

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Christ as Chief Elder Festival

November 12, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: Finale ('Andante') from Sonata No.6 – by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #399 “All Hail our Church’s Elder Dear”

Liturgy, p. 1 – 3

Joyful Noise Offering for Door CANcer: ‘Prelude in A Minor’ – by J. S. Bach

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (433- Red Hymnal)

Lead us, O Father, in the paths of peace;

Without thy guiding hand we go astray

And doubts appall, and sorrows still increase;

Lead us through Christ, the true and living way.

Offertory: ‘Sheep May Safely Graze’ – by J.S. Bach

Doxology

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 23 – 24

New Testament: Hebrews 4: 14 – 16

Gospel: John 10: 1 – 10

Meditation

The Lord’s Supper (Insert)

Postlude: ‘Toccata’ from ‘Suite Gothique’ – by Leon Boellmann

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. – Matthew 25: 13

TODAY: Time of Fellowship following Worship
4:00 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY: 10:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 9:00 a.m. Caring Hands

10:00 a.m. Elders

12 p.m. HARVEST LUNCH!

3:45 – 5:30 p.m. After School Program

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

HARVEST LUNCH! We are delighted to be offering a special lunch in Fellowship Hall, 12 p.m. Please plan to attend and bring friends!

After-School Program ends for the Fall Season. Our children will come, as usual, at 3:45 p.m. We invite parents to join their children at 5:00 p.m. for an ‘end of the season’ dinner. We will resume After School Programs in January.

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

Festival of Chief Elder – Martha Griffis, Central Moravian Church
<https://www.moravian.org/2022/11/november-13-2022-the-chief-elder-festival/>

On this day in 1741, it was announced to all Moravian congregations that Jesus Christ had been chosen as the Chief Elder of the Moravian Church. Since that time, no human has assumed this position. It has become a festival day around the globe in Moravian congregations. At Central Church we celebrate with both a lovefeast and communion.

The Gospel lesson for this festival is John 10:1–10. This passage has Jesus talking about sheep that will follow their shepherd and no one else. Jesus does not identify as the shepherd at this point but rather as the gate of the fold. All those who would enter in would be saved and go in and out and find pasture.

The passage in Ezekiel 34 also talks about sheep. It tells of God seeking all the lost sheep—the ones that were cast out of Israel. God says that he will find the sheep and give them a shepherd like David. These passages are closely related. God and Jesus want us to enter God's fold, be saved, and live life abundantly.

Having no experience with sheep, I picture in my head the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, where God is stretching out his hand to Adam, who is reaching up to God. I see this as what God wants of us. God's love and grace are freely given to all who ask for it. God wants all of us to have his grace, love, and forgiveness.

“How great a bliss to be a sheep of Jesus.” This hymn floats into my mind as I read these Scriptures. I wish you God's joy on this festival day.