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NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR FREETHINKERS

Join us Sunday February 4th at 10am at the Hillside Community Center, 12 East 4th St.,
for a presentation by Linda Crumpton and Charles Gessert

CHRISTIANITY AND THE 2024 ELECTION N

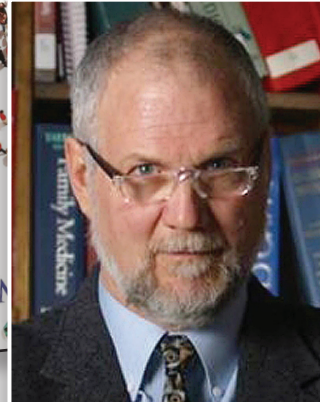
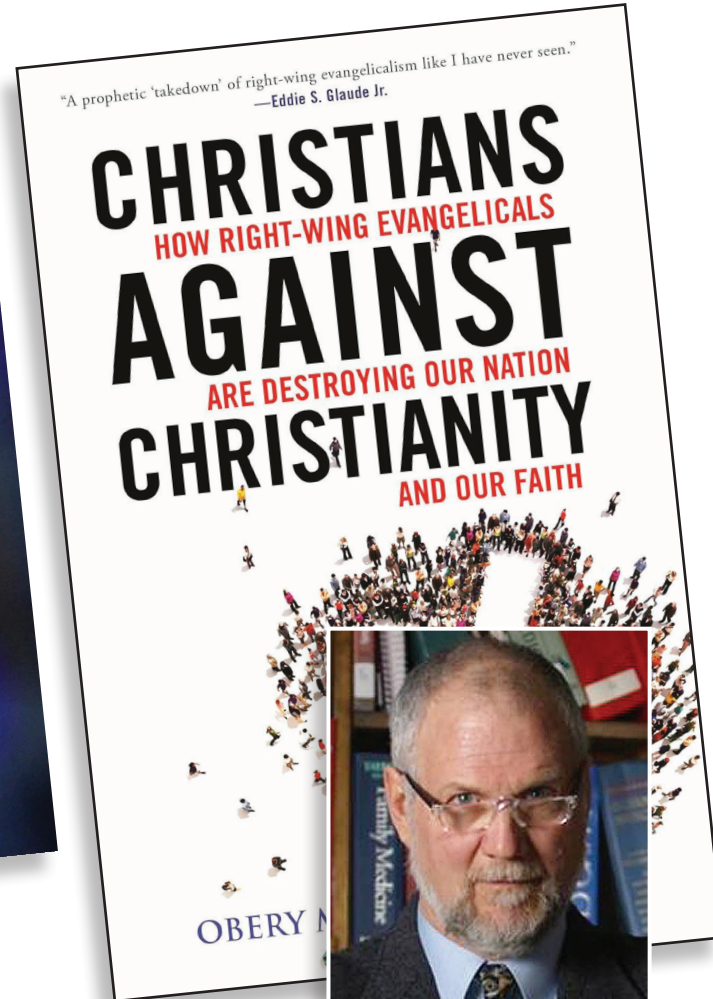
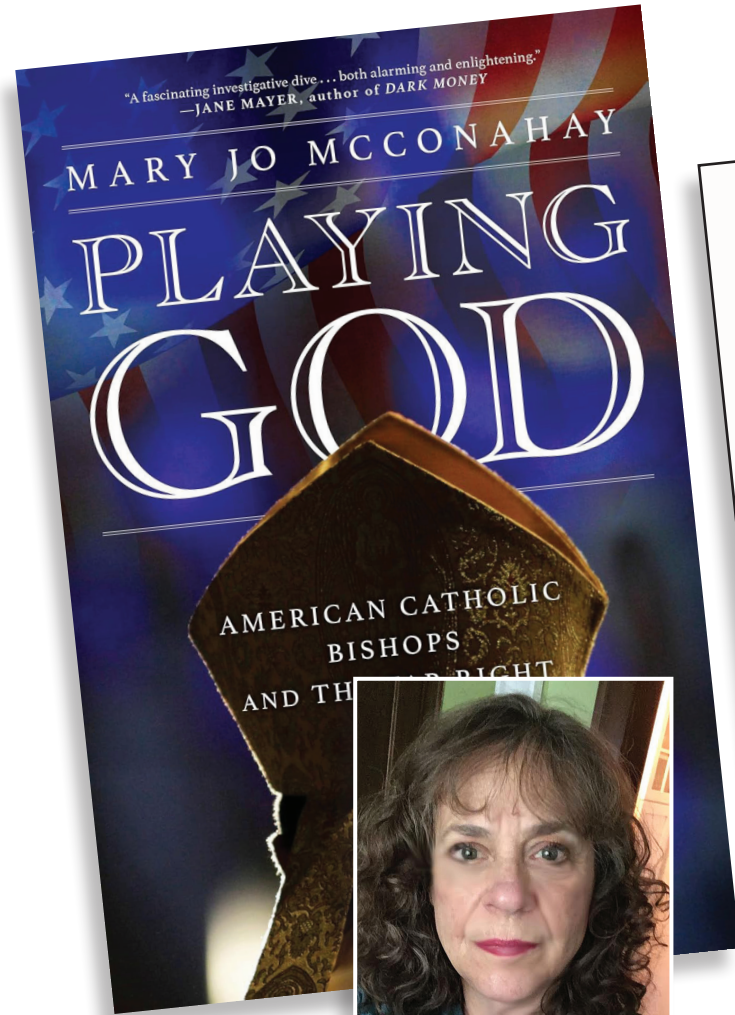


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CHRISTIANITY AND THE 2024 ELECTION



Linda Crumpton and Charles Gessert will provide brief reviews of two recent books: *"Playing God: American Catholic Bishops and the Far Right"* and *"Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying Our Nation and Our Faith,"* and will lead a discussion of the rise of the political movement called Christian Nationalism.

LINDA CRUMPTON is a member of the Lake Superior Freethinkers and the Freedom From Religion Foundation. She is a "Recovering Catholic," and a staunch believer in Separation of Church and State.

CHARLES GESSERT is the Treasurer of Lake Superior Freethinkers. He has been very active with charitable groups in the region since retiring as Senior Research Scientist at Essentia Health and is sought after as a speaker and presenter.



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NEWSLETTER

LSFreethinkers@outlook.com

CHAIR

TOM PATTEN

tpatten@chartermi.net

VICE-CHAIR

DAVID COLE

dcole@d.umn.edu

TREASURER

CHARLES GESSERT

CGessert@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

DON FRASER

dfraser456@gmail.com

SOCIAL DIRECTOR

SUE ANDERSON

(218) 728-1361



HAPPY HOUR

**Join us from 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, February 1st
at Mexico Lindo, Fitger's
Brewery Complex**

The fun begins at 4:00 pm! The restaurant will validate your covered parking and we will validate your skepticism about religion. Come on out, bring a friend, and enjoy the monthly merriment of Lake Superior Freethinkers.

THE
BOAT CLUB
★ RESTAURANT & BAR ★
EST 2017

**Join us Wednesday February 21st at 5:30pm for LSF's Social Dinner
at the BOAT CLUB in the Fitger's Brewery Complex.**

Michael J. Fox



Actor Michael Andrew Fox, known professionally as Michael J. Fox, was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1961 to Phyllis (née Piper), an actress and payroll clerk, and William Fox, a police officer and Canadian Forces member. After starring in the Canadian TV sitcom "Leo and Me" at age 15, he moved to Los Angeles.

Playing Alex P. Keaton on NBC's popular "Family Ties" (1982-89) earned him three Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe. Producer Brandon Tartikoff opposed casting Fox because, according to Fox's 2002 memoir *Lucky Man*, "How could someone that short (5'4") have Michael Gross and Meredith Baxter Birney as his parents?"

He married "Family Ties" co-star Tracy Pollan in 1988. They have four children: son Sam (b. 1989), twin daughters Aquinnah and Schuyler (b. 1995) and daughter Esmé (b. 2001). Pollan is Jewish and the children were raised in Reform Judaism.

Fox's later roles, including on the ABC sitcom "Spin City" (1996–2000), brought him two more Emmys, three more Golden Globes and two Screen Actors Guild Awards. He had earlier adopted the middle initial J as a tribute to character actor Michael J. Pollard (C.W. Moss in "Bonnie and Clyde"). He starred in the feature film "Back to the Future," which became a trilogy.

Numerous other movie roles include "Doc Hollywood," "Bright Lights, Big City," "For Love or Money," "The American President" and "Mars Attacks!" His last major film role was in "The Frighteners" (1996). He was

diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991 at age 29 and disclosed his condition to the public in 1998.

Since 1999, Fox has worked mainly as a voice-over actor. He founded the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in 2000. It has raised over \$1 billion for research. He has written three books besides *Lucky Man: Always Looking Up: The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist* (2009), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future: Twists and Turns and Lessons Learned* (2010) and *No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality* (2020).

In *No Time Like the Future*, Fox wrote that he is not a "subscriber to any particular orthodoxy," called optimism "my faith" and said "I'm beginning to see that faith, or fear's opposite, can be expressed as gratitude, which has always been the bedrock of my optimism."

"Parkinson's and alcohol took a sledgehammer to any illusions I may have had that I was in control. I came to accept that any disease or condition beyond my control is, in effect, a power greater than myself," Fox wrote in *Always Looking Up*. "To survive this destructive energy, I must look to an even higher power. For my purposes, I need neither define it nor have others define it for me, only accept its existence. It is evident in Tracy's love and inexhaustible friendship, the toothless gap in Esme's smile, Aquinnah's grace, Schuyler's grit, Sam's intrepid curiosity. So much to savor, so much to be grateful for."

If I get to the bottom of the Cracker Jack box, then there's a prize, I'm happy. But if there isn't, I just enjoy the Cracker Jack. I don't have a complex orthodoxy. I don't have any expected reward or expected afterlife or anything like that. I just want to make the most of this life and make as positive of an impact I can on people around me and be grateful for their love and attention and try to do something, you know, worthwhile and not counting on getting a do-over.