

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73, Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

4th Sunday of Advent - December 19, 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

Call to Worship: Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

“Refiner’s Fire” - by Brian Doerksen

Lighting of the 4th Candle of Advent

Hymn #280: “Immanuel, to You We Sing”

Scripture Lessons: Luke 1: 39 - 55

“There’s a Song in the Air” – by K.P. Harrington and J.P. Holland

Sermon

Congregational Response

(Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing- www.stephenmfearing.com)

Advent God, you are near.

So near we can feel it in our hearts and in our bodies.

As the day of your dawning draws close, keep our minds on your presence during this busy holiday season.

In a world that tells us that we are supposed to find joy in everything else,

Remind us that our only true joy is the joy we find in you.

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

Vivace, Grave & Allegro - from Arcangelo Corelli’s “Christmas Concerto,” transcribed for organ by Maurizio Marchella

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: ‘God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. – Luke 1:52

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

FRIDAY: Christmas Eve Services at 4:00, 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY: 10:30 a.m. on FACEBOOK, our special, “NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS” Service. (NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE)

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 Cana and Glory Lou Mittermann for lighting the 4th candle of Advent, Hal Halvorsen, and Marcia Ellis for their participation and musical ministry today.

THANKS to the Topelmann family for gifting the church one of Karsten’s original paintings in his memory today.

Mary Visits Elizabeth – A Reflection by Rev. Cory L. Kemp

Small town papers are full of personal, folksy moments like these, especially at this time of year. Family and friends, who only see each other at the holidays, cherish every bit of time they can spend together. In beloved traditions, conversations over homemade cookies and hot chocolate, Christmas carols and gift shopping, magic is made and savored.

Mary and Elizabeth shared a history. When Mary found herself in a miraculous yet challenging situation, she decided to make the journey to Elizabeth's home, a place where she would be surrounded by love. Elizabeth and her husband, Zechariah, were delighted to see her. And they had news of their own baby to share.

But before the two women could settle in for a good chat, Elizabeth's unborn baby decided to let his mom know who had entered their home along with Mary. This baby's greeting to his cousin, our Lord, began the visit that framed the destiny of their family and all of Israel. The Messiah was on his way, and the one who was destined to 'prepare the way of the Lord' knew the power this moment held.

Then the focus returns to these two extraordinary women. Their sons would change the world, but they were still women about to become moms for the first time, both rather unexpectedly. So first these babies would change their mothers' lives.

Mary visited Elizabeth.

God visits us.

What an incredible vision they gave us of the power of God which transforms the world and our very human lives. What is even more amazing, God plans to make this a good, long visit that will last for years to come.

ADVERTISEMENT:
Ephraim Moravian Church
New Year's Day Organ Recital

Following the European tradition of New Year's Day concerts, Colin will give a recital of music related to Christmas and the holidays, including J.S. Bach, Messiaen, Corelli, plus The Skater's Waltz (...and many more...)

Saturday January 1st, 2022, at 2.00pm

All are welcome. Attendees will be masked.



PROTOCOLS DURING COVID-19

Masks Required for all services and Sunday School

For the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service enter the building no earlier than 10:15 a.m.

If you are vaccinated, please volunteer for Ushering,
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, the pastor is available to assist you. Thank you for doing your part to protect our children and vulnerable adults!