

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023, 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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: 'Aria' - by Flor Peeters

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #782 "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Liturgy of Adoration, p. 18 – 23

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament	Genesis 50: 15 – 21
New Testament:	Romans 14: 1 – 12
Gospel:	Matthew 18: 21 – 35

Sermon

Offertory: 'Oh God, Thou Faithful God' – Chorale Prelude by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Doxology

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

Benediction

Postlude: 'Mattachins' – by Peter Warlock

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits. – Psalm 103:2

<u>TODAY:</u>	Time of Fellowship following Worship
	4:00 p.m. Chess Club
<u>MONDAY:</u>	Pastor's Sabbath
<u>TUESDAY:</u>	10:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	9:30 a.m. Caring Hands
<u>THURSDAY:</u>	5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes- Stella Maris
<u>SATURDAY:</u>	2 & 4:30 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert!
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	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

LOAVES & FISHES will be providing a meal this Thursday at Stella Maris in Sister Bay. It is a free meal open to all, no reservations required. Doors open at 4:30, meal begins at 5 p.m.

CARING HANDS is a group which meets monthly, sending out cards to church family and community alike- celebrating milestone events, sending words of encouragement or sympathy. The committee has also organized baby showers and sent out care packages to college students. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. The meetings are one hour in length. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact the pastor or simply show up this Wednesday!

The Gift That Keeps on Giving, by The Rev. Cory L. Kemp

Forgiveness truly is at the top of the list entitled, “More Blessed to Give Than to Receive.”

To forgive someone we feel has deeply hurt or wronged us is not simple or easy. It is hard work to acknowledge the pain we are experiencing, the truth of it, and possibly even the damage it has caused in our lives. Forgiveness may feel impossible. Coming to terms with this is a reminder that we have all done things to hurt other people, whether we have acknowledged it to ourselves or not. But if we have, we know the burden it carries, especially if we are not willing, or even able, to forgive ourselves. Have you ever found yourself here?

If you have, and then been blessed by the forgiveness of another, you know its relief, and its healing power. Because of this grace extended to us, it is perhaps easier to believe and accept another’s acknowledgement of the damage they have done, the pain it has caused, when they ask us to forgive them.

Both power and vulnerability are at play in this mutual dance of forgiveness, and the partnership always embodies free will. Forgiveness is a choice, in giving and receiving. If we can manage to show up, recognize our humanity and accept the opening Grace gives us for more life, there is much more life to be had.

Forgiveness truly is a blessing, both in its giving and its receiving, a never-ending circle of hope and new life that moves beyond the moments our humanity takes over and leads with our less stellar parts. Forgiveness is one of the beautiful design pieces for human life in faithfully living God’s call in our lives.