

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 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
GUEST MUSICIAN:.....Hal Halvorsen

Serving the Community Since 1853

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

Welcome & Announcements

****Prelude: "O Rest in the Lord" – Felix Mendelssohn**

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #625 "I Love to Tell the Story"

Liturgy, Psalm 103 (Insert)

Scripture Lessons

New Testament: Romans 8: 26 - 39

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31 – 33, 44 – 52

****Duet: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" – William M. Runyan,
Setting by Joseph M. Martin**

Sermon

****Offertory: "Pie Jesu" (from Requiem op. 48 IV) – Gabriel Fauré**

*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. Amen.

Benediction

****Postlude: "Voluntary II Siciliano – John Alcock Jr.**

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: God, turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.
-Psalm 119: 132

TODAY: Time of Fellowship following Worship
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

THANK YOU to Hal Halvorsen for his ministry in Music today! And thanks to Marcia Ellis for singing our Prelude and Katrina Welborn for joining her on "Great is Thy Faithfulness"!

DAILY TEXT PRE-ORDERS Order your 2024 Moravian Daily Texts by August 6 (next Sunday!) and receive a discount.
Paperback: 10:35; Hardcover \$15.30; Large Print \$13.05
After the cut-off date prices rise by over \$1.

DEBT RELIEF PROJECT The Moravian Ministries Foundation is raising funds for Medical Debt relief from now until August 13 . 75% of the funds will be used to relieve debt in the U.S., 25% in the Moravian Medical ministry in Honduras. Checks may be mailed directly to: Moravian Ministries Foundation, 119 Brookstown Ave., Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 or by following this link:
<https://www.mmfa.com/debt-jubilee-project/>

A Life of Complete Trust

As many of you know, I admired the ‘Pastor of Door County’, Delmar Dahl. He was gregarious, friendly and faithful to Jesus. I often told him, ‘Delmar, I want to be just like you when I grow up.’ He entered the Nearer presence of the Savior last year. One conversation I had with him stands out:

When Delmar was still active, guest preaching, running seminars, visiting, he had a major health crisis. He was rushed to the ICU where his doctor tried to assure him, “Delmar, we’re going to pull you through this.” Delmar replied serenely, before losing consciousness, “Folks, I’m not afraid to die. Jesus said he’d be with me and I know he is.” I asked Delmar how he could be so sanguine in the face of death- was he ever afraid to die?

He said he hadn’t been afraid since the age of 14. At that time he became deathly ill. He was hospitalized 6 weeks with rheumatic fever and double pneumonia. The doctors did not hold out much hope for recovery. He was released from the hospital at the beginning of October and did not walk until Thanksgiving. He told me two things gave him great confidence. The first was Romans 8: 38 – 39: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,” and the Lord’s Prayer - “Thy will be done.” Knowing that Jesus would be with him in life or in death, knowing that his life was in God’s hands, banished all fear.

In our conversation, I realized something wonderful. Not only was Delmar unafraid to die, but he was also unafraid to live. I, and so many others, were drawn to Delmar’s sunny faith and joyful exuberance. He attributed it to the promise of Jesus - to hold onto us through every circumstance of life.

We too, are given the same promise as my dear friend, Delmar. We can face all of life’s challenges, we can be unafraid to live because absolutely nothing can ever separate us from God’s love!

**Celebrating 170 years
in 2023!**