

“About 100 Milwaukee faith leaders launch campaign against Christian nationalism”

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/2023/08/04/milwaukee-religious-leaders-speak-out-against-christian-nationalism/70517401007/>

[Sophie Carson](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 4, 2023

Milwaukee faith leaders on Thursday launched a campaign against Christian nationalism, saying they want to protect American democracy.

About 100 leaders from a variety of faith backgrounds, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism, rallied outside the Martin Luther King Jr. statue on North King Drive before marching to Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where they received training on how to engage their congregations in conversation about the issue.

"America is not a Christian nation," said the Rev. Paul Erickson, bishop of the [Greater Milwaukee Synod](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or ELCA.

The U.S. is at its best, Erickson said, when Christianity is one faith among many in the public sphere.

Christian nationalism is a right-wing [movement](#) that argues Christian values should influence government and that church and state should not be separate. Some also believe in waging "spiritual warfare" against what they see as an erosion of conservative cultural values in American society, including on gender, sexuality and race.

Christian nationalist symbols were [seen at the Jan. 6 attack](#) on the U.S. Capitol, and prominent leaders in the movement railed in recent years against pandemic shutdowns. Experts say the ideology's influence can also be seen in local school board elections around the country over parental fights to ban library books or control curriculum.

The faith leaders who spoke Thursday see Christian nationalism as a wide-ranging threat to the country's future. Among the key issues they mentioned were voting laws, antisemitic and anti-Muslim attacks and state lawmakers' efforts to defund college diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

