



IS CHRISTIAN ZIONISM LUTHERAN?

A WORKSHOP TO FOSTER DISCUSSIONS ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE IN CONGREGATIONS

DATE & TIME

October 15, 22, & 29
8 – 9:30 pm EDT

LOCATION

Online

COST

\$25

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Is the modern state of Israel to be equated with Israel in the Bible? What does the New Testament say about the “promised land” and how is this related to Christ? Can one be critical of the state of Israel without being antisemitic? This three-session online workshop will address these issues, discuss Lutheran biblical and theological approaches, and provide opportunity for sharing of best practices in how to lead congregations in the midst of rising voices of nationalism and Christian Zionism.

Israel and Palestine have not only become a divisive political issue nationally, but the occupation of Palestine has become a central tenet of Christian Zionists in America. Christian Zionism has been defined by Palestinian Lutheran pastor Mitri Raheb as “*a Christian lobby that supports the Jewish settler colonialism of Palestinian land by using biblical/theological constructs within a meta-narrative.*” Or to put it another way, Christian Zionism is a “*faith-based Christian political support for the State of Israel.*” Palestinian Christians, especially Palestinian Lutherans, have long asked for Western Christian siblings to speak against and alleviate the violence brought on by Occupation. How can members of the ELCA respond to the genocide in Gaza, and now the growing settler violence in the West Bank, and the intergenerational trauma of Palestinians and Israelis. Is this simply “bringing politics into the pulpit” or is there an aspect of faithful response and witness akin to other moments in history, such as Germany and South Africa?

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SESSIONS

October 15 – *What is Christian Zionism?*

Participants will be introduced to American Christian Zionist views of the Bible and how such beliefs appear in congregations

October 22 – *What are the consequences of Christian Zionism?*

Participants will examine how Christian Zionism views the land, Palestinians, and Muslims, and explore how to respond to such views

October 29 – *How to advocate for justice in Palestine and not be antisemitic?*

Participants will discuss antisemitism, anti-Judaism, and supersessionism in light of occupation and genocide.

Each session will highlight Palestinian Lutheran voices. There will be breakout sessions, time for discussion, sharing of experiences and best practices in ministry.

The workshop is offered by members of the Christian Zionism Working Group of the U.S. Lutheran Palestine Israel Justice Network (<https://uslpijn.org/>).

FEATURED PRESENTERS

The Rev. Dr. David D. Grafton, PhD, New England Synod

Deacon Susan Lindberg Haley, New England Synod

The Rev. Dr. Julie Rowe, DMin, Southwestern Texas Synod

The Rev. Sara Yotter, Delaware/Maryland Synod

QUESTIONS? • kindlingfaith@uls.edu • KindlingFaith.org • uls.edu



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