



## What is Christian Nationalism?

*By Sister Dottie*

A current hot-button topic and issue in the USA is Christian Nationalism. But what is it?

In short, Christian nationalism is a desire to have a God-centered nation run by godly people—namely, Christians, therefore “taking back” the nation for God. Some other nations have had experience with Christian Nationalism (e.g., South Africa and Germany). Our Adult class will focus on American Christian Nationalism because it is in America that this movement has recently been the strongest.

Christian nationalism is a cultural framework that conflates American identity with an exclusive form of religious identity. Rooted in the myth that we were founded as a Christian nation and therefore enjoy special favor by God, proponents of Christian nationalism seek a fusion of religious and civil life - to the detriment of both. Christian nationalism incorporates anti-democratic notions of white supremacy, nativism, patriarchy, and authoritarianism, seeking to concentrate power in a select group.

ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton stated, “It’s ironic that the Puritans fled religious persecution and that the First Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof,” yet an element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic. There is no doubt that many Founders were Christian and that a majority of Americans identify as Christian. That is different from declaring Christianity as the established religion of the United States. And, dear church, let’s be clear, a Christian Nationalist does not define Lutherans as “Christian.”

## Musical Arts Concert Series

Join us at St. Peter's on Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m. as vocal duo Amy Yovanovich and Christyan Seay perform classical, sacred, spiritual and Broadway favorites in concert. A freewill offering will be received. For more information, call 717-569-9211. Flyers are available on the table in the narthex if you want to share with a neighbor or post on a community bulletin board.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH REHEARSALS UNDERWAY** — On Sunday, December 17, we will present Handel's Messiah at St. Peter's. Rehearsals began October 5, but it's not too late to join us on Thursday evenings, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Singers will need to purchase music (\$10.00), which will be available at rehearsals. Email Tom Berdos, [tom.berdos@gmail.com](mailto:tom.berdos@gmail.com) for more information.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH TICKETS** — The December 17 presentation of Handel's "Messiah" will be available to the congregation of St. Peter's and to the concert participants before the general public. You may obtain your tickets on October 22 or 29 in the narthex. There is a \$20 suggested donation per ticket.

### The Holocaust, Germany and Christian Nationalism

Our Crosspoints adult class has been studying Christian Antisemitism and the role of the church. We have discussed how most German churches fully endorsed the Nazi ideology while others who may have disagreed said nothing. There was a rise in German Christian Nationalism which twisted the message of the Gospel of Jesus. There was a discussion in this class about German Christian Nationalism that seems to have a connection to what is happening in our country today and that what happened over 75 years ago is still alive and well.

On Sunday, October 15, we will have a discussion on Christian Nationalism today. What is the theology, what does the Lutheran Church say about Christian Nationalism and how to we as Christians respond?

Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference room for learning and discussion.

### Crosspoints Adult SS 9:15 am Conference Room

**October 8** — German Christian Nationalism under Hitler

**October 15** — Christian Nationalism today

**October 22** — Town Hall meeting- Sanctuary

**October 29** — What led to Luther's Reformation?



## Worship for Oct. 8

*Time after Pentecost*

### Traditional Worship

8:00 a.m.

*Preaching: Pastor Hand*

### Traditional Worship & Communion

10:30 a.m.

*Preaching: Pastor Hand*

### New Day Worship

10:30 a.m.

*Preaching: Pastor Ross*



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

10 Delp Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

### October 8

**8:00 a.m.** — Lector: Ena Marie Banks; Greeters: John & Jill Kerchner; Ushers: Bob Courtois & Don Wenrich; Welcome Center: Kathy Burke; A/V: Tom Chever.

**10:30 a.m.** — Lector: Janet Roberts; Greeter: Sara Gable; Ushers: Kathleen Bailey & Cheryl Oeschger; Welcome Center: Dave & Lis Wolf; A/V: Dave Tilley; Communion Assistants: Carolyn McNaughton & Janet Roberts; Altar Guild Coordinator: Debbie Shue; Altar Guild: Sharon Breeden. Coffee Bar: Mark & Donna Aho; Flowers Deliverers: Cathy Graver & Becky Lutz.

### October 15

**8:00 a.m.** — Lector: Mark Burkholder; Greeters: Randy & Susan Ketchum; Ushers: Cindy Miley & Tom Rothfus; Welcome Center: Shirley Dombach; A/V: Benjamin DeLeonardis; Communion Assistants: Kevin & Weston Groff; Altar Guild Coordinator: Debbie Shue; Altar Guild: Jill Kerchner.

**10:30 a.m.** — Lector: Ashley Miller; Greeter: Scott Glassford; Ushers: Scott & Sharon Breeden; Welcome Center: Clarence Simon; A/V: Dave Tilley.

**New Day** — Communion Assistant: Bill Sassaman.

Coffee Bar: Betsy Kemper; Flowers Deliverers: Christine Smith, Tim & Sharon Fickes.

## Quick Notes

**WELCA UPDATE** — Last month, the WELCA ladies put together 82 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. In addition, over 30 kits were given to Vantage House for women and babies. Thanks to all who donated and helped with this project. We will again be collecting personal care items for the coming year. If anyone in the congregation wishes to bring items to the church, please place them in the box beside the mailboxes. We collect dark towels and washcloths, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Please join us for the October 12 meeting of WELCA. A light breakfast is served at 9:00 with the program beginning at 9:30. You do not need to attend both so feel free to come when you like! Ninette Jackson, Internationally Certified Clinical Aromatherapist from Josiah's Oils, will share with us how aromatherapy is used today in hospitals, cancer treatment, nursing homes, and Schreiber Pediatrics, as well as personal wellness care. We hope to see you there! Feel free to bring a friend!

**RITE OF ACCOMPANIMENT FOR MOLLY OLMSTED INTO THE ELCA DEACONESS COMMUNITY!** Molly will have her rite of Accompaniment service here at St. Peter's on Saturday, October 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Lunch provided after. All are invited! Please RSVP to Sister Dottie if you would like to attend the luncheon.

**YOUTH GROUP OUTING** — Sunday, October 15, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Oregon Dairy Corn Maze. Team 5th/6th (with adult guide) and Team 7th-12th will attempt Oregon Dairy's famous 12 acre corn maze. Cost is \$10 per person. Please bring a water bottle. Dinner will be provided at the Oregon Dairy food truck after the maze. RSVP to Sister Dottie or [lesliericemccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:lesliericemccarthy@gmail.com).

**OCTOBER PUB THEOLOGY** — Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the home/Barn of Shirley Dombach – 2060 Ellsworth Road, Lancaster. We will have Halloween/Reformation and All Saint's Trivia! Bring a side dish and your favorite drink to share. Beef BBQ will be provided and all utensils! Contact Sister Dottie if you have any questions.

**CRAFT SHOW HELP** — We are in need of several people to help with the craft show. Help is needed for set up on Friday, November 24 from 9:00-11:00 a.m., marking vendor spaces on the floor; Saturday, November 25 from 7:00-9:30 a.m. for vendor placement and holding customers from entering the craft show until 9:00 a.m. And also from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to hand out brochures. Please contact Movita Groff at 717-569-0101 or Kim Sterner at 717-397-7739.

**JUST FOR FUN** — Fun, Fellowship and Food will be Wednesday, October 25 at Scooters at 12:00 p.m. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet by the nursery. For questions, please call Edee Bedford at 717-569-5992.

Rev. Craig Ross, Senior Pastor • Sister Dottie Almoney, Director of Education & Outreach

**Contact Information** 717.569.9211 • [www.stpeterslutheran.org](http://www.stpeterslutheran.org) • [office@stpeterslutheran.org](mailto:office@stpeterslutheran.org)