

## Christian Nationalism Talking Points - Final

St. Lukes Episcopal Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Village of Fairport are embarking on a joint adult education project, co-sponsored by GRCC (Greater Rochester Community of Churches). This project evolved from a Webinar held In January 2021 on the subject of Christian Nationalism. The featured presenters on this Webinar were Bishop Michael Curry - Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (USA) and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton - Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Christian Nationalism is the belief that America is a nation defined by christianity, and that the government must take active steps to keep it that way. These beliefs are really a perversion of christianity and patriotism, intermingled with politics, racism and fear, all of which can be a contributory force toward violence as evidenced by the U.S. Capital riot on 1/6/21. There were a number of Crosses, Christian Slogans and Symbols sported by many of the rioters.

Our two churches have developed a two part adult ed program based on pre established educational lesson plans, designed to complement the webinar.

The program will be held 1/24/22 and 1/31/22 (Mondays) from 7-8:30 pm. This will be a zoom event. The Very Rev'd William H. Petersen, PhD, DD, of St. Lukes will be the presenter/ Moderator for Part 1. Rev. Petersen's doctorates are in history and theology. He is the Emeritus Dean of Bexley Hall (Episcopal) Seminary and has also pastored congregations in Iowa, California, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York. He will cover topics such as our constitution, the separation of church and state, religion, patriotism, Christian Nationalism, politics and racism in the United States. For Part 2, the following week, Pastors Amy Walter-Peterson and Abby Hoffman of Bethlehem Lutheran will be the presenters. Their presentation will be based on reactions, questions and comments to Father Bill's talk. Will also look at "What Constitutes Authentic Christianity" as well as drawing from the Webinar framework.

You are encouraged to register for this event (<https://bit.ly/ZoomJan2022>). **Please view the webinar** (<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/webinars>) **after registering.**

Hope to see you!

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