



Paul's Towneys Cruise

"A Journey in Tribute to Dr. Paul Maier" November 4 - 13, 2026

7 Nights Aboard Oceania Sirena · From Civitavecchia, Italy to Istanbul, Türkiye





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Guest Speaker



DR. KARL BAUGHMAN

Karl is an Associate Professor of History at Prairie View A&M University in Texas where he specializes in the Roman Empire and early Christianity. After receiving an MA at Concordia Seminary, he earned his Ph.D. at

Western Michigan University under the supervision of Rev. Dr. Paul Maier, and like his mentor, Karl continually endeavors to share the joys of history with audiences everywhere he can. In addition to publishing a book and several articles on his specializations, he also dabbles a bit in the wider ancient Mediterranean and the connections between Classical and modern understandings of the past.

Guest Host



DR. GERALD KIESCHNICK

Dr. Gerald B. "Jerry" Kieschnick served as president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 9 years. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Deo in Austin and is board member and

founding director of Pastor 360, Ministry Focus, and Mission of Christ Network. In September 2025, Jerry will retire from full-time ministry endeavors. Previously, Jerry had been president of the Synod's Texas District. He also served as teacher, mission developer, parish pastor, development executive, and author. Jerry and his wife of 59 years, Terry, have two grown children, one son-in-law, two grandchildren, and one grandson-inlaw, all of whom live in Texas.

While LCMS President, Paul Maier served with Jerry as a vice-president and remained close friends after serving together. According to Jerry "Paul Maier served as one of my most valuable and supportive vice-presidents. Paul was one of the five smartest men I know—articulate, affable, brilliant, creative, loyal, prolific, with self-deprecating humility, witty sense of humor, undying allegiance, and heartfelt love for Jesus and His Church!"

~ In Memory of Dr. Paul Maier ~



Itinerary

November 4 – Depart the USA $^{\backsim}$

November 5 - Arrive in Rome

Arrive in Rome and transfer to the port of Civitavecchia to board Oceania Sirena.

November 6 – Naples, Italy

Journey inland to ancient Pompeii, dating almost to the time of Paul, where you can see the spectacular ruins that were covered by ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

November 7 – Messina, Italy

Taormina, founded by Greeks in the 6th century BC and later occupied by Romans, is renowned for its stunning views, ancient ruins, and charming streets. Explore the carfree cobblestone paths, the lively Corso Umberto, and the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele while admiring historic mansions adorned with flowers. Visit the Corvaja Palace courtyard to see a traditional Sicilian carriage and enjoy panoramic views of the Bay of Naxos and Mount Etna. Finish your tour at the spectacular Greco-Roman theater, which still hosts performances today, before having free time to go shopping.

November 8 - Valletta, Malta

Embark on a narrated tour of Valletta, the capital of Malta, a city replete with medieval charm and extravagantly grand architecture. No exploration would be complete without a visit to Valletta's crowning jewel, St. John's Co-Cathedral. This baroque masterpiece was commissioned in 1572 by Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere for the Knights of St. John. In fact, several Knights donated gifts of art to ensure it was adorned with only the finest works. Continue to Casa Rocca Piccola, a historic home offering a unique glimpse into the lives of Maltese nobility over the past 400 years. Enjoy a little free time to explore the area before heading to the imposing Mediterranean Conference Center. Set overlooking the Grand Harbor, it was originally built as a hospital for the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and was considered one of the finest in Europe during the 1600s.

November 9 – At Sea

November 10 – Athens, Greece

Discover the rich architectural splendor of the ancient city of Athens as you explore the world-renowned Acropolis, the Propylaea, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheum. Stand on Mars Hill as the Apostle Paul did when he proclaimed, "I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." Also, view the House of Parliament, the Presidential Palace, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This afternoon, tour the city of Corinth, where the Apostle Paul met fellow tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla and received a vision from the Lord saying, "I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city." As Paul spoke, Crispus (chief ruler of the synagogue) and many others believed and were baptized, establishing the church at Corinth to whom Paul later wrote his two epistles. Discover the archaeological museum, marketplace, and temples. As you walk among the ruins, stand on the Bema, where the Apostle Paul stood before Gallio to face charges brought against him by the Jews.

November 11 – Lesbos, Greece

Explore this bustling city's ancient roots, and visit the huge castle perched on the hill – the beautiful Greek theater that the Romans repaired and then copied back in Rome! See the impressive Cathedral and the Church of St. Nicholas, converted from a mosque. Enjoy the archaeological museum or one of the fine art museums with collections of important works. Venture into the old quarter near the waterfront to enjoy the old Turkish mansions or into the countryside and discover quaint villages where time has stopped.

Shore excursions are not included today and can be purchased directly from Oceania.

November 12 – Istanbul, Türkiye

Disembark Oceania Sirena this morning and begin your adventure through Türkiye. The bejeweled capital of Istanbul sits between two continents and is home to 450 mosques. You will visit the famous Blue Mosque with its six minarets and sparkling interior. Walk through St. Sophia (Hagia Sophia), which was the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years, built by Justinian (532-537 AD). The church has 107 columns, fossil-embedded white marble floors, and beautiful glass mosaics. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, cloves, thyme, and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4,000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold.

November 13 – Return home



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Optional Pre-Tour Rome November 2 - 5, 2026

Starting at \$1,298*

November 2 - Depart the USA

Your pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on your international overnight flight.

November 3 – Arrive in Rome

Today, you will arrive in Rome, Italy, where you will be met by our representative and travel along the Appian Way. Enjoy a walking tour of Rome including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, and Navona Square. Time permitting, enjoy lunch on your own in Navonna Square. Check into your hotel this evening and enjoy dinner and rest.

November 4 - Vatican City & Christian Rome

Visit the Vatican, and explore its museum. Marvel at the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica, and stand in awe of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Next, see the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. The present structure stands over the place where Constantine built the first church over Saint Paul's grave. The church features a portrait of every Pope that has served the church. Then, step beneath the surface into the Catacombs of St. Sebastiano before returning to your hotel this evening.

November 5 – Ancient Rome

Discover the history woven throughout Rome with visits to the Colosseum and Roman Forum. After touring, you will be transferred to the Port of Civitavecchia to board Oceania Sirena.



Optional Extension Istanbul On Your Own November 13 - 15, 2026 Starting at \$398*

November 13 & 14 – Discover the vibrant soul of Istanbul at your own pace, where rich history, stunning architecture, and a fusion of cultures await around every corner. Explore iconic landmarks, bustling bazaars, and scenic views along the Bosphorus with the freedom to create your perfect adventure. Don't forget to indulge in the irresistible flavors of authentic baklava, savory kebabs, and a cup of traditional Turkish coffee for the full Istanbul experience.

November 15 – Transfer back to the airport with incredible memories of your time in Türkiye.

Breakfast included at hotel on November 14 & 15.

Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion. *A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card surcharges.

PROGRAM CONDITIONS

INCLUDED IN PRICE: NOLODED IN PRICE:
Non-Atrip international airfare & overseas transfers • Cruise • Shore excursions (as listed in itinerary)
Deluxe motorcoaches • Meals on ship • Non-alcoholic beverages • Wifi • Gratuities • Cruise Taxes • Port
charges • Program fees • Administrative fee • Fuel surcharges \$500 • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in
government tax and fees are subject to change)
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NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE: • Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule) • Excursions and optional sightseeing as listed in the itinerary • Miscellaneous fees such as passports, lunches off the ship, baggage fees • Visa(s) • Alternate restaurants that have additional fees • Voluntary "Love Offering" for guide and driver • Transfers for cruise-only guests • Required Vaccinations • \$100 Document fee for Non-US and Non-Canadian residents • Required medical testing before, during, and/or after travel

ACCOMMODATIONS:

ACCOMMIDDATIONS: Price is based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms/cabins are often smaller than doubles. While EOT will try to match roommates, EOT cannot guarantee one will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 35 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or if you request a single, the following single room/cabin charges apply: (FIG)-\$2898; (C1/C2)-\$3098; (B1/B2)-\$3598 for basic timerary. Single staterooms are extremely limited and subject to confirmation. Rome Pre-Tour \$398; Istanbul Extension \$248.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions. PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Payment	Amount	Due Date				
Initial Deposit	\$300	Due at the time of registration				
Second Deposit	\$500	500 2nd Deposit due 11/04/25				
Third Deposit	1,200 3rd Deposit due 03/09/26. Guests registering after this date must total deposit of \$2,000					
Final Payment	06/07/26. If paid after the due date, a late payment fee of \$100 will be assessed.					
Travel Protection Amount	The Travel Protection Plan premium will be due no later than 06/06/26 to be in full effect. Travel protection premiums must be paid in addition to your deposits and in advance of the final payment for coverage to be in effect.					
Cabin Availability	After 03/09/26 or once we have sold out of our allotment of cabins we can no longer guarantee cabin pricing. Cabins purchased after this date will be subject to availability and may require a supplemental charge.					

REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED after June 7, 2026: We welcome registrations after 06/07/26. Registrations received between 06/08/26 - 08/06/26 will incur a fee starting at \$100 per person. Registrations received between 08/07/26 - 08/21/26 will incur a fee starting at \$200 per person. Registrations received between 08/02/26 - 09/05/26 will incur a fee starting at \$400 per person. Registrations received on 09/06/26 or later will be subject to cabin availability and may require a supplemental cabin charge as well as the air fees above. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

CANCELLATION FEES:

CANCELLATION FEES: 100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided the premium has been paid and the reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From the day of registration to 365 days prior to departure, you will be charged a \$150 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline, land, and cruise fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties, land penalties, cruise penalties, and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 364-241 days = \$250; 240-181 days = \$500; 180 - 151 days = \$750; 150 - 121 days = \$1,000; 120-91 days = 50% of total cost; 90-61 days = 75% of total cost; 60-day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used. **STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY EOT does not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier**

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may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger. You will also be required to check in with the cruise line prior to travel and according to the cruise line's requirements and instructions provided in your final documents

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imposed taxes and fees. AIRLINE ROUTES and TICKETS: In order to keep prices low, EO does not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire titnerary. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or traveling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact guest services for further details. ELIGHT TIMES AND SEATING

FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. EOT is not responsible for such changes or delays and does not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines. control of the airlines

ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES: You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight literary. Additionally, you may incur optional fees (food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.) as well. For more information, visit eo.travel/travel-info/airline-fees.

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PREGNANCY/INFANT REGULATIONS

As to pregnancy, a woman cannot have begun her 24th week of pregnancy at any time before or during the cruise. If you are pregnant, please provide a medical note upon arrival at the pier for check-in from your physician stating your expected due date and medical fitness to travel. If you are in the 24th week or have completed it you will not be allowed to board. Due to the limited medical facilities, infants must be at least one year old on the first day of the cruise. **VALIDITY DATE:**

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or any change or currency inucluation. Except where otherwise stated, EOT acts only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall EOT be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the four. The passenger agrees that EOT assumes no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service.

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