



## “He the Kingdom/We the Kingdom”

This month, I’m pleased to announce a new worship series for the end of July and the month of August- as stated in the title of this article: **“He the Kingdom/ We the Kingdom.”** The fact that there happens to be a popular Christian musical group called “We the Kingdom” is a very convenient tie-in!

The term “Kingdom of God” occurs often in our New Testament, and the equivalent term “Kingdom of Heaven” also occurs frequently, primarily in the book of Matthew. Additionally, we also pray regularly “Thy kingdom come”, as part of the Lord’s prayer. This phrase is the second petition of that prayer, and is taught upon in our Small Catechism. So, for five weeks, we will be exploring this extremely important Biblical and catechetical theme.

The idea of God’s kingdom was so important to Jesus that it formed the central theme of His preaching: “The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News!” He sent His disciples to all the cities and towns of Israel, preaching that same Good News. So, why does it seem that few Christians understand what the Kingdom is all about? And what has it got to do with how we live our lives today. What do we do with “The Kingdom?” Well, we can begin by dispelling certain incorrect notions about the Kingdom of God.

**First:** The Kingdom of God isn’t a place we go to when we die- not exclusively, anyway. Nor is it only for some time way off in the future, say, at the end of time. Jesus very clearly said to those who heard Him that the kingdom is here, or near- sort of like, someone who stands at the door and knocks. That person is **at** your house, even if he is not yet **in** your house. So whatever else may be true, the Kingdom is a here-and-now reality!

**Second:** The Kingdom of God isn’t political. It does not occupy seats in a house of Congress or a Governor’s office. God’s kingdom does not endorse candidates or political parties- though God’s people certainly can and do have their opinions. But Jesus, when He is being questioned by Pilate, states plainly, *“My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place (John 18:36).”* Until He returns, the Kingdom is not to be confused with the USA, the institutional Church, or a political party. We the Kingdom do not seek to set up a worldly kingdom that goes to war against “the godless” (see Article 17, Augsburg Confession.) There is massive confusion in Christian circles about

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Congratulations  
to our 2023 Violet  
Jacobson  
Scholarship  
recipients:

Zander Honstad  
Bryce Mudgett



## “He the Kingdom/We the Kingdom” Continued

this.

**Third:** Beyond the realm of national sovereignty, political parties and governments, the Kingdom of God does have an enemy- Satan. In order to understand why the Kingdom of God is so important, we must understand that We the Kingdom are indeed at war (Ephesians 6:10-18). The warfare is real, and there are indeed casualties- Kingdom subjects killed, vulnerable Kingdom citizens captured by the enemy, ranks infiltrated, and devilish subterfuges unleashed. This ongoing warfare involves every single person who bears the name Christian- whether they realize it or not. It involves the entire world, which, we are told by John, lies in the grip of the Evil One. Given the fact that this world is

claimed by Satan, no wonder it is difficult to live as a Christian!

**There’s much more to come.** For five weeks (July 30- August 27) we will explore what the Kingdom of God is, what it is not, and what We the Kingdom need to know, be and do, in order to function effectively as Kingdom subjects, who live for “He, the Kingdom.”

See you all in Church!  
Blessings and love in Christ,  
Pastor Yo

### WOW & the Men’s Group will NOT meet in July!

#### GREETERS & USHERS FOR JULY

(Sunday Service)

July 2: Gransee family

July 9: Betty Gransee & Marlene Good

July 16: Gransee family

July 23: John & Doris Krause

July 30: John & Doris Krause

July Sunday Ushers:

**Volunteers Needed**

July Wednesday Ushers:

Jim & Carol Carter

Nathan Wilkening

### DESIGNATED FUNDS

**YTD & Carried Forward Designated Funds as of April 2023:**

Building:	1,381.01
Adult Education:	38.27
Sunday School:	351.62
Scholarship:	314.88
Youth Group:	(2666.42)
Memorial:	6,191.68
Mission tithe:	8,715.53
Mission Offering:	500.00
Quilters:	1,190.31
Property:	805.78
Property Sub Account	
Building Impr.	2,075.00
A.C. Fund	\$ 300.00
Pastor’s Fund	5,000.00
Audio/Visual:	2,974.08
Evangelism:	13.23
Evangelism Sub Acct	
Pastor’s Moving	25.00
Light House Worship	11,918.10
Office Tech. Fund	416.70
Worship Fund:	126.49

**Year-To-Date General Fund Budget Totals as of 5/31/23**

Budget

GF Offering: \$88,749.35

GF Budget: \$104,017.61

GF Short: (\$15,268.26)

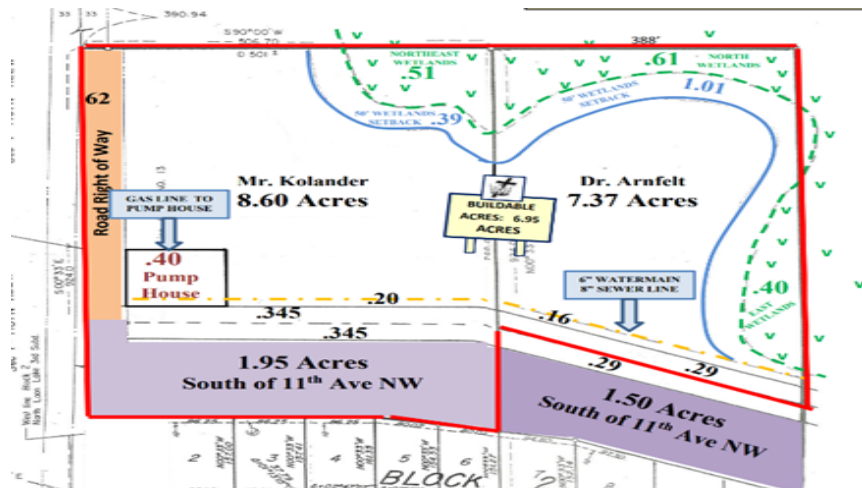
Actual

GF Offering: \$88,749.35

GF Expense: \$91,238.48

GF Short: (\$2,489.13)

## New Small Group Starting!



### Land Committee Next Meeting

**Saturday, July 15 at 9 am**

#### Still looking for members

interested in surveying our congregation to assess the interest and thoughts of the congregation in regard to the CtK Plat of Land (shown above).

## BIBLICAL ROOTS OF COMMON PHRASES

**Phrase:** “A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing.”

**Meaning:** An enemy masquerading as a friend. One cannot necessarily trust one who appears kind and friendly.

**Origins:** In the New Testament we read Jesus’ own words, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matt 7:15) Jesus appears to be saying that outwardly these prophets may seem to be followers of Jesus, but their real goal is to devour the sheep.

Perhaps more familiar to us is the much later use of this phrase found in the title of one of Aesop’s Fables. In George Fyler Townsend’s 1867 translation we are given the “*Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing*” fable this way: “Once upon a time a Wolf resolved to disguise his appearance in order to secure food more easily. Encased in the skin of a sheep, he pastured with the flock deceiving the shepherd by his costume. In the evening he was shut up by the shepherd in the fold; the gate was closed, and the entrance made thoroughly secure. But the shepherd, returning to the fold during the night to obtain meat for the next day, mistakenly caught up the Wolf instead of a sheep, and killed him instantly.”

(Aesop’s Fables, Clichés, by Christine Ammer and Lutheran Study Bible)

THERE ARE MANY COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN AT OUR CHURCH. ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS COULD USE MORE PEOPLE. THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR TIME & TALENTS. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING. NO INVITATION NEEDED, JUST SHOW UP.

**PROPERTY:**  
JULY 11, 6:30PM

**WORSHIP:**  
JULY 12, 5:30PM

**SAT., JUNE 10**  
**MEN’S BIBLE: 8 AM**

**WOW: 9:30 AM**

**EDUCATION:**  
JULY 25, 6:30PM

**EVANGELISM:**  
JULY 25, 6:30PM

**QUILTERS:**  
TUESDAYS 10:00AM

**CHOIR:**  
OFF TIME SEPTEMBER

**USHERS:**  
NEEDED MONTHLY .  
CONTACT GARRY  
HUCKFELDT, CHURCH  
OFFICE OR SIGN-UP  
GENIUS.

**READERS:**  
READ DURING  
SERVICES ON A  
ROTATION.

## THANK YOU!

A HUGE thank  
you to  
everyone  
supported Tfc  
by attending  
the burger fry  
or donating to  
the upcoming  
trip.



“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...”

Colossians 1:9

### PRAY FOR CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are asking **every member** to **PRAY DAILY** for our church, as we are now in an intentional process of discerning the Lord's will and future direction for Christ the King Lutheran!

- Pray that our **Lord Jesus** will reveal **His will for Christ the King Lutheran Church**, specifically the decisions we will have to make in the near future!
- Pray that **the Holy Spirit** will guide and inspire this process!
- Pray, as Colossians 1:9 states, that **God the Father** would fill **every member** with the knowledge of His will for us, in all spiritual wisdom and insight!
- Pray that the Lord will lead us to greater **thirst for God's Word**, greater **faithfulness**, greater **numerical growth**, and greater **unity**!
- Pray that the **Lord of the Harvest** (Luke 10:2) will reveal to us His will concerning **the church's** property on 11th Avenue!

Thank you, and Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Eric Ishimaru

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
309 6th ST NE  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507.835.9176  
www.ctkwaseca.org

