

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

In Celebration of The Epiphany - January 8, 2023

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: “**Largo**” from Sonata V – by J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Watchword for the Epiphany

Hymn #320 “The People Who in Darkness Walked”

Epiphany Responsive Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;

Your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall be startled and enlarged.

The abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Joyful Noise Offering for Door CANcer

“Arabian Dance” (from ‘The Nutcracker’ Ballet) – by P.

Tchaikovsky

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 3: 1 – 12, Matthew 2: 1 – 12

Hymn #317 “Brightest and Best of the Stars”

Sermon

Offertory: “Flute Piece” – by Thomas Thorley

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: “Flourish” – by Christopher Steele

WATCHWORD FOR THE EPIPHANY: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60: 1

TODAY 4:30 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

WEDNESDAY: 10:00 a.m. Elders Meeting

THURSDAY: Church Council Reports Due

SATURDAY: 3:00 p.m. James Heroux consecration
Freedom Moravian Church

SUNDAY: 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 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

CHURCH COUNCIL- Our Church Council takes place following the worship service and lunch on January 29. All reports must be submitted to the church office by this Thursday, January 12.

PASTOR JAMES HEROUX will be consecrated a Presbyterian at Freedom Moravian Church on Sat., Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. All are invited.

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**Reflection for the Epiphany... What to do with our AHA moments**

*Then you shall see and be radiant, and your heart shall be startled and become enlarged.* The prophet Isaiah, whose land was plunged into deep darkness by marauding nations, much like the people of Ukraine are experiencing, had an ‘aha’ moment. Stirred by the Spirit of God, he saw a golden age for his people. The nation would rise to prominence and wealth. In faith, Isaiah told his people to act as if the promise was already fulfilled- arise, shine! He told them that when the new age came, their collective heart would be ‘startled and enlarged’- in other words, their vision, their perspective would break open to receive this new reality.

We know, from the scripture reading today, that an AHA moment came to Herod and the religious leaders when the Sages arrived at their doorstep. The visitors only knew that a new prince had been born. But Herod immediately understood that the new prince was the Messiah, the one promised by the prophets and longed for by the nation. We know what Herod did with his AHA moment. He tried to kill the Christ Child. He was willing to destroy the future to secure his present status as king. The religious leaders also knew that a Messiah had been born, but they were so frightened by Herod (who was known for his homicidal ways) and perhaps, by the disruption of the status quo, that they did absolutely nothing with their AHA moment. They let the opportunity pass. No one hitched a ride with the Sages’ caravan.

What do you do with your AHA moments. We receive minor and major Epiphanies throughout our lifetime. We can allow them to enlarge our perspective, we can allow them to inform and clarify, or we can work against them, especially if we find them unsettling. We are promised that the Spirit of God will guide us into truth, if we are open to the blessed Epiphanies sent by the hand of a gracious God.

- Pastor Dawn Volpe