

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Third Sunday after Epiphany - January 22, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude “Morning Has Broken,” based on melody
“Bunessan”

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #552 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Liturgy of Reconciliation, p. 13 – 15

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 9: 1 – 4, Matthew 4: 12 – 23

Solo: “Holy Ground”

Sermon

Offertory “Fail Me Not, O Holy Christ,” by Scheidt
Doxology

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (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

Benediction

Postlude “Fanfare Postlude,” by Martin

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” – Psalm 27:1

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath
SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Lunch & Church Council

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 2023: No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.- 1 John 4:12

THANK YOU to Barbara Classen for lending her talents to our Worship service today!

CHURCH COUNCIL- Our Church Council takes place following the worship service and lunch next week, January 29. A limited number of booklets are available today after the service. We encourage you to print out the booklet you received via email.

VASES and other items which may have come from your home are on the bench upstairs (by the offices). Please check to see if any of your belongings are there and take them home. Any unclaimed items will be brought to a thrift shop at the end of February.

LOOKING AHEAD: Mark your calendars for 2 wonderful events: February 12 – 2 p.m. Valentine’s Concert featuring Colin & Friends
February 15 – 12 p.m. Valentine’s Community Lunch in Fellowship Hall!

The Day of Midian- Pastor Dawn

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
– Isaiah 9:4

Whenever we read an oft-quoted passage like Isaiah 9, which proclaimed ‘the people in darkness have seen a great light,’ we tend to skip over obscure references, things that have faded into the dust of history. For Isaiah’s contemporaries, however, verse 4 was a clarion blast of hope, reminding them of God’s decisive intervention at another pivotal time in their history... the ‘day of Midian.’

The story of that fateful ‘Day of Midian’ can be found in the Old Testament book of Judges, chapters 6 & 7. The people of Israel found themselves overrun by the Midianites, who kept them impoverished by constant incursions, removing crops and goods at will. The Israelites were no match for the Midianite army. The best they could do was plant crops in secret and hide during raids. When the people of Israel begged God for deliverance, God sent an unlikely hero, Gideon. Gideon amassed a sizeable army, but it was still no match for the Midianites. But God told him that the army was too big. Gideon’s army, in the final tally, was a mere 300 men, his weapons- clay pots and swords. Through the miraculous intervention of God, the Midianite army was routed and the land had peace for many years.

Isaiah reminded Israel that the Day of Midian, the day of deliverance against impossible odds, would once again be reality. It was a great promise, then and now.

There are so many things outside of our control. There are so many times we need deliverance. There are so many times that we are trapped and see no way out. And yet, we serve a God of impossible promises and infinite power. God sees beyond our limited vision. God will help us, in our struggle for deliverance, to experience our own Day of Midian. May we never give up hope as we walk in God’s vision and power.