

# Ephraim Moravian Church

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[www.ephraimmoravian.org](http://www.ephraimmoravian.org)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - July 23, 2023

Morning Worship, 8:00 & 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

**\*\*10:30 a.m. Service**

Welcome & Announcements

**\*\*Prelude: 'Flute Piece' – by Thomas Thorley**

Watchword for the Week

**Hymn #555: “Come Now Almighty King”**

**Liturgy of Reconciliation, p. 13 - 15**

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Psalm 40: 1 – 11, 16 - 17

New Testament: Hebrews 10: 23 – 25

13: 1 – 2

**Solo: “How Great Thou Art” – by Carl Boburg/Stuart Hine \*\***

Sermon

**\*\*Offertory: ‘Stabbe Laaten’ (‘Humorous Dance’) – by Edvard Grieg & Doxology**

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

**Congregational Sung Response: #745**

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.*

Benediction

**\*\*Postlude: ‘Slavonic Dance No.8’ – by Antonin Dvorak**

**WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK:** Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, besides me there is no god.’ – Isaiah 44:6

**TODAY:**

Time of Fellowship following Worship

6:30 p.m. Hymn Sing - Friends Community

**MONDAY:**

Pastor’s Sabbath

**SUNDAY:**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MANY THANKS** to Marcia Ellis for delivering Pastor Dawn’s message today. The pastor will be traveling back home tomorrow. We’re also grateful to Scarlett Marina Moyer and our singers, for sharing their talents with us this morning.

**TONIGHT at 6:30 p.m.,** Friends Community Church (204 W. Maple, Sturgeon Bay) invites you to attend "Songs, Hymns and Meditations." Gather with other Christians to sing old songs of our faith, discuss their origins and meditate on their messages. The music is great and your heart will be lifted!

**ORGAN RECITAL** Coli Welford will be giving an organ recital, a highlight of Green Bay’s 2023 “Power of Pipes” organ concert series, on the large pipe organ of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral - on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August at 6.30pm. A number of people are car-pooling to go, and there are yet several seats available on a bus that is taking 14 people

down for a group dinner and the concert, before returning to Ephraim. Please see Sherry Moore or Marcia Ellis for details.

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*“I waited patiently for the Lord, he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Psalm 40: 1 - 2*

A friend once had a very scary experience, walking around her property during a Spring thaw. She stepped into a muddy expanse that held her feet like glue. No amount of force could shake her loose from the mud, so, she had to wiggle out of her boots and crawl out of the muck. You can imagine the mess! She was safe, but the boots were a total loss. We all know the feeling, don't we, of being stuck. We can get stuck emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Being stuck is very frustrating.

The person who wrote Psalm 40 gives us some advice when we are stuck. The first piece (and probably the most difficult) is: Wait patiently for God. This does not mean that we sit around, doing nothing, waiting for rescue. To be patient means that we are tenacious in our faith and steadfast in our deeds. While we wait, we continue to serve and love God. Secondly, the Psalmist advises us to steer away from destructive habits. It's tempting to do something, even if it's wrong, because we are tired of waiting for God and are willing to do anything to change our circumstance. His third point is: bargaining is useless. Many of us try, including myself, but when you think about it, what can we possibly offer Almighty God in exchange for what we want? Although we cannot bargain with God, doing God's will gives us the grace and strength that we need during these difficult times. On the last day of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, with absolute faith and conviction, he said, "I just want to do God's will." He then declared that he would not live to see all the changes he envisioned, but that God had given him a glimpse of 'the promised land.' The great promise of this Psalm is in the opening lines, when the Psalmist declares that God brought him up from the miry bog and set his feet on a rock. Deliverance is assured. And when we are delivered, we must talk about it, so that others who are stuck will be encouraged. After the Psalmist's deliverance, he encountered another problem for which he needed God's help. Life is cyclical. We may get rescued and then get stuck again! But through it all, we have God's promise of grace and deliverance.

**Celebrating 170 years  
in 2023!**