



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
*Pastor Terry's Thoughts of the Week*

## **Your Kingdom**

Now let's see. What was the last "kingdom" you were in. For most of us, if any kingdom at all, it was England. For some of the more traveled among us it may have been some more exotic place. And, as Lucy of Peanuts fame might say, Great Britain is really a "Queendom"!

Most of us are kind of fascinated by royalty even though we feel that Democracy is the way to go. But what is a monarchy anyway? It usually means there is a person at the top who can say or do just about anything they want. The top person is given a great deal of honor and is treated with extra-special care. One is to obey all orders of the monarch and give in when asked to do something a person really doesn't want to do.

Have we really thought about God's kingdom in that way? Do we see God as the one who deserves great honor? Do we obey all his commands? Do we respect the way of royalty (we ARE God's children and therefore royalty!).

But our Lord taught us that there is more to this kingdom than a time far in the future. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Well, royalty, how are you doing in making God's kingdom active here and now?

As I think of monarchies and democracies I realize that both of them really depend on the people who are members of those realms. No one usually gets to choose who the monarch will be. (For history buffs, Sweden did when Old Gustav Vasa III became mentally strange. The court picked one of Napoleon's Generals and so now the royal family are Bernadottes). But we feel in a democracy it is the right of the people to vote in a leader. We may disagree about the results, but we don't take to the streets in rebellion. There is a manner of trust that helps us accept the results, knowing that the time of those in office is limited and we will survive - as we have for over 200 years.

Meanwhile, back in God's kingdom – we are doing our best – aren't we? – to bring God's kingdom in sink with democracy. This doesn't mean we will vote for or even think about a theocracy (rule by what some feel are God's rules for living) but rather a society in which we are God's people, acting out his love in this world and caring for others the way he would – he DID when he was here. Just review all the parables – the good Samaritan, the Prodigal son (or waiting father), the healings, the breaking of the social rules in order to come close to people who were rejected.

These are the actions of God in the world. They are what we should be using as guidelines for our lives.

Can we love those who others reject? Maybe as an individual "I" can't, but I sure can support those who do. Can I heal? Maybe be a broad shoulder for someone who needs one, but also by supporting nurses, doctors and others in healing professions who are on the front lines. Can I care for every child I meet? Really impossible, but they can be in my prayers and I can love the ones who are near me. Can I feed the starving? Not all of them, but I can do my little bit in this community and give for those who are not in my immediate community. The kingdom is here and at work. Royal people, keep active!

*TMK*

-- *Week of August 2, 2009*