

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - September 10, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MINISTERS:.....Members of the Congregation
MUSIC DIRECTOR:.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY:.....Erin Bristol

Serving the Community Since 1853

Prelude: ‘Allegro’ from Sonata No. 2 – by Christian LaTrobe (1758-1836), Moravian pastor and composer

Welcome & Announcements

‘Beautiful Savior’ – Crusader’s Hymn, arranged by David Angerman

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #553: “To Your Temple, Lord, I Come”
Liturgy of Reconciliation, p. 13 – 15

Joyful Noise Offering for Door CANcer: ‘At the End of the Road’
- by A.H. Ackley

A visit from the ‘Dearly Departed’

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (452 Red Hymnal)

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear

And while the wave notes fall on my ear

Everything false will disappear

Silently now I wait for thee ready my God thy will to see,

Open my ears illumine me Spirit Divine. Amen.

Offertory: ‘Lord of Spirits’ – by F. Melius Christiansen
Doxology

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament

Psalm 119: 33 – 40

New Testament:

Romans 13: 8 – 14

Gospel:

Matthew 18: 15 – 20

Sermon

‘The Road Home’ – adapted by Stephen Paulus

Benediction

Postlude: ‘March’ from ‘A London Suite’ – by Gordon Young

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Give me understanding, O God, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.’
Psalm 119:34

TODAY:

Time of Fellowship following Worship

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY:

1:00 p.m. CEMETERY WALK

WEDNESDAY:

10:00 a.m. Elders Meeting

FRIDAY:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

SUNDAY:

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

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 our singers: Hal, Cyndy, Amanda and Dale.

BIBLE STUDY we’re continuing to look at the Colorful Women of the Bible. Join us this Friday, 1:00 p.m.

Love Takes Action by The Rev. Cory L. Kemp

Laws are not something we often think of as ‘touchy feely’ sorts of things, are they? In fact, our usual consideration of laws is that they are meant to be obeyed, or we get into trouble, sometimes even serious trouble. If you run through a traffic light after the last whiff of yellow has vanished, you also run the risk of being stopped by a police officer, asked for your license and charged a fine.

But what if you and I take today’s scripture readings seriously welcoming God’s law, and following it, as something uniquely different?

While many of our human laws are logically designed to keep us safe and orderly, God’s laws are centered on obedience of the heart, which we fulfill when we extend God’s love to each other. These two things aren’t incompatible.

We are created to live in the world in which we find ourselves, and in this world, those who love one another fulfill God’s law. As we have heard many times, all of God’s laws and commandments are summed up in loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Today’s reading from Paul’s letter to the Roman church includes even a bit more clarity: Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

So, even though traffic lights are a human design to keep us safe and keep a certain amount of community order, they are also an expression of love for each other, a way of saying we each matter and have a turn. I invite you this week to consider all the ways our human laws express this similar inclusive, respectful love.

And please keep in mind that we can always ask God for help in expressing love to our neighbors simply by saying, “Give me understanding, O God, that I may keep your law with my whole heart.” Psalm 119: 34