

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Festival of August 13 – August 13, 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**

****Prelude: ‘Gavotte’ from ‘Five Pieces’ – by Dmitri Shostakovich**

Welcome & Announcements

**** ‘Waltz’ from ‘Five Pieces’ – by Shostakovich**

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #675 “What Brought Us Together”

Liturgy for Christian Unity, p. 122 – 125 (mid-page), 126

****Joyful Noise Offering (Secret Santa)**

‘I Got Rhythm’ – by George Gershwin (his own piano arrangement)

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Congregational Sung Response: (Hymn #96)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen

****Offertory**

‘Canzona No.2’ – by Girolamo Frescobaldi

****Doxology**

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament Joshua 24: 16 – 24

New Testament: 1 John 4: 1 – 13

Meditation

The Lord’s Supper (Insert)

****Postlude: ‘Allegro’ from Concerto for 2 Violins, Op.8 – by Giuseppe Torelli**

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: God does great things beyond understanding, and marvelous things without number. – Job 9:10

TODAY: Time of Fellowship following Worship

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY: 10:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 9:30 a.m. Caring Hands

SUNDAY: 8:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

WELCOME to Ephraim Moravian Church. Our Communion Service is open to ALL who wish to partake. 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 Betty Lewis & Paul Zafer for their musical gifts this morning.

WELCOME to New Members: Jennifer & Tom Gregory, Windsor & Mike McCutcheon and Nan Zimdars Hoesly.

MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF PROJECT- We are pleased to announce that the Moravian Ministries Foundation surpassed the goal of \$50,000 in debt relief! Thank you for your generosity.

Over the years I've had starry-eyed couples stand before me to profess their abiding love and commit themselves to each other for as long as they shall live. That's a heady order for people so young. Are they really in love? I would say in a manner of speaking that yes, they are in love. But that love can be a mile wide and an inch deep. They put their toes in the water, getting used to the temperature. Everything is fine. They blissfully enjoy their time together.

But then life steps in. Events and circumstances test their new love, which is fragile and inexperienced. Their understanding and definition of love is about to take a global shift. We all take this journey in one form or another. The path forward might include the difficult task of finishing school, finding employment, losing a job, financial difficulties, getting up to change diapers in the middle of the night, serious health problems and on and on. After all of this, then and only then, can we talk about the true meaning of love. Truly, it doesn't matter how wide the river is, but the deeper it is the heavier burden it can bear.

The first letter of John devotes large swaths and space to the concept of love, and God's love in particular. The whole letter John writes can be explained in one phrase: "Getting things right". He starts out by saying, "Do not believe every spirit, test the spirits to see if they are of God." The same might be said of love. Is what we think of as "love" a buzzword? A trite thing like saying "I love chocolate chip cookies"? True love demands sacrifice, it experiences suffering, and it means caring for one another no matter how difficult.

Deep love can lift and carry us through life. And the deepest love of all is that of Jesus, reaching its fullness through his suffering, death and resurrection.