest of the course description indicates that one should contact Luther Seminary next, you are instructed actually to first contact the WTS Registrar by submitted the J-Term Preference Form, after which I will submit a cross-registration form to Luther Seminary. It is after that happens that your focus will shift to working directly with Luther Seminary Admissions and Registrar office folks.)

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Wartburg Theological Seminary - Greece & Turkey Study Tour

January 7 - 18, 2025 Greece

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Overview

You are invited to join faculty and students from Wartburg Theological Seminary in a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey to visit sacred spaces of biblical significance and to encounter countries and people of rich and diverse cultural traditions today. Visit places where the Apostle Paul traveled as part of his ministry journeys. See and experience aspects of Orthodox Christianity in Greece and Islam in Turkey. Our group's mixture of students, alumni, and friends will make for an experience of seminary life on the road in two of the most fascinating countries in the world.

Please contact the group leader Professor Troy Troftgruben if you have any questions regarding the tour ttroftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu

DETAILS:

- The tour departs on **January 7, 2025**, and returns on **January 18, 2025**
- Departure Airport: **Chicago, IL (ORD)** (Other cities are available)

PRICING:

- **\$3,990** per person based on double occupancy - space is limited
- Single room supplement: **\$890**

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- **\$300** per person with registration to secure space
- Balance due on or before **October 1, 2024**

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

TK 006 07JAN ORD - IST 830P 405P 08 JAN
TK1893 08JAN IST - SKG 840P 900P 08 JAN

TK 005 18JAN IST - ORD 320P 610P 18 JAN

** Flight times, flight numbers, equipment, gates, and seats are subject to change. For the most current information check the airline website.*

January 7 - 18, 2025 Greece
Inclusions/Exclusions

What is included in the tour

- Airfare from Chicago, IL (ORD) (Other cities are available)
- 11 nights in 4-star hotels (double occupancy)
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Entrance fee to all sites
- All ground transportation in a private tour bus

What is NOT included in the tour

- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Lunch
- Personal Expenses
- **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel Insurance is required and not included in the purchase price. For your convenience, we offer travel insurance through *Travelex Insurance Services. For questions, quotes, or to purchase travel insurance, visit [Travelex Insurance](#) or call **(800) 228-9792** and use the code **26-0057** for Elias Tours.

Itinerary

Day 1 - January 7: Departure from the USA

Depart from Chicago, IL (ORD) for an overnight flight to Thessaloniki, Greece. Meals and overnight on board.

Day 2 - January 8: Into the Footsteps of Paul - Thessaloniki

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companions established the first Christian communities. On arrival, we will be met at the airport for a transfer to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Day 3 - January 9: Thessaloniki - Kavala - Philippi

Follow the Via Egnatia, a remnant of Rome's highway system, viewing Roman and Greek tombs and ruts of ancient chariot wheels. Next, stop in Philippi, where Paul preached his first sermon in Europe and baptized the first Christian convert on European soil. Among the ruins located on the rocky ledge above the town's main road is the prison into which Paul and Silas were thrown. It was in Philippi that Octavian and Anthony defeated Brutus and Cassius in 42 BCE. Free time in the old city of Kavala Port where Paul came to the city, Return to Thessaloniki to explore the ancient city where Paul planted a church that would later receive two New Testament epistles. View one of the most beautiful basilicas in the city, St. Demetrius. Continue along the waterfront to the massive White Tower and nearby triumphal Arch of Galerius. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Day 4 - January 10: Kalambaka - Meteora - Delphi

We spend some time today marveling at this unique phenomenon of nature – 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their cave-like Monastic community of Meteora. Take in the striking monasteries that crown the summits of these pinnacles with their wooden galleries and corniced rooftops. Dangerously hanging over the stunning abysses, these primitive dwellings compose one of the most fascinating sites on earth. A special treat awaits with a visit to two of these timeless monasteries to see the exquisite specimens of Byzantine art on display. Drive to Delphi to stay overnight.

Day 5 - January 11: Delphi - Athens

Breakfast at the hotel and we begin our exploration of the ancient site of Delphi. The pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, where the oracle of Apollo spoke, was the site of the omphalos, the 'navel of the world'. Blending harmoniously with the superb landscape and charged with sacred meaning, Delphi in the 6th century B.C. was indeed the religious center and symbol of unity of the ancient Greek world. We then travel directly to the center of Athens. free time for the rest of the day. Overnight Athens.

Day 6 - January 12: Full-Day Tour in Athens - Areopagus and the Acropolis

Start our day with worship at a local Orthodox church. Full-day tour of Athens, which gives you an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that comprise Athens. Start with the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896. Pass by the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch, which is not far from the Acropolis and Agora (marketplace). Climb up the Areopagus (Mars Hill), which served as the meeting place for the Areopagus Court, the highest court in Greece, and is the location of one of Paul's most important presentations at the time of his visit to Athens during his second missionary journey (Acts 17:16–

34). It was where he addressed the religious idolatry of the Greeks who even had an altar to the "Unknown God." Visit the ancient Roman agora. On the world-renowned Acropolis visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and, finally, "the harmony

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the Metropolitan Cathedral. Traditional Greek Dinner. Overnight Athens.

Day 7 - January 13: Corinth

Depart for a full-day tour to Ancient Corinth, a center of trade for many centuries. Our first stop will be the Isthmus of Corinth where the Peloponnese and central Greece meet, as well as the Aegean and Ionian seas. The canal that crosses it was completed at the end of the 19th century and saves ships the more than 250 miles it takes to go around the Peloponnesian peninsula. We will visit Ancient Corinth with its amazing artifacts, some of which date back to 6000 B.C., and are housed in the museum. The remains of the city, which include the agora (market) and the temple of Apollo (6th century BC) clearly show how rich and important Corinth was in antiquity. The Romans rebuilt the city in 44 B.C. to later make it the provincial capital of Greece. On our way back to Athens, Free time in Athens. Overnight in Athens.

Day 8 - January 14: Athens - Izmir

Depart Athens mid-morning, arriving in Izmir. Visit the archaeological site of ancient Smyrna (one of the seven churches of Revelation). Drive to and overnight in Kusadasi.

Day 9 - January 15: Kusadasi - Ephesus

Visit Ephesus (a major focus of the Apostle Paul and one of the seven churches of Revelation) for an in-depth visit of the archaeological site, including the museum. Visit the Basilica of St. John and the Temple of Artemis / Diana (little remains of either). As time permits, visit the House of the Virgin Mary. Overnight Kusadasi.

Day 10 - January 16: Izmir - Istanbul

Depart Izmir this morning for Istanbul. Breakfast at the hotel. Enjoy a full-day tour with lunch, and visit the Grand Bazaar, then we will visit Suleymaniye Mosque, Pierre Loti Hill, Today's Istanbul honors and preserves the legacy of its past while looking to its modern future. The variety of this city fascinates its visitors, for its museums, churches, palaces, mosques, and bazaars. Meet with a Muslim Professor. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in Istanbul. Overnight Istanbul.

Day 11 - January 17: Istanbul

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, depart from the hotel to visit the ancient city. Visit the Museum of the Ancient Orient then We visit the Blue Mosque, well known for its interior decorations. Next, we visit the Hippodrome from the Byzantine period and then the Aya Sophia church from the 6th century. After lunch, we

will visit the Topkapi Palace, the residence of the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire, famous for its excellent collection of jewelry and porcelain. Free time for the rest of the day! Overnight Istanbul.

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Check out and transfer to the airport for our flight back to the USA.

NOTE: The schedule is subject to change due to various factors and at your Tour Leaders' and Guide's discretion.

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