

themselves. When we speak of the Gospel of Jesus Christ only one thing is certain, God's work in the world is marked by peace, love, and justice.

I, along with many Christian siblings,\* reject Christian Nationalism, a damaging political ideology which tends to be divisive and uses the tools of fear and hate to gain support. As Christians Against Christian Nationalism, we believe that:

“People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.

Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.

One's religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one's standing in the civic community.

Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion.

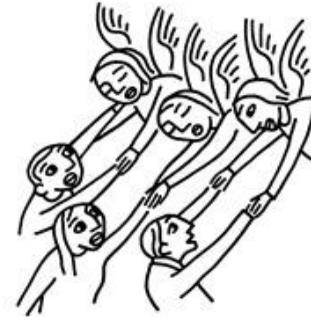
America's historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.

Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.

We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation against religious communities at home and abroad.

Whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths, including among Christians. All are equal under the U.S. Constitution. As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.”\*

/s/ Rev. Felix Javier Malpica  
Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

All Saints Sunday  
November 6, 2022

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

*Announcements*

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have ignored voices  
that call for your justice.**

**We have neglected actions  
that witness to your righteousness.**

# Christianity: Political but not Partisan

**We have spoken and acted  
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.  
We truly repent of things we have done  
and left undone.  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Restore our troubled spirits,  
so that we may live in newness,  
follow the way of the Spirit,  
and build up the body of Christ.  
Amen.**

Rejoice and be glad!  
God hears the prayers of all who cry out,  
and restores us to life through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.  
Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the ☩ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn                      “For All the Saints”                      ELW#422 (vs. 1-4)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A troubling trend has been spreading in political discourse which I, as a Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, strongly condemn, the rise of Christian Nationalism, an unholy marriage between fundamentalist Christianity, conservative politics, and fierce nationalism which has distorted what it means to be an engaged Christian in society.

As Christians, we follow Jesus’ command, “Love God, love others.” As Americans, we uphold a system of government that, while messy and complicated, tries to keep the common good as central in our constitutional democracy. Christian Nationalism is a threat to both.

Christian Nationalism distorts the Gospel and turns Jesus and Christianity into a weapon for power and division instead of an instrument for love and unity. Christian Nationalism demands a particular brand of Christianity be privileged by the state and conflates being a “good American” with this brand of Christianity. Often, Christian Nationalism is focused on keeping power and privilege for a certain subset of our society while alienating those on the margins, including other Christians with differing values.

Wisconsin has a state motto of “Forward,” reminding us to strive to be a national leader. We move forward when we ensure that all people, including those with whom we disagree, work together in the pursuit of the common good. We move forward when we honor and respect one another and allow for the richness of diversity to flourish. With elections around the corner, we move forward when we all get out and vote for the sake of our common good.

To be clear, the way we interpret God’s Word should inform how we engage the public sphere. In this way, the Gospel IS political. The Gospel, on the other hand, is NOT partisan and does not conform to a political ideology. No political party or ideology can claim the Gospel for

## IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty,  
Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

### CALENDAR

Today	Social Ministry—Cards	After service
Nov. 10	Quilting	9:00 am
Nov. 13	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Norwalk Community Thanksgiving Dinner	4:00-6:00 pm

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

All are welcome to attend the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 13, at the Norwalk Fire Station. The dinner will be served from 4:00—6:00 pm and is sponsored by the Friends of the Community. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, rolls and cranberries will be provided. If you would like to donate a vegetable dish, salads, or desserts, you are welcome to do so. There is no charge.

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

There are boxes on the table in the narthex, along with information on suggested items to include as gifts. We have also placed an adhesive sticker on the box for your use in indicating which child (boy/girl) and age appropriate your gifts are for.

Please return the shoeboxes no later than Sunday, November 21.

#### TRANSITION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Additional copies of the survey are located in the narthex. The drop box for completed surveys will be available next week.

P: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Canticle of Praise**

“This Is the Feast”

ELW p.149

#### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

#### **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.<sup>^</sup>*

#### **First Reading**

*Job suffers the loss of children, wealth, and health. Accused by his companions of wrongdoing, he knows himself to be innocent. Here, in the midst of his suffering, Job clings to the radical hope that his vindicator, his redeemer, lives; and that one day he himself will see God.*

### Job 19:23-27a

<sup>23</sup>“O that my words were written down!  
O that they were inscribed in a book!  
<sup>24</sup>O that with an iron pen and with lead  
they were engraved on a rock forever!  
<sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;  
<sup>26</sup>and after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
then in my flesh I shall see God,  
<sup>27a</sup>whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed to my cry;  
listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.  
<sup>2</sup>**Let my vindication come forth from your presence;  
let your eyes be fixed on justice.**  
<sup>3</sup>Examine my heart, visit me by night,  
melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.  
<sup>4</sup>**I have not regarded what others do;  
at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**  
<sup>5</sup>My footsteps hold fast to your well-worn path;  
and my feet do not slip.  
<sup>6</sup>**I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me;  
incline your ear to me and hear my words.**  
<sup>7</sup>Show me your marvelous lovingkindness,  
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those  
who rise against them.  
<sup>8</sup>**Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me under the shadow of your wings,**  
<sup>9</sup>from the wicked who assault me,  
from my deadly enemies who surround me.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table.  
Come, taste and see

Distribution

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

“Lamb of God”

ELW p.154

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.  
Enliven us to be your body in the world  
and to serve those who are in need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

#### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

\*Benediction

Hymn

“For All the Saints”

ELW #422 (vs. 5-7)

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Bill Horn; Organist: Nalani Bever;  
Reader: Miranda Arndt

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt,  
John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Craig King, Wynn Liersch,  
Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Julie Schreier, Don Schreier, Debra Welch,  
Sterling Schwartz.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

**As you have entrusted us with all that you have created,  
now gather our gifts,  
nourish us with this sacrament,  
and send us to those who hunger and thirst,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

### Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ<sup>^</sup>

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 153

### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Second Reading

*This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.*

### 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup>not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. <sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. <sup>4</sup>He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. <sup>5</sup>Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

<sup>13</sup>But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup>For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

<sup>16</sup>Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, <sup>17</sup>comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

**ELW p. 151**

**GOSPEL READING**

*Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.*

**The holy gospel according to Luke 20:27-38**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] <sup>28</sup>and asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. <sup>29</sup>Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; <sup>30</sup>then the second <sup>31</sup>and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. <sup>32</sup>Finally the woman also died. <sup>33</sup>In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; <sup>35</sup>but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. <sup>36</sup>Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. <sup>37</sup>And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. <sup>38</sup>Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Reverend Bill Horn

**Hymn**

**“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”**

**ELW #619**

(During the hymn, you are welcome to come forward and light a candle to commemorate loved ones who have gone before.)

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(Lord in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**)

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.*