

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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

Prelude: “There’s a Song in the Air” by Holland/Harrington

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the 2nd Candle of Advent

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

Scripture Lessons: Malachi 3: 1 – 4; Luke 1: 68 – 79, 3: 1 - 6

Sermon

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s 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

The Lord’s Supper

Solo: “Refiner’s Fire” by Brian Doerksen

Benediction

Postlude: “The Advent Chorale” by Felix Mendelssohn

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. – Luke 1: 68

MONDAY:

Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY:

Recording Lessons & Carols

WEDNESDAY:

10:00 a.m. Elders Meeting

THURSDAY/FRIDAY

Recording Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery

10:30 a.m. Worship/Joyful Noise Offering- Door CANcer

WELCOME to Ephraim Moravian Church. Our Nursery is open for children under the age of 4. All are welcome to join us at the Lord’s Supper.

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 Laila Carlson-Masters for lighting our second Advent Candle this morning!

THANKS to Marcia Ellis and Barbara Classen for their musical talents this morning in worship and to Sherry Moore for being our lay reader.

ITEMS FOR SALE – There are still some gift items for sale in the Fellowship Hall, with proceeds going to Secret Santa. Stop by to look at the quilts, totes and other gifts and put any payment in the Donations box.

CANDLES – We’ll be wrapping candles again after church! Join us in the Fellowship Hall to help us get ready for Christmas Eve. A wrapping expert will point the way.

REFLECTION

Rev. Cory L. Kemp

We expect certain things at this time of year, perhaps more than any other. Perhaps this year, even more. We've been living on the edge of our memories and anticipation of the future for what feels like a very long time, and we are ready for more. We are ready for our Christmas miracle.

But it is still Advent, the time of preparation for the coming of a new baby, for God's own to become one of us to teach us what it means to live God's love. We have some work to do to get ready for our miracle.

We expect certain things of ourselves this time of year, perhaps more than any other. Perhaps this year, even more. We are ready to step back into our traditions: baking; caroling; candle wrapping; decorating; gift shopping; gathering together; star gazing. We can't imagine the holiday season without them, yet we lived without most of them last year. Rightly so, as we've tasted small bits of the goodness we crave, we want our lives back. While these traditions may have felt like pressures more so than pleasures in the past, we are ready to reclaim them as joyous delights.

While we expect these special things that make preparing for and celebrating Christmas to continue unabated forever, there is another question to consider: What do we expect from God today and through this holy season?

Israel set a pretty high bar: consolation from its grief and salvation from the hands of those who hated them, living to serve God without fear. That would be my vision of the biggest present under the tree, although you and I know such wonders don't fit into any size box. God's power to heal and transform anything can't be contained into any space or time. Knowing that is important as you consider today this question: What do I expect from God this Advent season and, even more so, for my life?