



The Luther 500 Festival is an eight-day cultural immersion experience that brings the Reformation to life as you serve, learn, and celebrate in the places where Martin Luther did the same 500 years ago.

This pilgrimage to Germany will revitalize your school or congregation as participants come face to face with the breadth and importance of the Reformation, make new friends, connect with their heritage, and experience first hand how Church history can be a whole lot of fun. Prepare to be transformed and re-formed.

Overview

The program, over the course of eight days in Germany includes seven overnights in Wittenberg, day trips to the cities of Erfurt, Eisenach, Eisleben, and the capital city of Berlin. You'll spend time at important sites associated with the life of Martin Luther including the Wartburg—the castle where he was secretly kept under the protection of Frederick the Elector and where he translated the Bible into the language of the people. In Berlin, you'll see the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, remnants of the Berlin Wall, museums, and the recently-built holocaust memorial—a moving architectural experience that while reminding us of the darkest part of German history and renews our commitment to tolerance, understanding and love of neighbor. You'll also have time for shopping and generally engaging with one of the world's most vibrant and historically important cities.



In addition to the excursions, you'll have the chance to leave a sign to the people of Wittenberg through the service projects that are a part of the Festival. You'll share God's love and experience the joy of Christian service as you become involved with the local residents by serving those in need. The human connection and cultural exchange of this part of the week, alone, will change your perspective forever.

The event also includes dozens of Interest Centers such as language learning, Bible study, an introduction to Luther's message, a look at the books in the library of Luther House, Art with Lucas Cranach, Printing Workshop, The Wittenberg Explorer, Reading Paintings of the Reformation times and more.

There is ample time for recreation as well whether it is a bicycle ride through the countryside to the Woerlitz Garden, a canoe trip down the Elbe River, or random roaming with friends around the city of Wittenberg finding shops, food, bookstores, smaller museums and historic buildings. Each day includes morning and evening prayer services at the Castle Church, the Schlosskirche. (Already, now, you know the meaning of the word "Schloss" and "Kirche." Just think how much German you will speak after living in a German town for an entire week!)

The Luther500 Festival is made by LOST AND FOUND (www.speedwood.com) and Terra Lu Travel (www.Terra-Lu-Travel.com)
Contact Germany: Christian Utpatel – phone +49 5681 84 88 81 – festival@luther500.com
Contact USA: Michael Bridges – phone (419) 897-9792 – michael@luther500.com

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There is music, featuring bands from the USA such as Agape, Alatheia, LOST AND FOUND, Rachel Kurtz, and Tangled Blue; and bands from Germany to be announced.

Schedule 2013

Sunday, June 16

- (For Overseas travelers: leave America)

Monday, June 17

- Arrivals at Berlin Airport BER
- Busses to Wittenberg, check in at Castle.
- Sightseeing and Orientation options in Wittenberg
- Welcome BBQ at Wittenberg Castle

- **Evening Opening Event** with Introductions and music by LOST AND FOUND and others.
- Night Prayer, Stadtkirche (Town Church)
- Night Café in Luther Cellar & Beergarden with Live Music



Tuesday, June 18

Begin to explore Luther's Land

- Breakfast in your accommodation
- Morning Prayer, Schlosskirche (Castle Church)

- Choice of **Interest Centers** and Intercultural Activities: morning and afternoon options
- Choice of **Servant Events**: morning and afternoon options
- Choice of **Recreation Activities**: morning and afternoon options
- Free time in Wittenberg

- Dinner together
- Concert, performed by different bands and special guests
- Night Prayer, Stadtkirche (Town Church)
- Night Café in Luther Cellar & Beergarden with Live Music

Wednesday, June 19

- Breakfast in your accommodation
- Morning Prayer, Schlosskirche (Castle Church)

- **Day trip options:** Wartburg and Erfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin, Eisleben
- Night Prayer in Augustinian Monastery Erfurt, at Lutheran Church in Berlin, or St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig.
- back to Wittenberg

- Dinner
- Night Café in Luther Cellar & Beergarden with Live Music



Thursday, June 20

- Breakfast in your accommodation
- Morning Prayer, Schlosskirche (Castle Church)

- Choice of **Interest Centers** and **Intercultural Activities**: morning and afternoon options
- Choice of **Servant Events**: morning and afternoon options
- Choice of **Recreation Activities**: morning and afternoon options
- Free time in Wittenberg
- Dinner Together
- Large-Group Event, Wittenberg Convention Center
- Night Prayer, Stadtkirche (Town Church)
- Night Café in Luther Cellar & Beergarden with Live Music

Friday, June 21

- Breakfast in your accommodation
- Morning Prayer, Schlosskirche (Castle Church)
- **Day trip options**: Wartburg and Erfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin, Eisleben
- Night Prayer in Augustinian Monastery Erfurt, at Lutheran Church in Berlin, or St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig.
- back to Wittenberg
- Dinner
- Night Café in Luther Cellar & Beergarden with Live Music

Saturday, June 22

- Breakfast in your accommodation
- Morning Prayer, Schlosskirche (Castle Church)
- Group Event, Wittenberg Convention center
- Choice of **Recreation & Sports Activities**: morning and afternoon options
- Free time in Wittenberg
- Dinner Together
- Large-Group Event, Wittenberg Convention Center
- Night Prayer, Stadtkirche (Town Church)
- Night Café in Luther Cellar with Live Music

Sunday, June 23

- Later Breakfast in your accommodation
- Sunday School - Reformation Style
- Lunch on your own in Wittenberg
- 1- 3 pm **Farewell worship service**, Wittenberg Convention Center: Celebrate your Baptism!
- German Heritage Good Bye Handshake and group photo
- Germans: Leave to travel Home
- Internationals: Leave for [post-festival tours](#)
- Home-Flyers: Stay a last night for the "Home Flyers Lounge," a steamer cruise on the Elbe, and a last night of fun in Wittenberg with the bands and presenters.
- Night Prayer, Stadtkirche (Town Church)

Monday, June 24

Home-Flyers:

- Sunrise Breakfast in your accommodation
- Airport Shuttles to Berlin BER airport

Learn!

...through visits to historical sites, museums, and the vibrant city of Berlin, and through Interest Centers that give context and bring into focus the message, the meaning and the media of the Reformation.



Day excursion to Luther sites in Eisleben and Wartburg

After an early morning start we'll visit the town of Eisleben where the Reformer Martin Luther was born and died. See the original font where little Martin was baptized and the pulpit where Dr. Luther held his last sermons – both are still in use in the local church! The trip continues south to Wartburg Castle. This is where Martin Luther was captured for safety and translated the Bible into German in just 10 weeks. It's only since then that ordinary folks are able to read the Bible in their mother's language. On our way back to Wittenberg we visit the Augustinian Monastery in Erfurt, where Martin Luther lived as a monk before he was sent to Wittenberg.

Day excursion to Berlin

It's just a ninety-minute drive into Berlin, Germany's vibrant Capital! See the Reichstag, Parliament and Brandenburg Gate, where Berlin was divided by a concrete wall until 1989. Some remnants still show the structures of the Wall, and the Holocaust memorial reminds us of the darkest part of German history. A complete visit to Berlin will include, of course, some time for shopping and a good ice cream at Kurfuerstendamm Boulevard!

Bible Study (various topics and leaders)

Where if not in Wittenberg would be a good place to study God's word? Read bible translations and confessional text from the reformation and share your thoughts in your group.



"On the Freedom of a Christian"

An introduction into what Luther wanted to tell the people Lutheran Theology is all about Freedom. Sit in the backyard of Luther's parsonage. Read some passages from his writings. Share with one another in the group, what "freedom" means to you and how every day we can fight for freedom.

What old books have to teach us

This interest center takes you into one of the treasures of Reformation history: The library of the Lutherhouse. Luther's living place is now the world's largest museum on Reformation history. A librarian will introduce and show you some original writings of Luther's times and other original 500 year old books.



Arts and Crafts with Lucas Cranach

Portrait of Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach Lucas Cranach—pharmacist, mayor, versatile businessman, and painter—is the most important artist of Luther's time. It was he who put Luther's gospel into church paintings. Today Cranach's Hof is a lively workshop for artists and craftspeople. Attend a painting workshop at the Cranach House and experience, how your faith is expressed through arts and crafts.

Printing Workshop

The reformation would not have succeeded without use of the cutting-edge technology of Luther's day: Printing! Visit the historic Wittenberg printing workshop and print your own paper on a machine like one would have done 500 years ago.

Wittenberg Explorer

See Wittenberg from behind and above: Explore the center of the Reformation on a guided tour which leads you around town, into backyards, and onto church steeples.

Paintings Reader

With this interest center you'll have a closer look at the paintings in the Stadtkirche. In a time when people were not able to read and write, church paintings were more than just decoration: they had to tell a story. And with the new views of the Reformation, the story had to be told differently. Learn to read the stories paintings tell.

The Mother Tongue

Martin Luther famously translated the scriptures into everyday German. Spend a couple of hours learning the basics of the German language. If you arrive not knowing a single word of German, you'll leave this Interest Center with surprising skills for understanding and responding auf Deutsch. If you are already something of a Deutsch sprecher, you'll increase your knowledge and have a chance to ask specific questions about using the language.



The Legacy of the Reformation

Hear from experts on the history and implications of the Protestant Reformation. What did it mean and in what specific ways did it change history? How and when did it spread to and affect other countries? How does it affect you today?

Serve!

...through unique service projects that will allow you to leave a sign of God's love in action to the Wittenberg community. Kirchens and Kindergartens— renovations of local churches or schools.

Team up with local residents to make a difference in the lives of those in need by serving at: a soup kitchen, a day care center, a thrift store, a hospital, or a seniors' home.

Work on a mission project with the Welcome Centers of the LCMS or the ELCA.



Celebrate!

...the presence of God with prayer services every morning and evening at the Castle Church. The whole Festival community gathers for prayers, music, and announcements to begin and end each day. The evening prayers will follow the tradition of the Taizé community;



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...*the joy of new friends* as you meet youth and adults from all over the U.S., Germany, Canada, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, and many other countries;



...*Music and Art* during events and concerts with your favorite bands from the USA and Germany. You'll see and hear Himmelwarts and others to be announced soon, from Germany. And from the USA, you'll see Jonathan Rundman, Alatheia, AGAPE*, Tangled Blue, and LOST AND FOUND.

...*Creation* through unique recreation options:

Bicycle tour to Woerlitz Gardens

Follow the Elbe Bike Trail along the river banks to Woerlitz Garden Realm. The countryside west of Wittenberg is characterized by the Elbe and Mulde rivers. Riverside woods, inland waters and extensive water meadows where ancient oak trees stand are typical for this region. Palaces, parks, avenues, sculptures and small architectural gems nestle in the area. Rare wild fruits, field maples, birds, fish, and beavers find their homes. The Woerlitz Garden realm belongs to a UNESCO protected biosphere reserve.



Canoeing on Elbe river

Enjoy a day paddling/ canoeing on the Elbe river. The Elbe connects the Czech Republic, Dresden and Hamburg with the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. In Wittenberg it's a small, calm water with a lot of sand banks – the best for a relaxing day on (and in) the water.

Canoes and all necessary supplies (like life vests) provided. You can transfer with vans back to Wittenberg.



The 5K and 10K Run

Join Michael from LOST AND FOUND and others for an invigorating –albeit leisurely– paced, run through the distinct paths of medieval Wittenberg and the surrounding areas. Whether you choose 5K or 10K routes, you'll enjoy seeing a large part of the land of Luther from a unique perspective.



... and much much more ...

Three Steps to the Festival



1. Get your PLACEHOLDER

until April 30, 2012

If you want to come to the Luther500 Festival, or, even better, plan to bring a group, you will need some time to invite others to join you, book flights, raise funds, etc. To be sure that your efforts are successful and that there is a place for you and your group at the Festival, **you can get a PLACEHOLDER now**. A Placeholder will, well, hold your place until you can make travel arrangements and confirm the participation of your group members.

PLACEHOLDERS are available for just 10 Euro. Each PLACEHOLDER reserves a spot for one person for the 2013 Festival. If you plan to bring ten people, get ten PLACEHOLDER, and you'll have time to organize the group and investigate flights and additional travel plans before officially registering starting in April 2012. The price of the PLACEHOLDER will be deducted from your final Festival invoice. The reason for getting the PLACEHOLDER is that we'll only be able to accommodate 500 participants at the Festival in 2013. So to be sure there is a space for everyone in your group after you explore travel plans and are ready to register, the PLACEHOLDER will, well, hold your place.

You can buy and pay PLACEHOLDERS for you and your group online in our Festival Store.

- Each PLACEHOLDER secures 1 place at the Festival 2013. Buy and paypal-pay the PLACEHOLDERS for yourself and your group.
- The price of the PLACEHOLDER will be offset against your Festival registration. Technically spoken: Before registration starts in May you will get a coupon code for the Festival registration, worth the amount you paid for the PLACEHOLDER.
- Each 12 festival registrations earn 1 free. The price of the free registration will be deducted with a credit note from your final Festival invoice in 2013 according to the final numbers of registrations in your group.

After you got the PLACEHOLDER for you and your group you have time to work on the travel details.

2. REGISTER your group

May 1- May 30, 2012 for PLACEHOLDER owners only
June 1, 2012- February 28, 2013 for everyone

After you set up your travel plans you can turn your PLACEHOLDERS into registrations. As an owner of a PLACEHOLDER you will receive a code which enables you to log in the online booking tool which will be launched May 1. This is the time when you decide for your housing choice, additional services, and post-gathering tours. Up to May 30 this booking tool will be available for PLACEHOLDER owners only. After June 1 the online booking is available for everyone. The registration price for the Festival varies with the housing choice.

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To confirm your registration, a non-refundable deposit of 25 percent of your invoice is due. Your deposit will be balanced with later payments.

3. TUNE your registration

after March 1, 2013

You can make changes on the numbers of your housing preferences until end of February 2013 - upon availability. After March 1 we will contact you to set the final details for your group. You will get more details about the Airport Shuttles, certain Interest Centers, Day Trips, and the like. Also the final invoice is due. For every 12 people you booked the costs for 1 will be deducted with a credit advice from your final invoice.

Prices

With the registration you can choose your housing option. **Each Housing Option has the same Festival Pass included.** This means: your Festival experience will always be the same. All accommodations are in the inner city of Wittenberg, in walking distance to the Festival venues like the Stadtkirche (Town Church), the Schlosskirche (Castle Church), the Lutherhaus Museum, and the Castle. Only the comfort of housing varies.

The price covers almost all costs of your participation at the Festival in Wittenberg Germany. It includes:

- **Program:**
Access to all Festival Events, Worship services, Interest Centers, Concerts. Includes program costs and admission fees to museums
*("This alone makes attending the Festival ... priceless!"
Prof. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D., Wartburg College, Waverly IA, on Facebook 04/08)*
2 Day excursions. Day excursions will be offered to Wartburg & Erfurt, Eisleben, Berlin, and Dresden & Leipzig. With bus, local guides, lunch box
Servant Projects in and around Wittenberg and Eisleben
Program book, Backpack
- **Lodging and Meals:**
One week overnight stay in Wittenberg Hotels and Youth Hotels,
Monday June 17- Monday June 24, 2013 (= includes one additional night after the Festival)
Breakfast and Dinner every day
Lunch boxes on day excursions
- **Transportation:**
Airport shuttle from and to the 2012 opened Berlin Airport BER
All necessary bus shuttles in Wittenberg and on day excursions
- **Health Insurance:**
Covers all medicine, doctors, hospital, incl. emergency return transport (for non-German participants only)

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The registration price for the Festival varies with the housing choice.

- **Backpacker:** Bring your mattress and sleeping bag, and stay in a church fellowship hall or school gymnasium. Sleeping rooms separated by genders. Shared bathrooms.

625 Euro per person, Festival Pass included

- **Hostel:** This is the converted section of the Castle, in the manner of a conference center with single and bunk beds (two to six in each room) and showers in room. Rooms are separated by genders. 2011' participants: This is the accommodation we used in 2011.

750 Euro per person in a multiple bed room, Festival Pass included

Double and single rooms in the Hostel are only available for group leaders accompanying participants which are staying in multiple bed rooms:

780 Euro per group leader in a room with double occupancy, Festival Pass included

820 Euro per group leader in a room with single occupancy, Festival Pass included

- **Hotel:** 3- 4 star hotels with all amenities you can expect from a hotel. Please note: In difference to the customs at some U.S. gatherings each participant has to have a bed. This means: Only 2 persons in a double bed room, only 1 person in a single bed room.

880 Euro per person in a room with double occupancy, Festival Pass included

1,010 Euro per person in a room with single occupancy, Festival Pass included

Become a group leader and register as a group!

Each twelve registrations in your group earn you one free registration, that is, Festival Pass. So, if you register 13 you'll only have to pay for 12 (and have 1 free). If you register 26, you'll pay for 24 - and have two free. When it comes to PLACEHOLDERS and accommodations, though, you'd have to purchase 13 even if one of those registrations will ultimately be free in the final invoice.

As a group leader we will also invite you for free into the Festival's Leader Lounge where you can have a coffee and relax inmidst of the Festival. We will give you speed access to the buffet in the food court, and treat you well with a few more benefits.

More updated information and online registration at:

www.Luther500-Festival.com

www.facebook.com/luther500festival

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