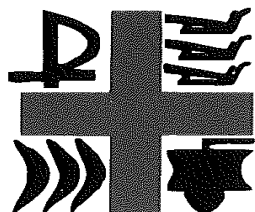


**THE NEW JERSEY DISTRICT**  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD



Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Steinbronn  
President

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This is to alert you to a most promising opportunity for our New Jersey District and specifically for its pastors, teachers, leaders, and lay people.

The NJD is initiating a pilgrimage tour of the Holy Land for next February 13-23, 2017, in the New Jersey winter, just before Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday, a time when we may particularly be inspired by Our Lord's ministry. It will require only one continuing education weekend absence. The cost is \$3188.00 including everything except lunches, tips and shopping.

My hope is that all of us will support this through prayer and with publicity in spoken announcements and in our church bulletins and media. I also hope that many of you will consider this as a unique opportunity to enhance your ministry and professional development. Please strongly consider your own participation, and that of family, members and friends even from beyond our state.

Last summer I spoke of the November 2015 familiarization tour to my colleague, the Rev. Dr. Johnson Rethinasamy, a parish pastor and the Mission Director of the Atlantic District who asked if he might take part. He brought with him a group of lay leaders and family, adding to our New Jersey contingent. They reported a safe and wonderfully fulfilling experience! This, again, will be another groundbreaking opportunity for deeper Christian fellowship over a week and a half as we share new and enduring experiences.

For these and other good reasons the NJD will offer scholarships for continuing education to our highly deserving professional church workers and spouses. Please let me know if this assistance could make your participation possible.

It is also true that nearly all those who make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land do so only after they have been specifically invited by a person they know and trust. To make possible pastors' and church leaders' participation, Christian tour companies customarily offer spiritual leaders one benefit tour for every five travelers gathered, while still providing competitive quality and value. After enrolling ten people, a pastor and wife can tour at very little additional cost.

Just over a year ago I asked retired pastor, Dan Schmalz, and his wife, Connie, who are veteran travelers to Israel, to spearhead this pioneering district effort over the next several years. I ask your support for them, for this venture, and for the district.

Further basic information is in the accompanying media release. A color brochure detailing the itinerary will be available soon after Easter. Meanwhile Dan and Connie can be reached at either [973-697-6899](tel:973-697-6899) or at [Latte972004@yahoo.com](mailto:Latte972004@yahoo.com).

Your brother in Christ and in His mission,

*Anthony James Steinbronn*