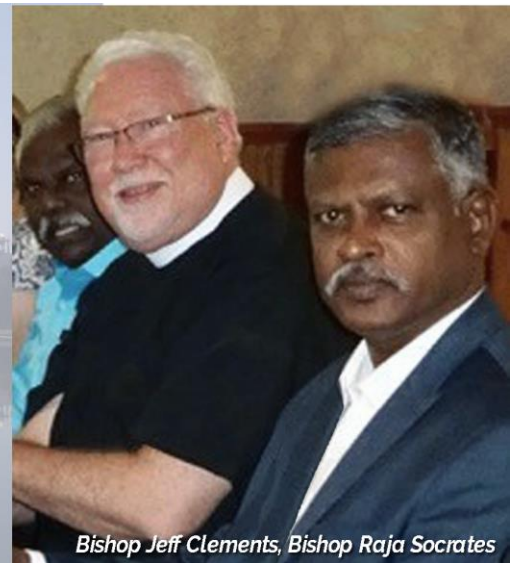


## Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA

# Companion Synod Trip to India, 12 Days, February 5-17, 2018

Optional extension to  
Taj Mahal, Agra: February 16-18

with Bishop Jeff Clements, Deaconess  
Cheryl Erdmann, John and Esther Prabhakar



Bishop Jeff Clements, Bishop Raja Socrates

### Day-by-Day Itinerary

MON 05 FEB Depart Chicago  
Depart Chicago for overnight flight.

TUE 06 FEB Arrive Chennai  
Welcome to Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state and located on the Bay of Bengal. Grand Hotel

WED 07 FEB Chennai  
Embark on a full day of touring with a local guide with a visit to St. Thomas Mount where the legend is that Apostle Thomas was martyred there. Visit San Thome Cathedral where St. Thomas is buried, drive to Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and the Platform Children's School of ALC. (B, D)

THU 08 FEB Chennai to Cuddalore  
or Thirukoilur  
Travel from Chennai to Arcot Lutheran church area via seaside town of Mamallapuram for a guided tour of the rock hewn temples with monolithic rock sculptures built by the Pallava Kings in the 7th century. Arrive in ALC area in the evening. (B)

FRI 09 – WED 14 FEB Cuddalore or Thirukoilur  
Visiting various Christian sites including ministries of the ALC with Bishop Socrates and ALC leadership as our hosts.

- Tranquebar - the birthplace of Lutheran ministry since 1706. "New Jerusalem church" built by Rev. Ziegenbalg, the first protestant missionary sent to India by King of Denmark. Ziegenbalg is also buried there. Visit Danish/ Indian museum.
- ALC Churches: Visit Companion congregations/ preach at Sunday services, other interactive experiences included

- Educational Institutions: ALC schools, Library program, hostels, cultural programs and community college visit.
- Health care sites, Eye clinic, Danish Mission Hospital
- Women's desk activities and Lebanon home for women etc.
- Thiruvannamalai: Interfaith Dialogue center - Quo Vadis

*(Participants should also plan on \$500 - \$1000 in cash for expenses during time spent with the Arcot Church.)*

THU 15 FEB Leave ALC area to Puducherry  
Travel to Puducherry (former French colony - as seen in the movie, 'The life of Pi') which is on the Bay of Bengal about four hours south of Chennai. Meet a local guide on arrival and visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Auroville: this "City of Dawn" is dedicated to the early 20th century philosopher and designed to reflect his ideals for a peaceful community. Also visit the Puducherry Museum and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a famed pilgrimage site for Christians. Check in at your hotel for dinner and overnight. The Promenade (D)

FRI 16 FEB Puducherry/Chennai/Departure  
Early morning transfer to Chennai for evening flight departure. Those continuing on the optional extension will depart to Delhi. (B, Meals in-flight)

SAT 17 FEB Arrive Chicago  
After flight connection, arrive Chicago this morning. (Meals in-flight)

gtd

Group Travel Directors

Group Travel Directors 2000 West 98<sup>th</sup> St,  
Minneapolis MN 55431-2593 800-747-2255

## Optional Extension to Taj Mahal

FRI 16 FEB Puducherry/Chennai/Delhi  
Early morning transfer by motorcoach to Chennai for the flight to Delhi. Upon arrival meet a local representative and transfer to Agra (4 hour drive). Upon arrival, check in at the hotel for dinner and overnight. Four Points by Sheraton, Agra (B,D)

SAT 17 FEB Daytrip to Agra  
Today you will marvel at one of the New Seven Wonders of the World: the Taj Mahal. This 17<sup>th</sup> century mausoleum was built by Emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his wife and is a true testament to love. The exquisite marble and inlay work is awe-inspiring as are the architectural accomplishments. Also see the dramatic Red Fort where the Shah was imprisoned for the last years of his life and spent each day looking across the river to his beloved's burial site. Later today travel to Delhi stopping for dinner before arriving at the airport for flight check-in and departure. (B, L, D)

SUN 18 FEB Arrive Chicago  
After flight connection, arrive Chicago in the morning.

### What's Included?

Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, gratuities for drivers and guides, and airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$99 per person).

Not Included: Indian entry visa is required for U.S. citizens (currently \$60 per person for the online e-visa) *GTD will provide information*, 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 travel protection (Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is \$169 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed; the full cost of your tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan), passport fees (a passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S.)

**Optional Extension:** One-way airfare and tax from Chennai to Delhi, accommodations *shared occupancy*, meals as shown, transfers and transportation, extensive sightseeing, entrance fees, portage, local guides, and gratuities for drivers and guides.

### Tour Cost Summary

Approximately \$ 2299 (single supplement \$299)  
Extension \$ 599 (single supplement \$99)

Participants should also plan on \$500 - \$1000 in cash for expenses during time spent with the Arcot Church in addition to the above costs.

### For more information/ questions

815 964 9934

Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann

at the NI Synod office or

Dr. John & Esther Prabhakar 815 757 0406

Please Pray, consult with your family and once you decide to go, please call Deaconess Cheryl or e-mail her at [CErdmann@nisynod.org](mailto:CErdmann@nisynod.org) and reserve your spot. Places are limited to maximum of 25, with a minimum of 20.

### Tour Conditions

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** Reservation and deposit of \$400 per person. A second payment of \$1000 is due October 3, 2017. Final payment is due December 4, 2017. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

**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 of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to October 2, 2017 - \$100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; October 3, 2017 - January 21, 2018- Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; January 22, 2018 or after - No refund.

**CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS:** 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 October 3, 2017. A minimum fee of \$175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

**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.

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**REGISTRATION APPLICATION (or register online at [www.gtd.org](http://www.gtd.org) #180206)**

**Northern Illinois Synod ELCA Companion Synod Trip to India Feb 5-17, 2018**

*Please provide your name as it appears (or will appear) on your passport:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name Male/Female Birthdate  
Please circle Month/Day/Year

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Name Last Name Male/Female Birthdate  
Please circle Month/Day/Year

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day ( ) Evening ( ) Cell ( )

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate or single supplement ? \_\_\_\_\_

Departure city \_\_\_\_\_ Optional extension: Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

*\*subject to availability at time of request*

***Deposit/Travel Protection (please check one):***

I/we choose the following deposit option: \_\_\_\_\_\$569 per person inclusive of travel protection \_\_\_\_\$400 per person without travel protection. I/we decline travel protection now, but understand it can be purchased later.

\$569 / \$400 X \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total deposit.

Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors **G#180206** or provide your credit card information.

**Type of card (circle one)**      VISA    MasterCard    Discover

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address for card \_\_\_\_\_

*(Participants should also plan on \$500 - \$1000 in cash for expenses during time spent with the Arcot Church.)*

I/we have read and understand the conditions of the tour.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Group Travel Directors** 2000 West 98<sup>th</sup> St, Minneapolis MN 55431-2593 800-747-2255 \* Fax: 952-881-6276 \* [www.gtd.org](http://www.gtd.org)