

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

Phone: 920-854-2804

www.ephraimmoravian.org

Reign of Christ Sunday November 26, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “Beautiful Savior” – Traditional

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #403: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Liturgy Reign of Christ, p. 109

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.

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament Psalm 95: 1 – 7a

New Testament: Ephesians 1: 15 – 23

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31 – 46

“O, Come All ye Nations” – by Michael Forester & Andrew Fletcher

Sermon

Offertory: ‘A Thought like Music’ – by Johannes Brahms

Doxology

Hymn #407: “Name of All Majesty”

Benediction

Postlude: ‘Intermezzo in Db’ – by Josef Rheinberger

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: God said, ‘I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.’ – Ezekiel 34:16

TODAY:

Time of Fellowship following Worship

MONDAY:

Pastor’s Sabbath

SATURDAY:

10 – 12:30

ADVENT-ure

1 & 5:45

Colin & Friends Concert

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service- Advent

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.

THANK YOU to our songbirds, Marcia Ellis, Cyndy Stiehl, Dawn Volpe and Katrina Welborn.

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

POINTSETTIA ORDERS! Orders due TODAY! \$15. per plant in either White, Marble or Red colors. Please fill out the inserted order form and place either in the offering plate or on the Secretary’s desk.

ADVENT-URE: Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Open House with Candle Trimming, Wreath Making, Bake Sale & Outreach Sale (sponsored by our Sunday School Children). Following the ADVENT-URE will be a Christmas-themed concerts (performances both at 1.00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.) by COLIN & FRIENDS CONCERTS. Make plans to come and bring your friends.

BAKE SALE FOR ADVENT-URE- We need LOTS of bakers.

Please have the items wrapped with the name of the item, whether it contains nuts and a suggested price. All items need to be in the parlor before 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY DINNER, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. at Gibraltar Middle School Gym. Reservations required. Please call Mr. Roets at 868-3284, Ext: 346.

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

Reign of Christ Sunday (Adapted from an essay by Jessica Davis)
<https://blog.wearesparkhouse.org/the-history-of-christ-the-king-sunday>

You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." (John 18:37)

Each year, Christians from around the world gather on the last Sunday of the church year to celebrate what is widely referred to as "Christ the King" or "Reign of Christ" Sunday. It is one of the most recent additions to the church calendar, instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and moved to its current date in 1970.

Pope Benedict XV, who began his papacy a month into World War I, was horrified at his inability to broker a peace treaty, and at the millions of bodies piling up all across Europe. In his first encyclical, *Ad Beatissimi Apostolorum*, Benedict declared, "There is no limit to the measure of ruin and of slaughter; day by day the earth is drenched with newly shed blood and is covered with the bodies of the wounded and of the slain." When Benedict died in 1922, he was replaced by Pope Pius XI, who declared the aim of his papacy to be "The re-establishment of the Kingdom of Christ by peace in Christ." It was in the service of this mission that he introduced Christ the King Sunday as a challenge to the church to refocus its energies on their true ruler and away from unquestioning fidelity to earthly powers.

As we step into Reign of Christ Sunday it's not difficult to imagine how Christians might have felt that Sunday in 1925. Natural disasters, pandemics and Wars ravage our world. If we're trusting in our own abilities and merits to set us free from this suffering, the outlook is pretty bleak. But if we shift our efforts toward enacting the will of the one who was sent to rule over us, we can begin to see the dawn of a new age peeking over the horizon. Orienting our lives towards the commands of Christ can help us move with a laser focus towards those who Christ held most closely- all the people that the world casts as unworthy.

May we truly follow the Prince of Peace as we walk into an uncertain future.