

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19, 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
GUEST ORGANIST:.....Beth Coleman

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “Jesus Lead Thou On” – arr. Paul Manz

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #714 “Blessed Assurance”

Liturgy of Penitence & Prayer (Insert)

Scripture Lessons: π

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

Gospel: John 9: 1 - 41

Solo: “Be Thou My Vision” arr. by Chilcott - Marcia Ellis
Sermon Rev. Gary Straughan

Offertory: “Assurance” – arr. John Ness Beck
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: “In Thee is Gladness” – arr. Burkhardt

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.” – Psalm 23:6

TODAY:	4:30 p.m.	Chess Club
MONDAY:		Pastor’s Sabbath
TUESDAY	10:00 a.m.	Trustee Meeting
WEDNESDAY	1:30 p.m.	Mid-Week Lenten Service Meadows Gathering Room
THURSDAY:	7:00 p.m.	Music Appreciation (RSVP only)
SUNDAY:	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	Colin & Friends Concert

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

WELCOME BACK to Rev. Gary Straughan. We are so delighted to see him again! Pastor Dawn and Colin are ministering at the Unitarian Fellowship this morning.

THANK YOU to Beth Coleman and Marcia Ellis for their gifts of music.

COLIN WELFORD is conducting a ‘Music Appreciation’ seminar (\$20 suggested donation) this Thursday evening. If you are interested, it is by RSVP only. Please speak with Marcia Ellis after worship today.

Reflection- Rev. Cory Kemp

The late Dr. Wayne Dyer, educator and author, once said that the old adage, “I’ll believe it when I see it,” was a bit misleading. The truth of the matter is the opposite: you and I see things when we come to believe they exist.

Today’s lesson from the Gospel of John is filled with people bumping into their beliefs and not quite knowing what to do with them. *His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”* After this short discussion with his disciples about blame, sin and God’s works revealed through human stories, Jesus heals the man’s eyes with mud packs and the water from a nearby pool.

Then, stuff begins to happen. It is, after all, the sabbath, and everybody knows you are not supposed to heal people on the sabbath. The religious leaders grill the healed man who is clear about his experience, calling Jesus a prophet on his second go around with them. His parents, fearful of being excluded from their synagogue, as has happened to others, refuse to be cornered by their questions. As the story unfolds further, the Pharisees are surprised to be called sinners because they see what Jesus is talking about. Isn’t understanding the message enough?

The two who are clear about what they believe, Jesus and the blind man that he healed, are the most resented and somewhat maligned. It is quite human to want to be in the know and get upset with those who seem to be keeping a secret only they share. But understanding Jesus’ message is only the beginning, and to pretend, or be ignorant of that fact does separate the people in this story from the full knowledge and experience of God’s power in the world and in their lives. Believing that God’s works are revealed through our lives and that these works transform us, that is the nature of faith. We don’t need to understand how God does all of this.

**Celebrating 170 Years
in 2023!**