

# *2017 Inter-Religious Spring Break Trip to Israel-Palestine*



As a site of historical importance to Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Israel provides a unique focal point for exploring interfaith dialogue and the role that dialogue plays in confronting political conflict and religious strife. The Dialogue Center of the Chaplain's Office is organizing a 2017 Spring Break trip to Israel March 10-19. The focus of the trip will be on inter-religious encounter and dialogue as a way to peace.

Attention will be given to the Judaic understanding of Israel as homeland and refuge; the Christian understanding of Israel as a setting for the rise of Christianity; and the Islamic understanding of the umma or community of faith extended to the land of Palestine, also as home and refuge.

The trip will include visits to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Galilee, and Bethlehem in the Palestinian Authority. Experts who have influenced dialogue in Israel—religion scholars, philosophers, and journalists—will be engaged to discuss the background of historical and contemporary conflict in Israel. The trip, will highlight various efforts underway to increase dialogue between different religious traditions; and it will ask participants to engage in interfaith encounter with each other.

**Two information sessions are scheduled:**

**Tuesday, November 1, 4:15 p.m., Dialogue Center**

**Thursday, November 3, 12:00 noon, Dialogue Center**

For more information, please contact Dr. Lloyd Steffen, Professor of Religion Studies and University Chaplain at [lhs1@lehigh.edu](mailto:lhs1@lehigh.edu) or Rabbi Danielle Stillman, [das514@lehigh.edu](mailto:das514@lehigh.edu), Associate Chaplain and Director of Jewish Student Life.