Has Thrivent Financial for Lutherans come under fire for the kind of investments they make, if they are truly in keeping with Christian values? Has Thrivent ever announced a change in position for any reasons, including, but not limited to, possible moral reasons for the change in investments in a publicly traded company?

Yes, Thrivent Financial has come under fire for its investments, facing criticism from Christian groups and activists who questioned whether some of its holdings align with Christian values. Thrivent has also publicly announced changes in its investment positions, including expanding its offerings beyond explicitly faith-based criteria.

Investments and moral controversies

- **Private Prisons:** In 2019, Thrivent faced awareness campaigns and criticism from migrant rights activists for its holdings in CoreCivic and the GEO Group, two major US immigration detention contractors. Several large banks had already divested from these companies after public pressure.
- **Weapons Manufacturers:** The anti-war activist organization CODEPINK publicly called on Thrivent to divest from companies that manufacture weapons. CODEPINK argued that investing in these companies undermines peace and diplomacy and is contrary to the purpose of a Christian organization.
- **Neutrality on Abortion:** In 2014, Thrivent drew criticism from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for adopting a "Financial Neutrality Policy" regarding abortion. While the policy ended funding for pro-abortion organizations, it also ceased support for pro-life charities that had previously received Thrivent funding. The LCMS expressed deep concern over the policy's impact on Christian pro-life agencies.

Changes in investment positions and policies

- **Expansion beyond Lutherans:** In 2014, Thrivent expanded its target market beyond its traditional Lutheran base to include the broader Christian community. It also later broadened its eligibility requirements even further. This change was met with some criticism from members who felt the organization was distancing itself from its conservative Lutheran roots.

- **Evolution of ESG investing:** Thrivent's stance on investments based on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors has also evolved.
    - In 2022, Thrivent launched its first Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) focusing on ESG-aligned small- and mid-cap stocks.
    - However, by early 2025, Thrivent removed the ESG focus from that same ETF. The fund, formerly the "Thrivent Small-Mid Cap ESG ETF," was renamed and no longer uses ESG criteria as a primary investment strategy.
- **Investment philosophy and values:** Thrivent's stated investment philosophy is to integrate a "purpose-driven" approach, with options for socially responsible or faith-based investing. However, the company has also noted that its impact portfolios may hold securities that deviate from their stated philosophy.

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