

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 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

Welcome & Announcements

‘Prelude’ – by Joseph Rheinberger

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #530: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Liturgy Psalm 84 (Insert)

Joyful Noise Offering for Secret Santa:

‘Capriol Suite’ – by Peter Warlock

Scripture Lessons:

New Testament: Philippians 3: 4b – 14

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33 – 46

Sermon

Offertory

Doxology

Prayers of the Church, The 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

Benediction

Postlude: ‘Nun Danket Alle Gott’ (‘Now Thank We All our God’)

– by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118: 22, 23

TODAY:

Time of Fellowship following Worship

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

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY:

Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY:

10:00 a.m. Trustee Special Meeting

1:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

WEDNESDAY:

3:45 – 5 p.m. After School Program

THURSDAY:

5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes, Sister Bay

Stella Maris

FRIDAY:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

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

LOAVES & FISHES, an ecumenical ministry, will be holding it’s monthly dinner at Stella Maris, Sister Bay. The meal is free and all are invited!

CANDY BARS are on sale in the Fellowship Hall on the card table. The sales will assist Mylo Sherman’s fund-raising for his school’s trip to Washington DC.

Reflection- Pastor Dawn Volpe

When someone feels called to the ministry, it is not simply a matter of entering Seminary and taking courses. There are many steps- letters of recommendation, spiritual discernment and a battery of psychological tests to determine fitness for the demands of pastoral ministry. One of my friends (whose previous profession had been in law enforcement) was told during his psychological evaluation that there were concerns about him, pointing out underlying aggressive tendencies. He tried to contest their findings but could not convince them otherwise. He said to me, 'I was so mad at them I wanted to punch them out!' Then we both burst into laughter at the irony. My friend went on to be a wonderful pastor and, as far as I can tell, never flattened any member of his congregation.

Can you understand the anger of the religious leaders in Jesus' day? They revered the sacred texts, especially the prophets, like Jeremiah and Isaiah (both murdered by their own people). They sought to usher in the kingdom of God by following the Torah. And yet, when Jesus poked them in the proverbial eye through today's story of the wicked tenants, they fell back into primal instincts. They wanted to lay hands on him. They wanted to arrest him. They wanted to destroy him. When Jesus said, 'the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom', they did not have to respond with violent intent. They could have seen it as an opportunity to follow in the path of the prophets of old... the path of fruitful endeavors... the path ushering in Justice, Mercy and Grace.

It is easy to respond with anger when we think we're being unfairly judged. But perhaps we need to find another way. Perhaps we can get past our own wounded pride and see ourselves through others' eyes. Perhaps we can look at ourselves objectively and make substantive changes, so that we can 'produce the fruit of the kingdom'.

Imagine, for a moment, if the religious leaders had asked the question- how can we change so that our work is worthy of God's Kingdom?