

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73, Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

Phone: (920) 854-2804

www.ephraimmoravian.org

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 12, 2021

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

Prelude: “**Wachet auf, ruf uns die Stimme**” (“Awake, awake, the Night is Flying”) – Chorale Prelude by J.S. Bach.

Call to Worship: Ringing of the Bell
Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the 2nd and 3rd Candles of Advent

“Joyful Noise Offering” for Door CANcer
“**Festival Voluntary**” - by Flor Peeters

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 12: 2-6 & Luke 3: 7-18

Hymn #267: “**On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry**” (v. 1, 2 & 4)

Sermon

Congregational Response (written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing -
www.stephenmfearing.com)

We believe that God has come to us, that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose, that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others, that we have fallen short of this commandment,

But God has loved us despite our brokenness.

We believe that God is coming to us, that God is not happy to leave us alone, that this God will come to us as a particular human being, that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours.

We believe that Mary will soon give birth, and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy.

We believe that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation will be made complete.

We believe that God will come to us; that God will have the final word, and that Word will be good.

We believe that God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work, called to carry God’s love to the world.

Amen.

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Response (To the tune: “Away in a Manger”):

Our Father in Heaven, all praise to Your name!

Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same

By mortals and angels, Come, Lord reign alone

Oh, hear us and bless us from Heaven’s high throne. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude: “**Trumpet Tune & Air**” – by Henry Purcell

<u>MONDAY:</u>	All Day	Pastor’s Sabbath
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	9:30 a.m.	Caring Hands
<u>THURSDAY</u>	4:15 p.m.	Trustee Meeting
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School/Nursery
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: ‘Bear fruits worthy of repentance.’ – Luke 3:8

WELCOME to Ephraim Moravian Church. 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.

WATCHWORD FOR 2021: The Lord said, ‘I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go.’

THANKS to Lillie Pellerin for lighting the 2nd and 3rd candles of Advent this morning, and to Shayla Opitz for being our lay reader.

Reflection - by Rev. Cory Kemp

Salvation, the deliverance from sin and its consequences, creates a picture of trust and faith in God. In this place we are willing to be vulnerable and ask God, “What then should we do?”

John told the crowds gathered to be baptized by him that they were to “bear fruits worthy of repentance.” In a nutshell, they were to listen to him, be grateful for the salvation of God, but not squander it. There is more to this story; the people in the crowd wanted to know more of what John had to say. “And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Whether we choose to act on God’s response to this question of what we should do with our salvation, is up to us. We may be intimidated by the answer, even by how obvious it is. What if you like both your coats and want to keep them for yourself? What if it is uncomfortable to share your food?

Our Christian faith is both pragmatic and inconvenient, more often than not. John pointed out some straightforward ways to bear fruits worthy of repentance, indicative of the salvation you and I have already received. Salvation’s fruits, born through us by trust and faith in God, are beautifully varied and always welcomed in the kingdom of God.