



Ephraim Moravian Messenger

News from the Open Door

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

Congregational Watchword for 2021: “The Lord said, ‘I
will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.’”

Psalm 32:8

Dec 2021



From the Pastor's Desk

When Life Doesn't Make Sense

It is easy to trust God when life makes sense. We expect that when we do what is right, we will be blessed by God. We expect that good will triumph over evil. We expect to see the sun in the morning and the moon at night. We trust that in the dead of winter, spring will come (eventually!).

But there are those times we are left adrift, wondering how to make sense of it all. We see it in the many acts of violence on the nightly news broadcasts. Sometimes it's in far off places, yet other times Wisconsin becomes 'breaking news'. 'Breaking' is a good term for it all. The sadness, terror and injustice are overwhelming.

Life didn't make sense for 2 people featured in Luke's Christmas stories, Elizabeth and Zechariah. They are described as 'blameless' and 'barren'. If people are good, we expect that good things should happen to them. Elizabeth and Zechariah were righteous people. They observed all of God's commandments. In their day, barrenness was a sign of God's displeasure. They must have prayed many times for the gift of children. In old age, however, the prayers ceased. Rather than becoming embittered, they accepted their childlessness. But it must have been difficult enduring the sidelong glances, the judgmental attitudes and their own heartache. Elizabeth trusted God when the promises seemed to pass her by. She continued to live a 'blameless' life. Way beyond childbearing years, she received a delightful surprise. Unlike her husband, who questioned God's timing and promise, Elizabeth, in full trust, welcomed God's intervention. When she realized that she was pregnant, she said, "This is what the Lord has done for me!" (Luke 1:25a).

The stories of Christmas infuse life's unfairness and grim reality with a sense of hope. In God's time and counter-cultural ways, penniless teenagers are entrusted with Jesus, the very light of God. The first people who recognized the Messiah were foreigners (Wisemen) and outcasts (Shepherds) of society.

I hope, in this season of God's great surprise, we continue to trust that the God who loves us, who gave us a gift beyond measure, will give to us hope, peace and joy, even in the seasons of life which make no sense. May these thoughts give you strength!

Ephraim Moravian Church Hours

PASTOR: Monday Pastor's Day
Off

Tues-Fri 9 a.m. to Noon

SECRETARY: Wed-Thurs

9:30-4:30

Church phone: 920-854-2804

Cell Number: 920-421-4042

(Church phone does NOT ring in the parsonage—please keep the Pastor's cell phone number handy for after hours.



YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

TRUSTEES

B.D. Thorp, Pres.

Natalie Neddersen

Dave Chomeau

Brent Bristol, Secretary

Gunilla Wilson

ELDERS

Pastor Dawn Volpe, Chair

Lonnie Vitse, Vice-Chair

Kathleen Harris, Sect'y

Cici Mulliken

Linda Carey



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 can 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.



Services in December on Facebook, LIVE STREAMING

If you are on Facebook, look for "Ephraim Moravian Church." If you are NOT on Facebook, let Pastor Dawn know, and she can add you to the list of those who receive a link to the service. You don't need to belong to Facebook.

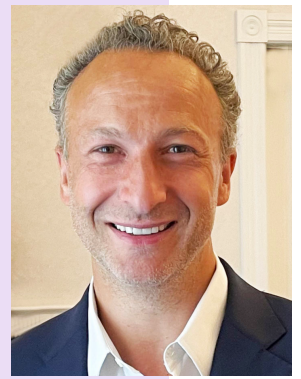
Watchwords for 2022

Sign up to pick up your Watchwords during Christmas in the Village (our drive-through Adventure)! Let us know how many you will need for your family. Watchwords will also be available in church on subsequent Sundays through the first of the year. The Watchword is a Scripture that will guide you through 2022.

Keep it on your bathroom mirror, in your car, somewhere you will notice it throughout the year and ponder its meaning for your life!

Unity Prayer Watch

Ephraim Moravian's day for the Unity Prayer Watch is next Wednesday, December 1! If you can take a half-hour slot throughout the day to pray for our church, our community, our Moravian Church here and abroad, let us know. We will send suggested prayer topics.



December 2021 Services

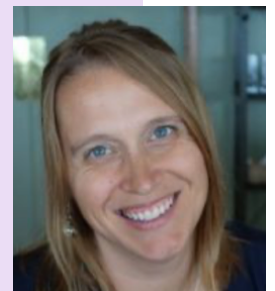
Sunday, Dec 5- 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook - Pastor Dawn Volpe, Barbara Classen on the organ

Sunday, Dec 12 - 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook - Pastor Dawn Volpe, Music Director Colin Welford

Sunday, Dec 19 - 10:30 a.m. in person and on Facebook - Pastor Dawn Volpe, Music Director Colin Welford

Friday, December 24 - 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. **The only service open now is the 7 p.m.** We are holding each service to 50 people. Special music by Hal Halvorsen, Angela Sherman and Amanda Mittermann (Morning Star), Cynthia Stiehl, Scott Ramsay, and Allie Babich.

Sunday, December 26 - pre-recorded service on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. (no service in church)—Lessons & Carols with Katie Dahl, Scott Ramsay, Cyndy Stiehl, Cana Mittermann, Pete & Barbara Classen



ADVENTure 2021

We will continue to participate in Ephraim's "Christmas in the Village," which this year is Saturday, December 4. From 1-3 p.m., as we did last year, we will hold a drive-through ADVENTure! You will let us know (phone 854-2804 or send an email to us at worship@ephraimmoravian.org) how many wreath kits, Moravian sugar cake pieces and Watchwords for 2022 you need for your family (and you'll get one Christmas Eve candle per family, too), and volunteers will hand them to you as you drive through on December 4. We will also be selling some beautiful totes and gifts (see page 7/8 here)—all to benefit Secret Santa, including a donation box on your drive-through. **Reserve with us— including any purchases—no later than November 29.** We hope to see you!

December Birthdays

Carly Mulliken...1
Timothy Nelson...2
Enzo Sherman... 3
Paul Burton...7
Jack Opitz...7
Barbara Classen...9
Charlie Weborg... 9
Robert Anderson...10
Amanda Mittermann...12
Colin Welford...13
Henry Bristol...13
Don Nelson.....15
Andrew Phillips...18
Sybil Carlson....18
Walt Shields...18
Mary Wilson...23
Joan Fitzpatrick... 27
Linda Carey...27

December Anniversaries

Richard & Sybil Carlson – Dec 17, 1960
Joyce and Glenn Gerdman – Dec 23, 1951
Arts & Pat Horvath – Dec 30, 1972



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



Grandpa Tim Christofferson
holds Teddy Christofferson
while sibling Avery meets
her new brother for the
first time!

Parents are Karla and Matt
Christofferson, Grandma is
Nancy Christofferson

Congrats to all who will be
in Teddy's life!

Treasurer's Report

Member Giving

Through Oct 2021: \$103,892

2020: \$74,585

2019: \$84,156

Visitor Giving

Through Oct 2021: \$23,058

2020: \$32,563

2019: \$41,746

Expected income for 2021 is \$172,700

Budgeted expense for 2021 is \$226,502

Through Oct: \$150,741

(doesn't include memorials)

Through Oct: \$199,285



Protocols **INSIDE** our church!

Masks Required for all services and Sunday School

For 10:30 a.m. Worship Service enter the building no earlier than 10:20. Ushers will dismiss by rows.

We will gather outdoors to visit with each other after the service, weather permitting.

If you are vaccinated, please volunteer for Ushers, Lay reading and sharing your musical gifts
(call office, email or speak to the Pastor in person)

If you become infected with Covid-19 and have recently come to a worship service, please call the Pastor at 920-421-4042. Your information will be kept confidential, but we will let members know (without using your name) in the event they need to get tested.

Nursery is open to your children. If one child in the family is ill, please keep the entire family home.
Only fully vaccinated adults may be in the Nursery.

*If you are eligible, please don't delay in getting vaccinated. You'll help yourself and the community.
If you are having difficulty scheduling one, the pastor is available to assist you. Thank you for doing
your part to protect our children and vulnerable adults!*

COMMUNITY

Rogue Theater will have performances of their holiday show on Friday, December 17 @ 7:00pm & Saturday, December 18 @ 2:00pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran (1756 Michigan St, Sturgeon Bay). The show is entitled "Nobody Knows My Name" by Valerie Lynch, and imagines how the man we know as "The Innkeeper" in books and plays all over the world may feel if he found out his name wasn't included over the centuries of retelling Christ's birth story. Does it matter if nobody knows your name? Free Admission, but donations are welcome.



Christmas Eve at Ephraim Moravian

This year is unlike any other! We WILL have in-church services, with a service at 4:00 p.m., at 5:30 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. All services will be identical in content. At the end of the service, we

will go outside to light our candles and yes, sing "Silent Night" together! Only the 7 p.m. service is still open, so please sign up if you can attend you to sign up for this service. There will be sign-up sheets in the entrances at church, or you can send us an email at worship@ephraimmoravian.org, or call 920-854-2804. All donations on Christmas Eve will go to Door CANcer.

Please note the new time for Church Services...

10:30 a.m. Beginning December 5th *Please enter the building between 10:15 - 10:30



Advent begins Sunday, November 28!
Not too late to get a star!
There are Advent Stars available for
purchase, large (\$40) and small (\$35)!

While you are decorating at home for the Christmas season, remember your loved ones in the Ephraim Cemetery. It always looks so nice with the natural wreaths and boughs against the white snow of winter (no plastic decorations, remember, and keep it close enough to the headstone so if there's a final mowing this year, it won't get chewed up.



THANKS...

Dear Caring Hands members and the rest of the congregation:

Thank you so much for the kind card and thank you so much for the prayers. I so appreciate knowing that I am being prayed for in strength, healing, recovery, support and love. I am blessed beyond words and so grateful and fortunate to have such amazing support. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your shared strength and prayers.

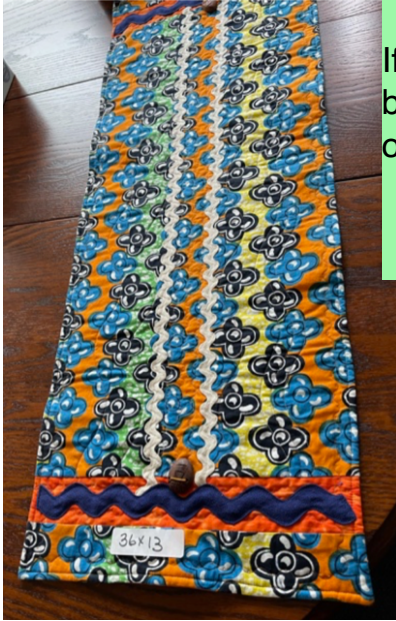
Kate Lorenz

PRAYERS FOR.....

...Doug Schultz
...Kate Lorenz, daughter of Joan Lewis
...Naomi Carlson
...the Axelson family

Gibraltar Area Schools and the Gibraltar High School Student Council invite you to a **Senior Citizen Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m.** (doors open at 10:30). Performances by the Gibraltar Middle and High School Music programs under the direction of Mr. Charlie Eckhardt and Ms. Mary Bondesen. After the concert, seniors will receive a small token of appreciation to take home and enjoy. Masks will be required, social distancing will be practiced as well. Seating is limited, so please place a reservation by contacting Student Council Adviser Nathan Roets at (920) 868-3284, Ext: 346. Reservations needed by December 13 or when the seating capacity is reached. In the event of inclement weather and/or school cancellation, there will be no make-up date.

\$15



Many thanks to Vicki Maynard and Fran Burton for donations of the totes, angels (\$12 each), twig Moravian star (\$20), plates (\$8 each) and the quilts (priced as seen) for our donation to Secret Santa!

If you'd like an item, let us know and we will hold it aside for you—to be picked up during the drive-through ADVENTure on December 3, or you can come to the church to get it.



Flipping Frogs 19-1/2 x 35 \$15

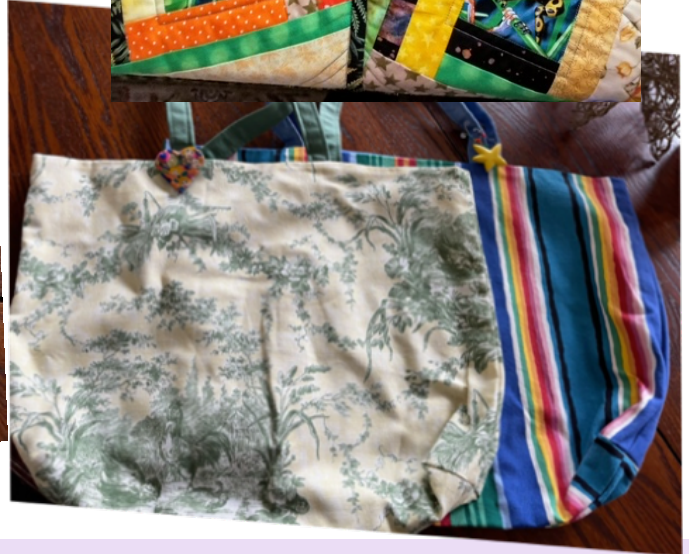


All Stars - 32x26
\$20





Happy Frogs
22-1/2 x 28. \$20



COMMUNITY....

The Ephraim Historical Society is looking for volunteer help prior to and during Christmas in the Village! If you can help, please contact Kathleen Harris at 854-9688 or kharris@ephrain.org. November 30, 10 a.m. to noon or December 1, noon to 2 p.m., help at the EHF offices putting stickers on bags, packing candy, setting up tables or setting up the Tomte Reindeer Trail. On Saturday December 4, set your own schedule between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to help with crafts inside the EHF offices or outside on the trail.

Jean Watson concert: Friends Community Church (204 W Maple St, Sturgeon Bay) - Christmas carols have special meaning to musician/author/speaker Jean Watson, and she uses her voice and violin to make familiar music seem new again. Her performance is December 4th at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited and a free-will offering will be taken.

The Chosen – Christmas Special, December 5 or 12 @ Noon: A 2-hour special Christmas episode of “The Chosen: TV Series” on the birth of Christ through the eyes of His parents, Mary & Joseph. This is a ticketed event with limited seating in the Oasis Center at Prince of Peace Lutheran (1756 Michigan St, Sturgeon Bay), so you'll want to order ahead of time by ordering online: www.bit.ly/chosenmovie Check with Pastor Gomez (920) 743-7750 if the ticket price is a hardship for you, and we'll make other arrangements for you to be able to attend. Popcorn & soda will be served at no extra cost.



—post on your refrigerator!—



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 	2.	3. OA 8:30 am	4
5 10:30 am in person & on Facebook!	6 AA evening	7 AA 10-12	8 Elders 10 am	9 RECORDING 9-noon	10 OA 8:30 am RECORDING 1-4 pm	11
12 10:30 am in person & on Facebook!	13 AA evening	14 AA 10-12.	15 Caring Hands 9:30 am	16 Trustees 4 pm	17 OA 8:30 am	18
19 10:30 am in person & on Facebook!	20 AA evening	21 AA 10-12	22	23	24 OA 8:30 am <u>Christmas Eve</u> 4 pm, 5:30 pm, 7 pm Services!	25
26 Lessons & Carols 10:30 am on Facebook!	27 AA evening	28 AA 10-12	29	31 		

Ephraim Moravian Church
PO Box 73
Ephraim, WI 54211

Postal Worker - thank you for delivering this to:

December 2021 Newsletter



For to us a Child is born,
to us a Son is given...and he
will be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace

Ephraim Moravian Church
worship@ephraimmoravian.org
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org
920-854-2804