

Ephraim Moravian Messenger

News from the Open Door

“In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love”

Congregational Watchword for 2020: “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Ephesians 3:20-21”

September 2020

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK

In my seminary days long ago, it wasn't unusual for students to substitute for vacationing pastors during the summers. Certainly, a little income was helpful, but even more important was that it gave us much needed experience getting our feet wet in real ministry, albeit with some very patient and forgiving people. It really was fun to see how various pastors “did” church. But one experience has never left me. One of the services I conducted was in a drive-in theater, where there was nothing before me except bumpers and safety glass. I guess that was my Robert Schuller moment. It was disconcerting at best because I didn't know for sure if there was anybody really there. Occasionally I might see the comic section of the Sunday paper being turned. It was hard to relate because I couldn't see people's eyes or their frowns or yawns. For all the world I could just as well be speaking to empty cars at the Wal-Mart parking lot. Worst of all, when the sermon was over, they didn't even honk or flash their lights. These days, we are experiencing some of this very thing because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Here, even at Ephraim Moravian, people sit on lawn chairs in the parking lot, practicing social distancing. Hardly anybody can sing for fear they may spread the virus. Our people sit in their cars, separated from one another by glass, steel and distance.

What bothers me most of about this is that there have been huge gaps created between people. How we long to be shoulder-to-shoulder, arm-in-arm as we worship. How we long to clasp hands once again. One wonders, will this ever end? Will things be normal again? Of course, we know they will. But in the meantime, difficult as it may be, we live with the gaps, the distances that have been created between people. It makes me wonder how in the world we would survive without the communications and technology we have these days. What would it have been like if something like this occurred when I was a kid living on the farm in Iowa, where the latest technology was a phone with a crank on the side? What did we do with ourselves? We survived. We found things to do. We filled the gaps as best we could.

Yet, gaps still exist. We find ourselves in the gaps of loneliness or despair or fear. But there is help. Without question, the power of the Spirit of God and the presence of the Spirit of Jesus enable us to pass through the gaps to the fullness of life.

One thing I've noticed is that in our present crisis, gaps and distance notwithstanding, we have become more creative than ever. We are creative by keeping in touch as best we can with people who need help. And above all, we are in touch with one another through prayer, that unshakable correspondence within which we hold each other dear and by which we are blessed by our Lord God.

Pastor Dan G. Olson



Ephraim Moravian Church Office Hours

PASTOR: TUES - FRI 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MONDAY Pastor's Day Off
SECRETARY: WED. - THURS. 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
CELL NUMBER: 920-421-4042 The Church Phone does NOT ring in the parsonage. Please keep the Pastor's Cell Phone handy for after hours.

"Sweeney" says....

Many thanks to all of you for the cards and greetings for my 100th birthday! And all the extra attention at the Vespers service on August 12.

It is greatly appreciated!

Lucille "Sweeney" Sohns



If you don't have a computer, can't watch the Facebook service or find our web page with the audio of the service, we will be more than happy to send you a CD of the services at no charge. Just call 920-854-2804 and leave word that you'd like a CD of each week's service!



YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

TRUSTEES

B.D. Thorp	854-7212
Carol Sandstrom	854-9580
Dave Chomeau	854-2203
Brent Bristol	421-3626
Gunilla Wilson	854-5105

ELDERS

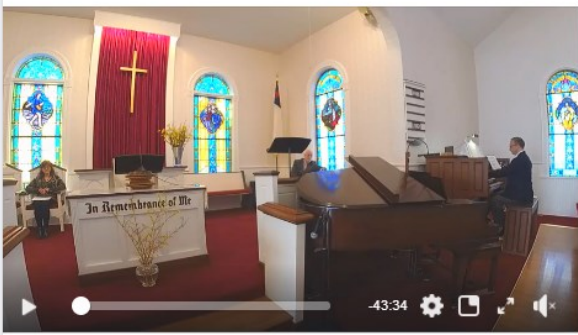
Pastor Dawn Volpe, Chair
Lonnie Vitse, Vice-Chair
608-628-7545
Kathleen Harris, Secty 421-2941
Liz Opitz 854-5949
Sherry Moore 854-3046
Tiggy Shields* 520-404-7512

**Summer elder (June - mid October)*

Sunday Services in September on Facebook LIVE STREAMING

If you are on Facebook, search for "Ephraim Moravian Church"

Live from Mevo at Ephraim Moravian Church in Door County, Wisconsin!



If you are not on Facebook, you can listen to the whole service on our webpage: www.ephraimmoravian.org. Click on "Learn More" and then "Worship Services"

Vespers Services in August

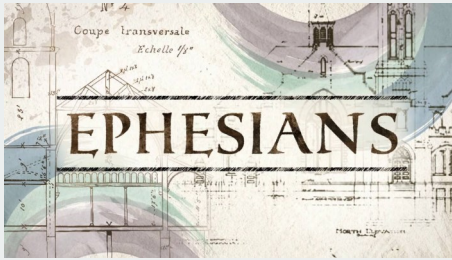


Lucille "Sweeney" Sohns at Vespers on her 100th birthday! Son Arnie and grandson David and other family in attendance.



Parking Lot Studies

Thursday, September 10 through Thursday, October 15, 1 p.m.
(rain dates on the following Fridays)



We will be studying the Book of Ephesians
(socially distanced outside)

September Church Services LIVE on Facebook



Sept 6 — 10 a.m.—Worship—Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford, Lay Reader Kay Tschannen and Guest Musician - Katie Dahl

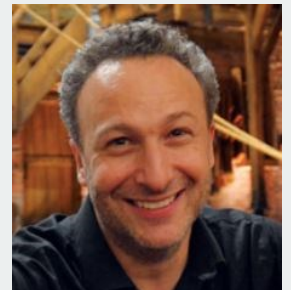
Sept 13 - 10 a.m. Worship/Communion with Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford, Lay Reader, Kathleen Harris and Guest Musician- Linda Van Dyke



Sept 20 — 10 a.m. Worship— Worship with Pastor Dawn, Music Director Colin Welford, Hal Halvorsen, Lay Reader, Sherry Moore



Sept 27 —10 a.m. Worship with Guest Pastor — Music Director Colin Welford, Lay Reader, Rob Davis and Guest Musician- TBD



If anyone would like to donate flowers for the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone, please contact Mary Wilson (854-4277, marywilson54211@yahoo.com) or Sherry Moore (854-3046, skmoore524@gmail.com) with the date.

Thank you!

September Birthdays

Glenore Paschke...2
Randall Nelson...3
Samantha Phillips...5
Brian Larson...10
Eunice Rutherford...11
Nicholas Weborg...13
Sherry Moore... 15
Eileen Jacobson...18
Claire Bierman... 18
Kris Husby-Nelson...27
Larry Jacobson...30

September Anniversaries

Ryan and Angela Sherman – Sept 6, 2008
Mary Ann and Tom Schuder – Sept 15, 1973
Dawn & Bob Volpe – Sept 22, 1991
Kay and Paul Wilson – Sept 25, 1971

**If we have missed you or someone you
know in the lists above, please let us know
in the church office!**

...to those who continue to help with our on-line services on
Sunday mornings.

...to those who contributed to our Vespers Services during July
and August. Together again (with masks and social distancing!)

...to those who have continued their offerings through the mail
or their bank! You can donate (PO Box 73, Ephraim) and through
the Moravian Ministries Foundation for donations to EMC:
<https://mmfa.info/ephrain-moravian-church-donation-form/>

*Give
Thanks*

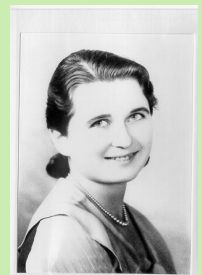
Dearly Departed Cemetery Walk



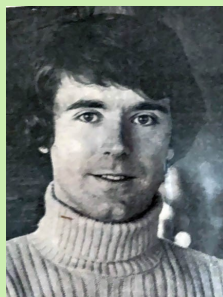
There WILL be a Cemetery Walk this year... although, as are many things these days, it will be virtual. The four historical figures will appear by video, telling you their life stories here in Ephraim. Here's the line-up this year:

Everett Valentine, portrayed by
Bob Ziegler

Marion Olson,
portrayed by
Kathleen Harris



Augusta Olson,
portrayed
by Linda Carey



William
Wedepohl,
portrayed by
Tom Birmingham

Look for the video in early November!

Mid-Year Reports from the Board of Elders & Trustees

Elders- We were excited about a new ministry entitled, “A Time Out”, which provided some respite for parents and a variety of activities for our children. We were able to conduct 2 date nights and 3 errand days before we were shut down. The people who participated were thrilled with the opportunity to get to interact with the families. We had a full schedule of activities planned for our Lenten/Easter season. However, in mid-March, it was clear that gatherings in buildings promoted the spread of Covid-19. We moved from group gatherings to virtual worship and computer assisted meetings. We had to get creative with our ministry and we are grateful to report:

1. Elders and others in the congregation checked on each other, making sure that we stayed connected.
2. When weather permitted, we initiated ‘A Time Out(side)’, so families could interact safely on our church hill. Families sat on blankets for stories and other activities.
3. Summer Vespers on the Hill were offered every Wednesday evening from July 8 – August 19. We were able to celebrate Lucille ‘Sweeney’ Sohns birthday with her at the Aug. 12th Vesper service.
4. Mr. Bob and Pastor Dawn provide weekly stories through social media for our children.

Trustees- A major project was completed in January- a new ceiling for Fellowship Hall. It has greatly minimized the noise level in the hall. This project took close to a year to research. We are pleased that the ceiling is not only effective, but also aesthetically pleasing. After the closing of the church building, the Trustees applied (with the help of treasurer Diane Kirkland and Board President, BD Thorp) and received a Paycheck Protection Loan, which enabled us to keep everyone on the payroll through June. Since we met the criteria for the loan, it is forgivable.

Although the building is closed to the public, vital work is ongoing. The following has been accomplished this year:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Chimney brick work repaired | 2. Steeple flood lights repaired |
| 3. Parsonage storm door repaired | 4. Bathroom doors reinforced - |
| 5. Gutters/trim work repaired | 6. Baseboard heaters installed |
| 7. Light weight nursery tables purchased | 8. New mirror for parking lot safety |
| 9. Keyboard purchased for outdoor services | 10. Furnace Repairs |

Joint Board- The Joint Board worked together on some major projects this year. Jendean Olson, after many faithful years, decided to retire. The Joint Board, with the congregation’s help, honored her at the end of June, with a rousing, physically distanced farewell. The Board held meetings in order to search for a new organist. We entered into an agreement with Colin Welford, who had been providing weekly assistance to us since March, to become our Music Director.

The second project was the monumental task of surprising our Pastor on her 35th/65th celebrations. We held surreptitious meetings with Colin Welford and Diane Kirkland. We were able, with the congregation’s overwhelming support, Colin’s expertise and Diane’s coordination to provide an unforgettable experience. Thank you to all our co-conspirators.

We are closely following guidelines from Public Health concerning Covid-19. Unfortunately, Wisconsin has not achieved Level 1 (Indoor gatherings of 10 or less). As we move through the Fall and Winter months, we will do everything in our power to keep the congregation connected and thriving. As soon as it’s safe, the doors will fling wide open!



Voices from the Past

A brief history of our Church building

Although the congregation was formed in 1853, the church building was completed on the shore in 1859 (worship services before that time were held at the Iverson House). Twenty-three years later, 1882, the building was moved up the hill, to current location. Remodeled in 1896, with a north room added. They called it a Sunday School room, we presume it's the back section of the current sanctuary (located by the fireplace). We don't know when the chancel area was added.

In 1916: the East addition, called the auditorium, was completed. (Now we call it fellowship hall.) Until the 1950's there were no bathroom facilities. The kitchen is now the accessible bathroom.

In the mid 1950's with attendance and young people booming, an addition to the church was embarked upon, providing 4 new Sunday School rooms (now the parlor, offices & nursery), church kitchen and 2 restrooms. The old kitchen became the pastor's study. In 2012, another ambitious project was completed - an accessible bathroom, accessible ramps and entrance, along with new roofing, steeple restoration and reclaiming the historic charm of our building by recreating moldings and doors, restoring wood floors.

Although doors are temporarily closed, the interior and exterior of the church continue to be cared for by our Trustees and a team of volunteers tending to our flower beds.

PRAYERS FOR...

-Valerie Billington
-Jayden Michael
-Marian Pascoe Harris
-Kaye Maher
-Rhea Vytlačil
-Jay Bowen
-Marge Hassler
-Nancy Bontempo
-Our nurses, doctors, grocery workers, pharmacists, postal and delivery people, and all essential workers during this COVID-19 pandemic.



Treasurer's Report

Member giving

through July 2020: 60,599
2019: \$66,972
2018: \$78,015

Visitor giving

through July 2020: \$20,393
2019: \$34,107
2018: \$26,253

Income

Budget for 2020 is: \$ 171,700
Actual thru July: \$94,189
(not including memorials)

Expenses

Budget for 2020 is \$ 224,949
Actual thru July: 152,501

It's that time of year when we really notice a change in our income levels—especially from visitors, since we have NONE attending! We are fortunate that we still have some “visitors” to our Facebook services who contribute, as well as many of our own members who regularly give, even though we can only maintain a virtual presence right now. If you are curious as to how your giving has changed between last year and this, email me at worship@ephraimmoravian.org and I will give you a through-July comparison between 2019 and 2020. —Diane Kirkland, Treasurer

Churches with Facebook/Live streaming/Online Bible Studies/Blogs/Websites

Bethel Baptist— <https://www.facebook.com/BethelEllisonBay/>

Bethany Lutheran Church— Summer Church- website contains an archive of services—
<http://bethanyephrain.org/>

Calvary/Zion UMC Churches— <https://www.facebook.com/zionunitedmethodistfishcreek/>
<http://calvaryandzionumc.org/>

Door of Life—<https://www.facebook.com/Dooroflife/> <http://www.dooroflife.org/>

Ephraim Moravian Church—<https://www.facebook.com/ephraimmoravian/> <http://ephraimmoravian.org/>

Fish Creek Community Church— <https://www.facebook.com/Community-Church-of-Fish-Creek-141838675886892/>
<https://www.ccfishcreek.org/>

First Baptist of Sister Bay—<https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-185052191530058/>
<http://www.firstbaptistsisterbay.com/>

Immanuel Lutheran—<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranBaileysHarbor/>

Saint Luke's Episcopal—<http://stlukes-sisterbay.org/>

Saint Paul Lutheran— <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulutheranjudvillewi/>
<http://stpaulutheranjudville.360unite.com/home>

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran—<https://www.facebook.com/Shepherd-of-The-Bay-Lutheran-Church-ELCA-157540280953544/>
<https://www.shepherdofthebay.org/>

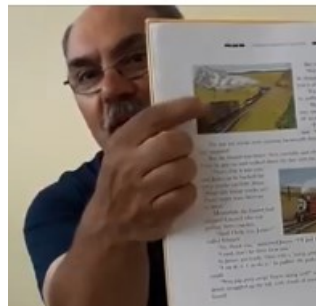
Sister Bay Moravian - <https://www.sisterbaymoravianchurch.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkT-BHsJ1k74BTWYIWRZrpg>

Stella Maris Catholic Church <https://www.stellamarisparish.com/>



On September 22, Bob and I celebrate our 29th Wedding Anniversary. I wanted to pay special tribute to this man, who has not only been a loving husband, but also an extraordinary 'pastor's spouse'. I do not know of any other profession, where a husband or wife is such an integral part of their partners' work. I certainly don't accompany Bob to work to assist on the Sister Bay's maintenance department (wouldn't that be a disaster!) Yet, Bob supports my work, not only with verbal affirmations, but with many hours of time and effort. Before the shut-down, he ran the nursery, providing quality child care, he attended fund-raisers, he flipped pancakes, he shoveled snow. Post shut-down, he's pivoted to technical support, running the MEVO every Sunday, adjusting mics, setting up for outdoor services, reading stories to children on the lawn or over the internet. And besides all this, he volunteers on 2 fire departments as a firefighter and EMR, as well as a community CPR instructor. He does it all without wanting any recognition. He told me he prefers anonymity. But every so often, it's important to say, 'thank you'. So, when you see my awesome husband, let him know how much we all appreciate him. – Pastor Dawn



Ephraim Moravian Church
P.O. Box 73
Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

POSTAL WORKER: Thank you for delivering this to:

September 2020 Newsletter



**Happy Birthday to
Lucille "Sweeney"
Sohns
100 Years Old
on
August 12 !**



Ephraim Moravian Church -
PO Box 73, 9970 Moravia Street - Ephraim, WI 54211
920-854-2804
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org

General Correspondence: worship@ephraimmoravian.org