

# Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 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

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Serving the Community Since 1853

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Welcome & Announcements

**Prelude: 'Piano Blues' – by Aaron Copland**

Watchword for the Week

**Hymn #555: “Come Now, Almighty King”**

**A General Prayer of Intercession, p. 115**

**Hymn #714 : “Blessed Assurance”**

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*

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament	Jonah 3: 10 – 4:11
New Testament:	Philippians 1: 21 – 30
Gospel:	Matthew 20: 1 – 16

Sermon

**Offertory: ‘Allemande,’ Partita No. 1 in D Minor – by J. S. Bach**

Doxology

**Hymn#559: “Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”**

Benediction

**Postlude: ‘Praeludium’ – by Fritz Kreisler**

**WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK:** For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. – Philippians 1:21

<b><u>TODAY:</u></b>	Time of Fellowship following Worship
	4:00 p.m. Chess Club
<b><u>MONDAY:</u></b>	Pastor’s Sabbath
<b><u>FRIDAY:</u></b>	1:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b><u>SUNDAY:</u></b>	9:00 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Communion
	4:00 p.m. Chess Club

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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

**THANK YOU** to our guest musicians this morning, Betsy DiFelice and Lorre Trytten.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins next week! School aged kids will be in the Fellowship Hall, Pre-School in the Nursery. We request that adults refrain from entering the building until 9:50.

God's Abundance is for Everyone, by the Rev. Cory L. Kemp

God doesn't operate by the same rules we do, which can be quite irritating. But Jonah was downright angry with God for sparing Nineveh when they turned from their evil ways, asked God's forgiveness and repented. Why?

Apparently, God was curious too, asking Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Jonah's response was to walk outside the city, make a space for himself to sit, and was a bit cranky that God brought a bush to shield him from the sun, but took it away the next day.

God's pointed reply, was that if Jonah could express care for a bush with which he had no part in creating, why should God not care for the great city of Nineveh, its numerous people, and even its animals?

It seems Jonah was having a very bad day, during which nothing was right, nobody deserved God's lovingkindness, forgiveness or favor. Or, perhaps it simply boggled poor Jonah's mind that God really was as generous, merciful and abundant in steadfast love as he had always been taught.

In that context, it is so very easy to feel cheated or shortchanged by God's generosity when our attention is drawn to what other people have that we yearn for but have not yet received. It's human, and it is that simple. Equally simple is that God isn't human. We tend to ascribe human limitations and shortcomings to God when we feel most vulnerable, which is when we need God the most.

The Grace that God gave to Ninevah was reserved for them. They only had to ask and receive. It is no different for each of us. When we are ready to receive, we often realize God already offered, and all we need to do is say yes.

There is more than enough of God's rich abundance for all of us. And God delights in sharing it with us.