

DECEMBER 2022

TWO TOURS TO BRANSON & KANSAS CITY

The American Spirit Club had so many members wanting to travel to the fun capital of the Midwest, Branson, Missouri. We took two different groups two different weeks. So, this coordinator had a blast experiencing fun two weeks in a row. We were entertained by talented performers at many amazing shows, including The Dutton Family, Hughes Brothers, Hot Rods & High Heels, The Haygoods, the Oak Ridge Boys and the Andy Williams Ozark Christmas Show. We also attended "The Miracle of Christmas" at the Sight and Sound Theatre. It was an awesome production of the miracle of Christ's birth. On Tuesday morning we had a very interesting tour of the Branson area. Many of us had been to Branson many times but it was great to hear about the history and tour many interesting spots in the area.

On Thursday we traveled to Kansas City and toured the National WWI Museum & Memorial. The exhibits were very interesting and sobering. Visitors enter the exhibit space within the 32,000-square-foot facility across a glass bridge above a field of 9,000 red poppies, each one representing 1,000 combatant deaths. Since the US commemorates Veterans Day near the dates we were on tour, we honored the Veterans and their spouses who were traveling with us.

Our final night was spent at the New Theatre and Restaurant in Overland Park. The production was Hank Williams: Lost Highway, the songs and story of Hank Williams life. On Friday we traveled back to northwest Iowa. Again, our tour was a marvelous way to get into the holiday spirit and the time spent with friends is always a pleasure.



"The Spirit of Us"

December is here and the excitement of the holiday season has arrived. I've dug into the decorating mode and shopping for just the right Christmas gifts for family. I enjoy the season but must remind myself not to get too busy that I don't enjoy the time spent with family and friends.

This past year has been a busy one. The Spirit Club has taken many exciting one-day tours, a few overnight outings and some extended tours. I am grateful for the continued interest in our tours and hope we will be able to travel together again very soon. I'm working on next year's tours, and they will be announced in January's newsletter.

Do your children and grandchildren have a difficult time knowing what to give you for Christmas? If so, you could mention American Spirit Club Gift Certificates. They can be purchased in any amount and can be used for upcoming Spirit Club trips. I would love to help them with their shopping! Just have them contact Loreen at 712-722-4846.

Thank you for placing your trust in our Am Bank Companies. Merry Christmas Spirit Club friends! Your friendship fills my heart with happiness.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
Touched with wonder
& filled with love.*

- Loreen Marra, Spirit Club Coordinator
Loreen.Marra@myasb.com

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2022 SPIRIT CLUB TRIPS

LOONEY LUTHERANS

On Thursday, November 3, we traveled to Le Mars to have a fun day with friends. First, we did a quick tour of Le Mars Alley Art and grabbed a group photo by one of the largest. Then we were blessed to have Michaela Brown, a member of the Brown Family, demonstrate some of the Brown family's long-standing holiday recipes. Her creations were delicious and many of us want to try them at our holiday gatherings. After sampling the goodies, we had a short time to shop at some of the nice downtown Le Mars shops.

At noon we had a delicious lunch at the Central Event Center and then we attended The Looney Lutherans at the Brown Theatre. The trio of wacky girls performed a brand-new show, "Hotdish on the Range". It was hilarious! To top off the day we enjoyed a delicious dish of ice cream at the Wells Ice Cream Parlor.



Joy Filled: Christmas Celebration | Sunday, December 4

The Spirit Club will travel to Omaha on Sunday, December 4, to celebrate the season with a joy-filled production from Omaha's own Grammy Award®-nominated Salem Concert Choir! The beloved Christmas tradition returns for their eighth-annual performance at the Holland Center with expertly choreographed dance and the dynamic performances of holiday classics and new music. The performance will be an afternoon matinee beginning at 4:00 pm. We will have a mid-afternoon meal when we arrive in Omaha and a treat on the way home.

Cost: \$150 Per Person/DBL | Deposit: \$25

Southern Charm | April 17-22, 2023

Antebellum, Prohibition, and maritime history will come alive in historic homes, in museums, and on aircraft carriers. A shrimping expedition will both educate us and tickle our taste buds, while the exceptional care provided at a sea turtle hospital will tug at our heartstrings. Our time in Georgia and South Carolina will also take us into the world of America's Gilded Age elite on Jekyll Island, introduce us to 260 years of history in Savannah's National Historic Landmark District, and lull us with the clip-clop of horses' hooves on a Charleston carriage tour. Get ready to witness the contrasting life of the Charleston elite and enslaved during the 1700s and step back in time to the roaring 20s! Inclusions: Round trip air, private motorcoach transportation, 5 nights' accommodation, 10 meals & a professional tour manager.

Cost: \$3,158 Per Person/DBI | Deposit: \$500

Utah's National Parks | June 1-7, 2023

Our adventure begins in northern Utah with Great Salt Lake's pink waters and the history of firearms and the Transcontinental Railroad. We'll then head south to discover the spectacular landscapes in Utah's Mighty 5 national parks. From the majestic Waterpocket Fold in Capitol Reef and the hoodoos of Bryce Canyon to the red sandstone formations of Arches and the waterfalls of Zion, breathtaking scenery awaits at every turn. We will take advantage of the unique opportunities to explore the area's rich Native American history and get ready to turn the excitement up a notch with a thrilling jet boat ride and private stargazing experience! Inclusions: Round trip air, private motorcoach transportation, 6 nights' accommodation, 12 meals & a professional tour manager.

Cost: \$4,448 Per Person/DBI | Deposit: \$500

The Charm of Coastal Maine | September 9-15 or September 23-29, 2023

Journey to the coast of Maine where the seafood is fresh, the shores are rocky, and lighthouses guide ships safely to harbor. The dramatic landscapes take center stage here as we venture to the tops of mountain peaks, through charming coastal towns, and within a treasured national park. Then get ready to marvel at Maine from an entirely new perspective as we set sail on the pristine coastal waters. We'll head out in search of whales one day, revel in the spectacular views of lighthouses and summer mansions the next day and delve into the art of lobstering. The area's rich history simply cannot be ignored, with up-close looks at three historic lighthouses and a visit to a preserved military fortification also in store! Inclusions: Round trip air, private motorcoach transportation, 6 nights' accommodation, 10 meals & a professional tour manager.

Cost: \$3,985 Per Person/DBI | Deposit: \$500



We have booked another tour to Maine. The dates will be September 23-29. I will be contacting everyone who has shown interest in the first tour and on the waiting list. Then they can decide if they want to join the second tour or be on the waiting list for the first tour. If you have signed up for the first tour but would like to attend the second tour instead, please contact Loreen ASAP.



Coastal Maine



Utah's National Parks



Southern Charm

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