

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Third Sunday of Advent - December 11, 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

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem” - by A. Pace & R.F. Boyce

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

Hymn #273: “Once He Came in Blessing”

Joyful Noise Offering for Secret Santa

“Farandole” from ‘L’Arlésienne Suite No. 2 – by Georges Bizet

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 35: 1 – 10

James 5: 7 – 10

Matthew 11: 2 – 11

Solo: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” – Arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon

Congregational Response: p. 57(b) - 58

Offertory: “Der Tag ist so Freudenreich” (“This Day is so Joyful”)

– Christmas Chorale Prelude by J.S. Bach

Doxology

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response:

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: “March” – by York Bowen

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. – Isaiah 35:4

<u>MONDAY:</u>		Pastor’s Sabbath
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	10:00 a.m.	Elders
<u>THURSDAY</u>	4:00 p.m.	Trustees
<u>FRIDAY</u>	5:00 p.m.	Rehearsal & Dinner- Sunday School
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	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.

EPHRAIM MORAVIAN WATCHWORD 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to Cyndy Stiehl, Cana and Amanda Mittermann for lending their beautiful voices again to our service this morning! We are grateful.

CANDLE LIGHTERS for the Third Candle of Advent this morning are Henry, Mathilda and Winfield Bristol.

OUR LAY READER is confirmand Mylo Sherman. Thanks, Mylo!

Reflection – Pastor Dan G. Olson

We live in a world full of spam, scams, schemes, false advertising, robocalls, bait-and-switch, and politicians. Probably as never before, we are inundated with those selling barrels of snake oil. It is unfortunate when people fall prey to those charlatans who lie and deceive in order to fleece the unsuspecting. It is natural to be wary. Then steps in the caveat of “Seeing is believing!” We would love to trust the words we hear and the people who say them, but show your credentials.

Even though John the Baptist was in the crowd, he had been hearing rumors. They were about a Messiah. John had been preparing a way for a Messiah, but when He shows up, can it possibly be true? Is Jesus the real deal? Better check this out! So Jesus answers, “What do you see? The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised.”

So it is with us. Like John, we might well be skeptical. But in this Advent season we learn to prepare, or maybe repair, our minds and spirits and souls.

Perhaps we might say, “Believing is Seeing.” When our Lord captures us in belief, our eyes are opened to see Him as He truly is: Immanuel, God with us.

“Lord, I believe. Help Thou my unbelief.”