

# Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - August 20, 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

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Serving the Community Since 1853

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

Welcome & Announcements

**\*\*Prelude: ‘Dedication’ – by Joseph Bonnet**

Watchword for the Week

**Hymn #771 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”**

**Liturgy, p. 1 – 3**

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: ‘Dance from Jölster’ – by Edvard Grieg**

**\*\*Doxology**

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament: Psalm 67

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Sermon

**Hymn #701 “My Life Flows On”**

Benediction

**\*\*Postlude: ‘How Firm a Foundation’ – Hymn-tune arranged by Diane Bish**

**WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK:** Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you. – Psalm 67:5

**TODAY:** Time of Fellowship following Worship

**MONDAY:** Pastor’s Sabbath

**SUNDAY:** 8:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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**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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** Dale & Barb Stafslie, who are joining the church today.

**“STUBBORN BLESSING”** poem used in today’s sermon was taken from © Jan Richardson. [janrichardson.com](http://janrichardson.com).

**NEXT SUNDAY** we will be honoring Diane Kirkland for her work as Secretary/Treasurer with a special outdoor Fellowship Hour following the 10:30 am service. Please come out to celebrate her retirement and thank her for them many wonderful years of service.

**Bulletin Reflection**  
**Pastor Dan G. Olson**

**Celebrating 170 Years  
in 2023**

Today's text from Matthew 15 presents a whole cast of three characters with plenty of nouns, pronouns, verbs and adverbs to describe them perfectly.

A Canaanite woman approached Jesus one day and proceeded to make a pest of herself. Why shouldn't she? Her daughter was severely 'possessed by a demon' which is an ancient way of saying that she was beyond medical help. She was gracious enough when she said "have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David".

But here's the strange part of it all, Jesus answered her not a single word. That seems to be so out of character with what we usually think of "Sweet Jesus". And it didn't help one bit when the disciples were irritated with the woman. "Send her away, for she's crying after us". Despite the woman's desperation, she never lost her sense of respect for Jesus. "Pest" perhaps isn't the right word to describe this desperate mother. Shall we say, rather, that she was persistent? or tenacious? or determined?

I have little doubt Jesus became annoyed with people. We might be perplexed at such a notion, but we must let the humanity of Jesus bubble to the surface of his existence. We dare not try to tame Jesus with "holy smokescreen".

It turns out that the Canaanite woman prevailed, her daughter was brought to full health, and the deep compassion of our Lord was no longer hidden but revealed.