

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73, Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

In Celebration of the New Year - January 2, 2022

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MINISTERS:.....Members of the Congregation
MUSIC DIRECTOR:.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY:.....Diane Kirkland

Serving the Community Since 1853

“In Dir ist Freude” (“In Thee is Gladness”) Chorale
Prelude for the New Year – by J.S. Bach

Call to Worship: Ringing of the Bell
Welcome & Announcements

Hymn **“Standing at the Portal” (Insert)**

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 103: 1-17 & James 3: 13-18

Sermon

Organ/Piano Duet: **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Response: (Hymn, P.68)

*Light of the world, come near and bless your children here below
Who in your house your name confess, on us your grace bestow.
Amen.*

Responsive Reading for the New Year

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God’s benefits.

Who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases;

Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more: Karsten Topelmann, Jerry Chomeau, Anne Glabe, Franne Dickinson, Ray Axelson, Doug Schultz. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life.

And when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay. We embrace the promise that God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord’s Supper

Benediction

Postlude: **“Christ is Born Today!”**

WATCHWORD FOR EPHRAIM MORAVIAN CHURCH, 2022:

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. (James 3:17)

MONDAY:

Pastor’s Sabbath

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Nursery

10:30 a.m.

Worship/Joyful Noise Offering

WELCOME to Ephraim Moravian Church. Today is Communion Sunday. All are welcome to the Lord’s table. Our Nursery is open for children under the age of 4.

EPHRAIM MORAVIAN CHURCH is the “Church of the Open Door.” We hope you find our church open to you in every way!

MOTTO OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH: *In Essentials, Unity,
In Non-Essentials, Liberty, In All Things, Love.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS to Hal Halvorsen for lending his musical talents to the worship this morning. We wish him, “Bon Voyage”, as he heads back to France. Thanks to Sherry Moore for being our lay reader.

There are still totes, quilts and other items in the Fellowship Hall for sale—all proceeds benefit Secret Santa, so please take a look to see if you would like to purchase any of these great items!

Reflection - by Dan G. Olson

Mark Twain once said, “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around, but when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.”

I can’t just say why I included this quote from Mark Twain. Then it struck me. After reading through the New Testament lesson from James, I needed a bit of levity. James seems to have had a bad day when he wrote these words: “Are any of you wise or sensible? Then show it, for Heaven’s sake! If you are jealous, or bitter or selfish, get over it!” And on and on it goes.

How in the world does Mark Twain fit in with this? All of us understand his point. When we are young and carefree (some might say, careless) and green behind the ears, when the only lens we have to observe the world around us is more like a mirror, we become enamored of ourselves and risk becoming like Narcissus, the Greek mythological figure who was doomed to spend eternity staring at his image in the River Styx.

It isn’t my intention to bash young people. So instead, I’ll bash everyone a little bit. Any one of us who are unable to see beyond our own little worlds will fail to see the wisdom and power that comes from above. All that is sensible and genuine are gifts from God. It is

impossible for someone to mature in areas of growth and Faith unless and until they see those virtues in others. Faith comes only and directly from one person to another. No one was ever saved by staring at the moon and stars however beautiful they are; and no one was ever saved in a motel room, although God might be quietly bugging someone there to take an honest look at him/herself. It is the witness we share with all others that truly opens minds and hearts, spirits and souls, to allow God into the center of our being.

And as far as the Mark Twain analogy... Who do you think changed, the father or the son?

Standing at the Portal

Frances H. Havergal, 1836-1879 (1873) HYEMAN G.S.G.S. D.
Frances H. Havergal, 1836-1879 (1871)

1. Stand-ing at the por-tal Of the o-pen-ing year,
2. "I the Lord am with thee. Be thou not a-fraid!
3. He will nev-er fail us, He will not for-sake,
Words of com-fort meet us, Hush-ing ev-ery fear;
I will help and strength-en; Be thou not dis-mayed!
His e-ter-nal cov-enant He will nev-er break;
Spo-ken through the si-lence By our Fa-ther's voice,
Yea, I will up-hold thee With My own right hand;
Rest-ing on His prom-ise, What have we to fear?
Ten-der, strong, and faith-ful, Mak-ing us re-joice.
Thou art called and cho-sen In My sight to stand."
God is all-suf-fi-cient For the com-ing year! A-MEN.