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**“MONDAY SPEAKER SERIES” PART TWO LOOKS AT
“CIVIL RELIGION IN AMERICA”**

Hope Lutheran Church in Cranberry hosts Thiel College Faculty Speakers in January

Jan. 4, 2010 – CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP: The second in a series of presentations related to religion in today’s society will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 18, at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cranberry Township. The “Monday Speaker Series” is presented by faculty from Thiel College.

The Jan. 18 presentation is “**Perspectives on Civil Religion in America.**” From Puritan visions of establishing a truly godly society in New England to serve as a ‘city on a hill,’ through 19th century ideals of ‘manifest destiny,’ to President George W. Bush’s description of the ideal of America as a ‘light [that] shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it,’ a religious dimension has often been attributed to America. This presentation will reflect on elements of the history, rituals, symbols and values of ‘American civil religion,’ highlighting points of connection between American civil religion and biblical religion. The presentation will conclude with reflections on two alternative visions of the role of America in the 21st century. The presenter is Thiel College *Associate Professor of Religion Dr. Daniel F. Eppley.*

For more information on this program and the Jan. 25 presentation, people should contact the Hope Lutheran Church office at 724-776-3141. Details also are on the church’s website at www.hopelutherancranberry.org. Hope Lutheran Church is located at 8070 Rowan Road, just off Route 19, in Cranberry Township.