

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Third Sunday in Lent - March 12, 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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “Cantilène” - by Gabriel Pierné

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #773 “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

Liturgy for Lent (Insert)

**Joyful Noise Offering for Door CANcer – “March Sortie” – by
Théodore Dubois**

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament: Exodus 17: 1 – 7

Gospel: John 4: 5 – 30, 39 – 42

Sermon

**Offertory: “Largo” from Concerto in A minor – by Antonio
Vivaldi**

Doxology

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: #741

Now we bring ourselves to you; cleanse us, Lord, we humbly pray.

Undeserving though we be, draw us closer every day.

Lord, our refuge, hope, and strength! Keep, O keep us safe from harm,

Shield us through our earthly life by your everlasting arm. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude: “Scherzando” – by Gabriel Pierné

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK “O come, let us worship and bow
down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!”- Psalm 95:6

MONDAY:		Pastor’s Sabbath
WEDNESDAY:	9:30 a.m.	Caring Hands
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

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**Colin & Friends** Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>!  
CONCERTS



Our next exciting concert will  
feature guest soprano Yi-Lan Niu. There  
will be two performances – at **1:00 p.m.**  
**and 5:00 p.m.** The theme will be nature  
and the passage of time and will include  
Vivaldi’s iconic “The Four Seasons.” The  
concert is FREE, so bring your friends and  
let’s fill this church!

## **Reflection – Rev. Cory Kemp**

Recently here in Cincinnati we experienced the ramifications of a train derailment in another part of the state that released toxic waste, some of which ended up moving into the Ohio River and right toward us.

The river is our main water source, so local officials had to make decisions and communicate clearly with residents about what was going on, and how they were handling it, and to calm rising anxiety concerning potential long-term health and environmental effects.

Out of an abundance of caution the city had shut off the intake valves from the river and temporarily tapped reserves, but having barely come through the pandemic, this felt like a little too much for many residents who dashed to the grocery store to stock up on bottled water. Others, including myself, opted for home water filtration systems as another measure of abundant caution. This is all to say that water, clean, fresh and healthy, matters. To not have it readily available, as we are so used to having, or to question whether what is coming out of the faucet is really drinkable, is sobering.

So, I have some sympathy for the Israelites and their reaction to not having available water after such a harrowing journey. To have gathered your family, gone on the run and escaped your captors, to get to a place of relative safety, only to discover there would be no rest with a refreshing cool drink, that had to have felt like a massive defeat for them.

But God does things in stages.

Would they have followed Moses out of Egypt if they knew they would also have to face exhaustion, uncertainty, and thirst? Would you? Probably not. When parts of life are too big to comprehend, God leads us forward, step by step, asking us to trust that guidance to create something bigger than we can imagine.

The Israelites desperately wanted release from their Egyptian captivity. But freedom carries different responsibilities, new ways of thinking and expanded ways of being and acting. Freedom is most wonderful gift in the world, but it is more demanding. Knowing all of this, these people, now stuck in the desert with no water and a reluctant leader, had every reason to feel frustrated, angry, regretful.

But God does things in stages.

And so, they pushed Moses to the edge of his patience, again, and God guided them forward to a place of fresh water that would serve them for the time they needed it. Another lesson learned. God is good at helping us learn these lessons, building one on another so we understand how to work with the freedom of choice and will we have been given. Being pushed to our limits, and sometimes pushing others to theirs, is our green growing edge for spiritual growth and new life too.