

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MUSIC DIRECTOR:.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY:.....Erin Bristol
LAY READER:.....Betty Chomeau

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: 'Prière à Notre-Dame' – by Leon Boellmann

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #548: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Liturgy, p. 115

Hymn #594: "Bliss Beyond Compare"

Prayers of the Church, Lord's Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (#231- Red Hymnal)

Holy Spirit, Light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine

Chase the shades of night away, turn my darkness into day. Amen

Scripture Lessons:

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15 – 22

Sermon

Offertory: 'Chorale' – by Leon Boellman

Doxology

Hymn #790: "Guide Me, O my Great Redeemer"

Benediction

Postlude: 'Menuet Gothique' – by Leon Boellmann

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. – Psalm 96:2

TODAY: Time of Fellowship following Worship

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY: Pastor's Sabbath

WEDNESDAY: 3:45 – 5 p.m. After School Program

FRIDAY: 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (last one!)

SATURDAY: 2:00 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

4:30 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

SUNDAY: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

THE FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Aaron Moore, by parents, Rob & Sherry Moore.

MINISTRY NEEDS! Please sign up for ushers/fellowship hour and lay readers for the coming months. We're also offering desserts for the Nov. 9th Loaves & Fishes- the sign up sheets are on the lectern in the Narthex.

CANDY BARS are on sale in the Fellowship Hall on the card table to assist Mylo Sherman's school trip to Washington DC.

FLU/COVID SHOTS will be available at the Sister Bay Fire Station on October 24- Adults (19+), Appointment only- visit

<https://www.co.door.wi.gov/1164/Clinics> for more information and to set up an appointment. They have Pfizer shots available. If you'd

prefer Moderna vaccines, they are available at the Hy-Vee in Green Bay <https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy/covid-vaccine>

Please check with your insurance provider regarding coverage of vaccine costs.

Your Tax Dollars At Work
- Pastor Dawn Volpe

I am so grateful when I see tax dollars put to good use. When our school asks for more money to repair buildings or purchase land, taxpayers, with few exceptions, vote to shoulder the burden. We do so willingly because we know that the children of our community will benefit. When I drive across well-paved and lit roadways, my tax dollars are at work, benefitting me directly. When I walk on the sidewalks along Highway 42 in Ephraim, I remember what it was like hugging the side of the road, dodging cars. I am very grateful that tax dollars enable me to safely traverse our village.

Even with the obvious benefits derived from our tax dollars, I hate paying taxes! It's a burden, even when I know that I and others benefit from the funds generated. I am one of the many who complain every April 15th.

If this is how it is among people who benefit from taxes, can you imagine what it's like for people who pay taxes and derive absolutely no benefit. We remember the slogan before the Revolutionary War: 'taxation without representation'.

Jesus' fellow citizens had to pay taxes to their occupiers. Their taxes enabled Rome to oppress them. It's no wonder the people complained. I'm sure there were plenty of heated conversations over Rome's unjust tax system. Anyone who collected taxes for Rome was considered a traitor. A conversation about taxes was the perfect cover for the Religious Leaders as they sought to entrap Jesus with his own words. The conversation seemed innocuous- there was only one right answer- Rome's system of taxation was unjust. But if Jesus expressed that, he could be turned in to the authorities as an agitator.

Jesus understood the motivation behind the query. Sometimes people will engage us in conversation, not to gain perspective, but to manipulate. When that happens, may we have the wisdom of Jesus, who saw through the ruse, remained above the fray, and steered the conversation away from the trivial... to the eternal.