



Kviteeid
Voice

Kviteeid Lutheran
Church

March 2024

Volume 34 | Number 3

Greetings from Pastor Kristine Isder

God’s Kingdom

Our Wednesday Lenten services and Holy Week services are based on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew.

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.” *(Mark 1:14-15)*

Jesus then announces his plan and priorities for the new community he is ushering in, God’s kingdom.

Jesus taught what the real shape of life is like in his kingdom. Jesus did not come to this world to conduct business as usual. He came

to turn the world upside-down. Or rather, right-side up.

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” *(Matt. 20:16)*

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” *(Matt. 5:5)*

That’s not how this world works but it’s the way God works.

The people were looking for a bold political leader who would establish domination. But Jesus blesses the meek, the people who look like they’ll never accomplish anything.

They were hoping Jesus would rally the powerful to his side. But instead, Jesus blesses the destitute and those huddled on the fringes of the world.

Jesus says that he has not come to establish another political kingdom in which the powerful win and the rich pull all the strings.

Jesus comes to usher in a new order – a new kingdom, “God’s way of life”.

Jesus’ kingdom is counter cultural and living this way isn’t the quickest or most effective way to “get ahead” in this world, but it is precisely the way to live fully into God’s kingdom.

Jesus makes it clear that this new kingdom is not in the life hereafter, but right here, right now.

We think of life in heaven as the perfect life, where there is no pain or sadness and everyone will get along with everyone else. That’s also how we should strive to live on this earth, with the same ideals we have for life in heaven.

In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray “Thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.”

continued on page 3

STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund	
2024 Financial Responsibilities	\$251,736
Checking Register for the General Fund	
1/1/24 balance:	\$26,148
January income:	\$10,825
January expenses:	\$15,688
1/31/24 balance:	\$21,285

Worship Offerings & Attendance



January 28	\$1,361	58
February 4	\$3,605	71
February 11	\$2,398	75
February 14	\$50	35
- Ash Wednesday		
February 18	\$962	51



Memorials & Gifts

None to Report

Online Giving ...



Visit our website at

milanslutheranchurch.com

Financial

Thank you for your financial support of the church.

Contributions may be mailed to the church office if you are unable to make it to worship. You can also contribute online on our website.



PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Greetings from Pastor Kristine

continued from page 1

Kingdom living is how God would like to see life on earth. Kingdom living is where people get along and help each other and all are taken care of.

A lot of what we will hear in the Sermon on the Mount seems at odds with the ways of this earthly kingdom.

Kingdom living often seems contradictory to the way people in this world operate. The world says, "look out for yourself!" God says, "look out for others".

Kingdom living is the way life here on earth should be. I call it "God's alternative". And Jesus has been sent to show people what this "alternative kingdom" looks like.

Our call is to help bring the kingdom of God to earth. A life where all who suffer and struggle receive comfort and healing; a life where all who have been left out are fully included.

But even more: a life where all people of faith become tools of blessing, as God moves through them to touch the hurts and needs of their neighbors.

This is what it looks like to live in God's kingdom, both now and in the age to come.



Board Meetings

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 20



Deacons

6:00 p.m. during Lenten supper

Trustees

6:00 p.m. during Lenten supper

Church Council

7:45 p.m. after Lenten service



2024 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



Office Staff

Pastor Kristine Isder
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

Parish Assistant:
Theresa Erickson
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

Building Staff

Custodian: David Thompson
Organist: Judi Bohm

Volunteer Leadership

Sunday School Choir Dir:
Jessica Trager

Sunday School Supt.:
Talia Schuerman

Contributions Secretaries:
Heidi Hanson
Luther Opjorden

Church Officers

President: Tom Moe
V. Pres: Rob Schwendemann
Secretary: Sherry Norby
Treasurer: Andy Streed

Board of Deacons

Jon Hanson, Cindy Kanten,
Andrea Westra, Cheryl Erp,
Heidi Spray

Board of Trustees

Brandon Ascheman, Bryan
Schuerman, Cory Heinrich,
Ray Trager, Ryan Erp

Board of Education

Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich,
Tiffany Moen, Michelle
Ascheman, Shea Joyce

Helping Hands Board

President: Nancy Schneck
Vice President: Sue Vetter
Secretary: Cathy Olson
Treasurer: Theresa Erickson
Karla Schwendemann, Patee
Spray, Naomi Streed, Char
Johnson, Sue Streed

WORSHIP NEWS

March Schedules



Acolytes

- 3 - Matthew Schuerman
- 10 - Mason Erp
- 17 - Charlie Hanson
- 24 - Carter Moen
- 28 - *Maundy Thursday*
Parker Spray
- 31 - *Easter Sunday*
Eva Trager

Lectors

- 3 - Jon Hanson
- 10 - Heidi Hanson
- 17 - Rob Schwendemann
- 24 - Jen Tostenson
- 28 - *Maundy Thursday*
Rich Isder
- 29 - *Good Friday*
Connie Fragodt
- 31 - *Easter Sunday*
Tom Moe

Media Operators

- 3 - Alexandra Joyce
- 10 - Rich Isder
- 17 - Mason Erp
- 24 - Nancy Schneck
- 31 - *Easter Sunday*
Missy Ervin

Video Recorders

- 3 - Theresa Erickson
- 10 - Jon Hanson
- 17 - Rich Isder
- 24 - Theresa Erickson
- 28 - *Maundy Thursday*
Theresa Erickson
- 29 - *Good Friday*
Jon Hanson
- 31 - *Easter Sunday*
Rich Isder

Schedules are also available online at milanslutheranchurch.com

Reminder: It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.



PALM SUNDAY

March 24 - 10:30 a.m.

"Ask, Seek, Knock"
Palm Procession
Children's Choir



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28 - 7:00 p.m.

"The Golden Rule"
Holy Communion
Fifth Grade - First Communion



GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 - 7:00 p.m.

"The Tree and Its Fruit"
Tenebrae Service



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31 - 9:00 a.m. Kviteseid

"Treasures in Heaven"
Easter Breakfast
Easter Egg Hunt
Unveiling of the Cross
Holy Communion



7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at **Big Bend** with breakfast to follow

TWC Bible Study

Wednesday, March 13
1:30 p.m.



Meet in the Fellowship Hall



Group 1
Luther League

WORSHIP NEWS

Lenten Services

Lenten and Holy Week Services

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

For our Wednesday night Lenten services and Holy Week services we are using a series called Sermon on the Mount from Creative Communications.

This series for Lent will take us through some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and relate them to the events surrounding Christ's life, death and resurrection.

LENT - March 6 at Kviteseid "Do Not Worry"

Supper served by KLC Youth

In this service, we recognize that so much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that he knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

LENT - March 13 at Kviteseid "Judge Not"

Supper served by KLC Youth

In this service, we recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

LENT - March 20 at Kviteseid "Build on Rock"

Supper served by Sunday School

In this service, we recognize that we build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

PALM SUNDAY - March 24 at Kviteseid

"Ask, Seek, Knock"

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, "Who is this King of Glory?" They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, "Hosanna!" They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was opening the door to new life through the cross.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28 at Kviteseid

"The Golden Rule"

Jesus lived out the Golden Rule the night he was betrayed, but with a twist. He taught his disciples to do to others as he had done to them: washing their feet, forgiving their sins and loving them unconditionally.

GOOD FRIDAY - March 29 at Kviteseid

"The Tree and Its Fruit"

Jesus preached that good trees can be recognized by their fruits. Despite its appearance, the tree of the cross on Good Friday proved to be the best tree of all, because by Christ's death upon it came the fruit of everlasting life.

EASTER SUNDAY - March 31 at Kviteseid

"Treasures in Heaven"

Easter reminds us that Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection reminds us that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us.



Easter Lilies, to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter worship in memory or in honor of a loved one, may be purchased by contacting the church office (734-4455). Cost is \$20. Checks should be made out to Kviteseid Lutheran Church. After Easter worship, you may take your purchased plant home. A limited number of Easter Lilies have been ordered for your purchase.



LOCAL NEWS

Helping Hands

Helping Hands

Spring is due to arrive in about a month! Could have fooled me -- seems pretty much like spring all winter! Loving it!

Thank you to all for supporting the Helping Hands Board, Big Bend Lutheran (out at their church) and also the KLC Youth and Sunday School at Kviteseid for their Lenten suppers. They appreciate your support! Thank you all for serving! Thank you to Thrivent for supporting our causes through their grant program!

The Helping Hands Board will be serving coffee and lunch to the Lac qui Parle Conference pastors in March. Thank you to those helping with that project.

Quilting is done for the winter. Thank you to those who helped in any way, making tops, supplying backs and batting, tying, trimming, pinning and sewing. It all helps so much! Thank you to Sue Vetter for donating a sewing machine for the cause! We appreciate it! We will begin again for four days in July. See you then!

We will be celebrating Syttende Mai on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall at Kviteseid. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Nancy Schneck or Charlotte Strand. All help is appreciated!

Thank you very much to all who have accepted Service Group chairmanships for the coming year. Please know that you are not required to take time off work to help at a funeral. If the leaders can organize it, let Nancy Schneck know if you are needing more help for the event. There are several who are willing to assist your group.

Group 3, with chairpersons Theresa Erickson, Rob/Karla Schwendemann, and Ray/Jessica Trager, are next to serve a funeral. Stay healthy everyone.

Enjoy this friendly weather!

WINTER QUILTING



Layettes

In September we will again be putting together layettes for God's Work Our Hands. Last September we made 40 layettes which was great. We will need blankets again. They can be 30 by 30, 36 by 36, or 42 by 42 inches.

Thank you for your help in this project.

If you have any questions, you can give me a call at 289-3066.

- Cathy Olson



FUNERAL

SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 3.

Service Group 3 chairpersons are:

Theresa Erickson	734-4879
Rob & Karla Schwendemann	320-226-3700
Ray & Jessica Trager	320-309-4467



LOCAL NEWS

Youth

Bible Camp

Summer 2024 Bible Camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries



Calling all kids to register for Bible Camp! Registration is open.

Growing in our faith, like so much in life, involves being brave enough to take that first step - to walk into church, to open the Bible, to show up for camp! Whether you are a first-year camper or have been coming for years, being open to something new can be scary. **But God created us to do the hard things, to be brave enough to show up.**

And with that first step, we open ourselves to all the possibilities that we are **Created to Be!**

Embark on an inspiring summer journey as you explore and discover the authentic person God created in each of us, and how we are called to live out the Gospel of love and justice in the world.

For more information, there are brochures at church or check out their website: <http://www.gllm.org/>

To help offset the cost of Bible Camp for those who would like to attend, the following help is available to those who attend a full week of camp:

- Helping Hands\$100
- Endowment Fund\$150
- Pastor Kristine and Rich ...\$100
- Kviteseid Church\$150



Time to Spring Ahead

Remember to set clocks ahead one hour on Sunday March 10th

Children's Choir -

singing during Worship
February 11, 2024



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Activities

Spring Fever for Grades 2-6 April 20. Join us in a day full of Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships and more. This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Register online by April 10 at <http://www.gllm.org>.

Faith Milestones

On Maundy Thursday we will celebrate a faith milestone in the lives of our young people.

The fifth graders will attend first communion classes in preparation to receive Holy Communion for the first time. They will receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28.

Come and support our young people as they receive first communion.

Ordination

On January 21 Sara Shingledecker was ordained in Marshall. You may remember her as Vicar Sara Larson who served as an intern at Zion in Appleton, Minnesota Valley and Borgund. She preached at our joint lakeside worship service last May. Pastor Sara has accepted a call to serve two ELCA churches in Westbrook. Pastor Kristine participated in the ordination service.



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a



chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

LOCAL NEWS

Faith in Action

Donations

Are you cleaning out closets?
Doing spring cleaning?

There are two places locally
that will take donated items.

Home-2-Home in Appleton

Accepts gently used items such
as clothing, shoes, sheets, towels,
collectibles, jewelry, books, toys,
housewares and dishes, small elec-
trical items such as radios, clocks
and lamps and clothing accessories.

Donations can be brought in
during store hours: Thursday from
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pastor Matt Danielson in Montevideo

We are collecting and distrib-
uting furniture from the basement
of the former Folkestad's Furniture
building. Clothing and small house-
hold goods are being gathered and
distributed at the Chippewa Valley
Youth Club. If you are inclined to
make monetary donations, they
will, of course, be accepted as well.
Items have been distributed to our
local schools, to families new to the
community and/or the country, to
families taking in foster children,
and to anyone else who needs a
hand. If you want to donate or if
you know someone who can use a
hand, call Pastor Matt at 320-226-
5845.

They accept gently used and
new items. Items must be clean,
fully functioning, and in good con-
dition.

Items they will accept: furni-
ture, housewares and linens, blan-
kets, rugs, small appliances, lamps,
fans and more. They also accept
children's sized coats, boots, hats
and snowpants.

Cancellations



**Although worship will
rarely be canceled,**

please use your own judg-
ment before traveling in to
church on those question-
able days. Weather related
announcements can be
heard on KDMA 1460 AM
or KLQP 92.1 FM. It will
also be posted on the
Kviteseid website
([www.milanslutheran
church.com](http://www.milanslutheran
church.com)) home page
and on Kviteseid's Face-
book page.

Coffee Fellowship

Join us for coffee and fellow-
ship before worship Sunday morn-
ings in the narthex starting at 9:45
a.m. Please sign up to bring and
serve goodies to enjoy along with
the coffee. The sign-up sheet to
bring treats is on the table
in the narthex.

The ushers
will
make
the cof-
fee.



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LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Excerpts from Bishop Dee Pederson's 2023 Annual Report – Part 2

Serving the Word Today

Thanks be to God for all the Lay and Rostered Ministers leading our congregations today. They are serving Jesus and serving the Visible and Spoken Word to people in worship in this synod and far beyond. Our synod includes 300 rostered ministers, half of whom hold active calls in congregations, specialized calls, and synod calls.

In 2023, we celebrated the ordination of 5 new pastors who are serving in our synod: Rev. Chad Duffy, Rev. Mort Meyenberg, Rev. Stefan Swanson, Rev. Bob Ossefoort, and Rev. Sarah Zender. We consistently welcome more rostered ministers to this great synod than we see move away.

One of the greatest challenges for congregations and synods today is securing rostered minister leaders who can “serve the Word” in their context. Today, seminaries are seeing approximately half the number of enrollments they did 15 years ago. The good news is that congregations are embracing the gifts of their people and becoming less pastor-dependent than we were. The other piece of good news is that more lay leaders are sensing the Holy Spirit nudging them to consider part- or full-time ministry – often as a second career; and they are bringing incredible skills and life experiences into these new callings today.

TODAY, I pray that God will “send laborers” into this new and changing vineyard of ministry. Back in the 1960s our predecessor

church body (The American Lutheran Church), led an initiative where congregations prayed that God would raise up new leaders. Pastors encouraged those they knew to consider ministry as a life calling. Since we can't grow pastors on trees, this is what I ask you to do:

- Pray in weekly worship and in your own devotions that the Holy Spirit would move hearts for people to consider part- or full-time ministry.
- Notice the people of any age in your church who might have the faith, temperament, and gifts for ministry. Affirm their strengths. Ask them if they might pray about and consider ministry in their future.

We are grateful for the ministry of Gifts of Grace that helps rostered ministers reduce the debt from their seminary training, and for the scholarships that are available from so many sources – including this synod, our seminaries, and the ELCA churchwide. Thank you!

For congregations who have rostered ministers leading you, please take care of them by providing appropriate compensation (see our synod compensation guidelines) and benefits. Encourage them to take sabbath time away from work and make use of continuing education growth. Got a concern? Talk to them, not about them. Give them a word of thanks for their ministry, which they serve 24/7.

Whether there are lay or rostered leaders serving the word with you today, strive to live together as the body of Christ.

Nothing is more draining of leadership or destructive of Christian community than behaviors which tear apart the body of Christ.

At the end of chapter 12, St. Paul tells the Corinthians, “And I will show you a still more excellent way.” And that is the way of love – the way of Jesus.

- Rev. Dee Pederson,
D.Min. Bishop, Southwestern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA

2024 Synod Assembly

The 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly will be held online and in person June 7-8 at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter. The theme is One Body in Christ.

We can have two voting members. If you are interested in being a voting member at synod assembly, talk to Pastor Kristine.

March MN Food Share Month

Special offering will be taken
March 3 and 10

The Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund.

Kviteseid will be receiving a special local hunger offering on Sundays, March 3 and 10. These monies will be sent to the Chipewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift County food shelves.



LOCAL NEWS

Lac qui Parle Conference

Lac qui Parle Conference

Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly

The Lac qui Parle Conference assembly was held Feb. 18 at Our Savior's in Montevideo. Our conference stretches from Ortonville to Dawson and east to Maynard and consists of 28 churches and two nursing homes.

Jon Hanson, Judi Bohm, Jenna Norby, Michelle Ascheman, Gavin Ascheman, Rich Isder and Pastor Kristine attended from Kviteseid. We had more people attend than any other congregation!

Pastor Don McKee gave a Synod Council Report.

Carla Johnson gave the WELCA report. WELCA is trying to get women together to socialize, not just Lutheran women. Women are welcome to participate even if their congregation does not have an organized WELCA.

Bishop Dee Pederson presented the synod report about activities in the synod. There is a need for pastors across the whole country. There are lay ministry training opportunities available.

Pastor Don McKee gave an update on our companionship with the Southeastern Diocese in South Africa. Our conference is matched with the KwaNodwengu Circuit. In the past our conference has sponsored 30 students in South Africa to go to school. The cost is \$250/student for a year for two uniforms, room and board and supplies. We voted to sponsor 32 students this year. The members of the circuit would like people from here to visit them. We voted to spend up to \$3,000/person for up to five people

to go to South Africa sometime in the next year and a half. Funds for the scholarships and trips come from the conference treasury which is supported by the conference churches.

The following conference officers were elected: Rich Isder as chair, Karin Moen as treasurer, Carla Johnson as secretary. Pastor Don McKee continues serving as conference dean.

Lac qui Parle Conference WELCA

Gathering Tuesday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at Garfield Lutheran Church, rural Madison. The program is Kim Derich sharing her experience and mission work in Guatemala. All are welcome. Cost is \$5 for morning coffee.

The Southwestern MN Synod WELCA convention will be Saturday, May 4 in Redwood Falls.

There will be a Lutheran World Relief Pick-up Saturday, May 4 at Our Savior's in Montevideo.

Thank You

Thank you Kviteseid Lutheran Church for your generous gift to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries! When you make a gift to camp, your gifts help sustain the ministry happening across our three sites and ministry programs all year long. You have a hand in helping accomplish this important work—sharing God's word with campers in new and innovative ways, maintaining the beautiful spaces we've been blessed with, and spreading God's love and grace further through retreat ministry. We're grateful for your contribution and support!

- Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

Thank you TWC Bible study group for your generous gift of \$650 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts. Through your gifts, designated specifically for a herd of goats, latrine, and school fees and uniform for a girl, you share God's amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Thank you KLC Endowment for your generous gift of \$2,700 to ELCA Good Gifts to be used where needed most. Through your gifts, you share God's amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Military Boxes



Military boxes will be packed on Tuesday, March 19th at 9:00 a.m. Items that can be sent are nuts, candy, jerky, raisins, trail mix, granola bars, licorice, individual treats, microwave popcorn and baked goods (4-6 in a baggie). Please have items to church by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18th. Money donations are also appreciated. For questions, call Judi (734-4706 or 320-226-7354) or Nancy (734-4694).

Kviteeid Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Schedule

- ✝ Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Online Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✝

Church Office Phone: 320-734-4455 ✝ www.milanslutheranchurch.com



Pastor Kristine Isder
Parsonage phone: 320-734-4667
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

Parish Assistant - Theresa Erickson
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

