

Russia and the Baltics

LCMS WORLD MISSION TOUR

May 22 - June 4, 2007

Hosted by

The Rev. Dr. Robert & Kristi Roegner

The Rev. Dr. William & Carol Diekelman

The Rev. Brent & Jennie Smith

Ablaze!



Red Square and the Kremlin, Moscow

Dear Friends of LCMS World Mission,

One never knows where and when God will open a door for the Good News of Jesus. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, God opened a door of huge opportunity in Russia and Eastern Europe. The collapse of European Communism also brought us in touch--and in partnership--with fellow Lutherans who by God's grace had remained steadfast in the faith through decades of persecution.

Today, LCMS World Mission and its partners are Ablaze! as we seek to share the Gospel with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people worldwide by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I invite you to join me and my wife, Kristi, and LCMS First Vice President Bill Diekelman and his wife, Carol, on a very special Ablaze! tour of Russia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Joining and guiding us will be LCMS World Mission's Eurasia regional director, Rev. Brent Smith, and his wife, Jennie.

Not only will we visit some of the world's most famous, historic, and grand sites, but you will have the rare opportunity to meet with LCMS missionaries and fellow Lutherans from our partner churches for a first-hand look at how God is using them to proclaim the Gospel in a region once closed to us. We look forward to having you with us!



In His service ... and yours,
The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner
Executive Director
LCMS World Mission



GROUP
TRAVEL DIRECTORS
enriching lives through
travel since 1982

Russia and the Baltics *Ablaze!*

In Russia, the Christian legacy is more than 1,000 years old, dating from the baptism of the Slavs in 988. The beginnings of Christianity go back nearly as far in Latvia, which also became one of the earliest lands to embrace the Lutheran Reformation.

Most of Eurasia, in fact, has a Christian history that goes back for centuries. But today, fewer than 5 percent of the more than 700 million people in Eurasia attend church regularly. The emphasis on LCMS World Mission in Eurasia is to reconnect people there to their Christian heritage—because the heritage of this region needs to be more than beautiful, but empty, historic cathedrals.

In Russia today, one way that Jesus is reconnecting to people is through music. Since the *Ablaze!* movement began to spread in

Russia just over a year ago, classical Lutheran music concerts have reached more than 4,000 people with the Gospel in five cities, including St. Petersburg. St. Michael Lutheran Church there was converted into a sports-equipment factory by the Communists, but now it is a church once again and holds weekly concerts. St. Michael offers one of many mission models for the other 75 new Lutheran churches spread across the Russian Federation.

Throughout Eurasia, LCMS World Mission is working with and through partner churches, including in Russia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Through the *Ablaze!* movement, LCMS World Mission and its partners are all about reconnecting people to their Christian heritage by connecting them to the person of Jesus Christ!

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

TUE 22 MAY

Depart US

Board connecting flights in your home cities bound for Chicago. The group departs Chicago on the overnight transatlantic flight to Copenhagen via SAS. (Meals in-flight)

WED 23 MAY

Arrive Moscow

Connect in Copenhagen this afternoon with the continuing flight to Moscow, the dynamic capital of Russia. Upon late afternoon arrival, meet your Russian escort and motor-coach for the transfer to your hotel. Following check-in, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. (Meals in-flight, D)

THU 24 MAY

Moscow

Visit the offices of LCMS World Mission this morning. This afternoon embark on a locally guided tour of Moscow (no inside visits). The city was founded in the 12th century and emerged as the heart of a unified Russian state in the 15th century. Today the city dominates the political and economic developments of the redefined, 21st century Russia. See the world famous Red Square, the whimsical St. Basil's Cathedral with its colorful onion domes, and the Novodevichy Convent. View the city from the observation platform near the University. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

FRI 25 MAY

Moscow

This morning visit representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in

Russia. This afternoon continue with other Lutheran visits. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

SAT 26 MAY Moscow/Night train to St. Petersburg

This morning is at leisure for individual activities. This afternoon tour the Kremlin, the 12th century walled fortress that has come to symbolize the power and mystery of Russia. Walk the grounds that have been witness to many tragic and famous events in Russian history. Today the Kremlin is one of the largest museums in the world with state regalia, invaluable icons, and treasures of the Tsars stored in the chambers and cathedrals. Stop for dinner at a restaurant before embarking on the overnight train to St. Petersburg (two-berth compartments). Night train (B,D)

SUN 27 MAY Arrive St. Petersburg

Arrive in St. Petersburg this morning. Peter the Great envisioned Russia as a grand European, seafaring power and built St. Petersburg in 1701-03, to take advantage of its location on the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea. Disembark from the train for breakfast before beginning visits. Transfer to Kultishe to visit the Ingrian seminary and church for Sunday worship. Also visit another village church nearby. Transfer back to the city for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. (B,D)

MON 28 MAY

St. Petersburg

Visit Lutheran churches including St. Michael's and St. Mary's with a stop at the Consistory (Bishop's office). This afternoon visit the village church in Yuki. Back in St. Petersburg, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant followed by a midnight river and canal cruise, "White Night Under the Open Bridges." (B,D)

TUE 29 MAY

St. Petersburg

Enjoy a full day of locally guided sightseeing. See some of the most beautiful places in the city: Nevsky Avenue, and the Palace Square with the magnificent Winter Palace, built in baroque style by the great Italian Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Visit the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, created in the style of Moscow's St. Basil's and extravagantly adorned in splendid finishings. Drive past the first construction in the city, the imposing Peter and Paul's Fortress, with the Cathedral where many Russian Tsars are buried. View St. Isaac's, which is one of the three largest domed cathedrals in the world; its huge golden dome dominates the entire city. Enjoy time this afternoon for lunch on your own and to explore along Nevsky Prospekt. Meet as a group to end the afternoon at one of the world's richest art museums, the Hermitage. The collection, begun by Catherine the Great, was enriched by all the Russian Royalties and embraces the history of the world of art. (B,D)

THE REV. DR. ROBERT M. ROEGNER has been executive director of LCMS World Mission since 2001. He also has served as an evangelistic missionary/church planter among the Kisi Nation in Liberia, West Africa; area secretary for Africa, Europe, and the Middle East with the LCMS Board for Mission Services; executive director of Lutheran Bible Translators; and senior pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Westwood, N.J. He was instrumental in creating the vision for *Ablaze!*, a worldwide movement to share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. He and his wife Kristi have four children.

THE REV. DR. WILLIAM DIEKELMAN was elected in 2004 to serve as first vice president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He has been a parish pastor (St. Mark Lutheran Church, Elko, Nev., and Faith Lutheran Church, Owasso, Okla.), a circuit counselor and first vice president of the Oklahoma District, and for more than a dozen years, president of the Oklahoma District. He also has served on a variety of district and Synod committees and currently sits on the Board of Directors for Wheat Ridge Ministries. Bill and his wife Carol have six children and two granddaughters.

THE REV. BRENT SMITH is LCMS World Mission's regional director for Eurasia, an area that includes Europe and the former Soviet Union. In this role, Brent provides leadership and support to the missionaries in the region, facilitates work and partnerships with national churches, and explores new possibilities for work among people who do not yet know the Lord Jesus. He began service with LCMS World Mission as the business manager for the Kazakhstan field in 1995. After two years of service, he entered Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and during the 1999-2000 school year, served his vicarage in Moscow, Russia. Brent then received his first call in 2001, to serve as evangelistic missionary to Moscow. He, Jennie, and their three children currently reside in Frankfurt, Germany.

Your Tour Hosts

WED 30 MAY St. Petersburg/Night train to Riga

Enjoy a morning at leisure for individual pursuits. This afternoon continue with visits to LCMS partner missions followed by dinner at a restaurant before boarding the night train to Riga (two-berth compartments). Night train (B,D)

THU 31 MAY Arrive Riga

Disembark and meet your Latvian escort and motorcoach. Stop for breakfast at a local restaurant before beginning your morning city sightseeing of beautiful Riga. Start with Vecriga, the Old City, with its numerous medieval buildings in the maze of the old town's crooked streets. Visit the Arsenal building, partially enfolded in the Old City's wall, and the 13th century St. James Cathedral with its 240-foot steeple. This magnificent domed Lutheran Cathedral was built in the year 1212. The cathedral is known for its colorful medieval stained glass windows and a spectacular 6,768-pipe organ, one of the most splendid organs in the world. Next see "Tirs Brali" (Three Brothers), three architectural gems of typically Rigan houses. This afternoon begin visits with the Latvian Lutheran community. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

FRI 01 JUN Riga

This morning continue with Lutheran visits in the countryside. Return to Riga for an afternoon at leisure for individual activities. The capital of Latvia is an important port at the mouth of the Daugava River and was one of the Hanseatic League cities in the Middle Ages. The first chronicled mention of Riga dates back to the year 1201. Today Riga has a population of over 800,000. (B,D)

SAT 02 JUN Riga/Vilnius

Depart for Vilnius with a stop en route in Kedainiai, a famous Lutheran center in the 17th century. Meet a local pastor and visit two of the 17th century Lutheran churches. Continue to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, a sprawling yet cozy and homey city that is over 700 years old. Take a locally guided tour through the narrow winding streets of the Old Town with its elegant Gothic, splendid Baroque and solemn Neo-classical churches: St. Anne's, St. Casimir's, St. Peter and Paul's, and the cathedral. View the Gate of Dawn and its miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary, Gedimius Castle rising above the city center and the university, a famous center of science and enlightenment since it was founded in 1579. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

SUN 03 JUN Vilnius

This morning worship with a local Lutheran congregation and join them for fellowship followed by visits with other Lutheran partners in Vilnius. There will be some time before dinner for walking through the Old City where cafes, shops and fascinating galleries abound. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner and traditional Lithuanian folk show. (B,D)

MON 04 JUN Return to U.S.

Transfer to the airport this morning for the return flights to the U.S. Arrive home this same day enriched with the discoveries of faith and culture in Russia and the Baltic region. (B, Meals in-flight)

Code: **B**reakfast, **L**unch, **D**inner
Itinerary subject to change
Visits subject to confirmation

COST SUMMARY

\$3979

Group flights from Chicago/O'Hare

Tour gratuities (\$97).....Included
Airport/Foreign Departure Taxes (\$300).....Included
Russia Visa Fee (\$110).....Included

Single room supplement.....\$699
very limited availability on request basis
GTD can assist in finding roommates;
however, this cannot be guaranteed

The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Chicago (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of June 2006, a minimum of 30 travelers, and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

Gates of Dawn, Vilnius



RESERVATION APPLICATION

PHOTOCOPY OR CLIP & MAIL

LCMS World Mission Baltics May 22, 2007 (G#070502) ~ Group Travel Directors ~ 2000 W 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
as it appears on your passport

Address _____
no P.O. boxes, please

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone, Day () _____ Evening () _____

E-mail _____ Roommate _____

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/we will take the group flights from Chicago/O'Hare.
- I/we will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/we will make ALL of my own flight arrangements. (Please contact GTD for land-only rates.)

TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

- To cover pre-existing medical conditions and other circumstances, I am mailing my insurance to Travel Insured the same day I mail registration to GTD.
- I decline insurance now, but understand I can purchase it later without the pre-existing waiver.

FORM OF PAYMENT

Check Charge my deposit(s) to credit card # _____
Exp _____ Security Code _____
Name as it appears on credit card _____

Enclosed is my deposit check of \$400 per person. Please make checks payable to **Group Travel Directors G#070502.**

I/we have read and understand the conditions of this brochure.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or guardian signature required for travelers under age 18.



PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit. Contact Travel Insured for more info. **800-243-3174**

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago via SAS Scandinavian Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- Ten nights accommodation in superior or tourist and first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- Two nights first-class accommodation aboard overnight trains, two-berth compartments.
- Breakfast and dinner daily as outlined in the itinerary.
- Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
- Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.
- Luggage handling of one piece per person.
- An experienced English-speaking tour escort for Russia and another for Latvia-Lithuania.
- Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$97 per person has been included).
- Airport/foreign departure taxes and airline fuel surcharges (currently \$300 per person).
- Russian visa (fee currently \$110 per person) is required for U.S. citizens; GTD will assist with processing.
- Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. GTD offers a competitive policy from an independent company. **NOTE:** By purchasing insurance at the time your initial tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, i.e., pre-existing medical conditions, travel provider bankruptcy or default, and terrorism (certain restrictions apply). Contact GTD for further information before making your reservation.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.

For more information, contact

Group Travel Directors

2000 West 98th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431-2593
Tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
Fax: 952-881-6276
Email: groups@gtd.org
www.gtd.org

Or

LCMS World Mission

Mission Tours
1333 South Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295
Tel: 314-996-1339
Email: Mission.Info@LCMS.org

Riga



TOUR CONDITIONS

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. The group status will be reviewed January 16, 2007. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Final payment is due March 16, 2007. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, Discover or American Express.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to February 15, 2007- \$100 per person handling fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; February 16 - May 14, 2007 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; May 15, 2007 and after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: Tour prices are based on roundtrip group air travel for the travel dates and cities shown. The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in

advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than January 16, 2007. A minimum fee of \$100 per person will apply for changes to group flights. In the event the group airfare is too restrictive to accommodate your travel plans, you may wish to purchase the "land-only" portion of this tour and either ask GTD for personalized air assistance or make your own flight arrangements.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS

*Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html*

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also includes David Mahsman, Rev. Dr. Robert and Kristi Roegner, Rev. Dr. William and Carol Diekelman, Rev. Brent and Jennie Smith, Lutheran World Mission and its affiliates.