

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26, 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

“Adagio” – from Symphony #5, by Charles-Marie Widor

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #474 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Liturgy Psalm 30 (Insert)

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14

Gospel: John 11: 1 – 45

“How Lovely are thy Dwellings” – by Samuel Liddle

Sermon

Offertory: “Lead On, O King Eternal” – Arr. By Henry Smart

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

“Rainbow Waltz” – by Florence Price

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.” – Psalm 130:5

TODAY: 2:00 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

4:30 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

WEDNESDAY: 12 noon Community Lunch- Travelogue

1:30 p.m. LAST MID-WEEK LENTEN

SERVICE- The Meadows Gathering Room

SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. PALM SUNDAY

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 and Cyndy Stiehl for their gift of music!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE FLOWERS this morning are in loving memory of Jane Olson, donated by Richard and Mary Ann Rosonke.

MANY THANKS to Cyndy Stiehl for adding her beautiful voice to today’s service!

OBERAMMERGAU – Join Pastor Dawn this Wednesday for a wonderful community lunch at 12 noon with a travelogue on her trip to Oberammergau last fall!

COLIN & FRIENDS concert today at 2 p.m.! Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons” with Colin and soprano Yi-Lan Niu - FREE

Reflection – Rev. Cory Kemp

Raising someone from the dead is serious business. I don't need to say more than that. But just *how* serious does bear some thought and consideration on our part. It also matters a great deal how Jesus may have felt through the time of hearing of his friend's illness and death to welcoming him back to life, knowing what this would cost him.

Jesus was clear upon learning that Lazarus was sick that his illness wouldn't lead to death. How Mary, Martha and the disciples heard that is not necessarily how Jesus meant it. But here they were. The family is put through the anguish of seeing their brother die, finding themselves in deep mourning for him, and wondering why Jesus didn't come when they asked him to, trusting that he could have healed Lazarus. Upon Jesus' arrival, they still believed that God would give Jesus anything he asked for, but their grief was deep, and Jesus experienced his own sorrow with them.

Despite their faith, their confusion and horror were real when Jesus told them to roll back the stone in front of the tomb to let Lazarus out. But out he came to live again. His family and friends rejoiced, the religious authorities decided enough was enough and began their plot to kill Jesus.

But, back to Jesus. Consider his awareness of what he put Mary and Martha through, even knowing his actions around Lazarus' death and resurrection glorified God and the work that God was doing through him. Jesus' actions touched a whole community, sending them on a rollercoaster of emotions. I've begun to wonder what Jesus thought about as he fell asleep at night, what it meant to him that his work was so transformational, life-changing and tangible in people's lives. Mary, Martha and Lazarus happened to be friends of his, but he appears to have never seen most of the people he served more than once. Did he think about them, wonder how they were doing? Would he have liked to see them again? How did their changed lives impact their communities?

Raising someone from the dead affects more lives that we can possibly imagine!

**CELEBRATING 170 YEARS
IN 2023!**