

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Second Sunday in Advent - December 10, 2023

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY.....Erin Bristol
CANDLE LIGHTERS.....Glory Mittermann, Mathilda & Winfield Bristol
LAY READERS.....Cana Mittermann & Henry Bristol

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “In the Bleak Midwinter” – by Christina Rosetti & Gustav Holst

Watchword for the Week

Lighting of the Second Candle of Advent

Hymn #267 “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Liturgy for Advent 2, p. 54

Joyful Noise Offering for Secret Santa: “Deck Thyself, My Soul” – Chorale Prelude by Johannes Brahms

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 – 8

Sermon

Offertory: “I Then Shall Live” – by Gloria Gaither and Jan Sibelius
Doxology

Prayers of the Church, The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (To the tune: Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same

By mortals and angels, Come, Lord reign alone

Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne. Amen

Benediction

Postlude: “Love Came Down at Christmas” – Chorale Prelude by Charles Villiers Stanford

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom. – Isaiah 40:11

<u>TODAY:</u>	Time of Fellowship following Worship
<u>MONDAY:</u>	Pastor’s Sabbath
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	10:00 a.m. Elders Meeting
<u>THURSDAY:</u>	5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	9:00 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Worship Service

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 lovely singers, Ann Berner, Marcia Ellis, Katrina Wellborn & Dawn Volpe.

LOAVES & FISHES Please join us this Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Stella Maris Sister Bay Church hall for a wonderful, free community meal.

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

Reflection by Kathleen Harris

“Fear is the thing that paralyzes,” writes Nigerian-born, third-culture kid Kovie Biakolo, “while bravery is the thing that frees.” She says bravery requires endurance and courage, and to be authentic it also requires love. While there are different kinds of bravery, brave people willingly “risk the possibility of a terrifying ending.” Brave people “live in such a way that the world knows you are afraid but you love, more than you fear.”

<https://thoughtcatalog.com/kovie-biakolo/2015/12/what-it-really-means-to-be-brave>

John the Baptist was brave. He lifted his voice with a shout (Isaiah 40:9) preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4). He may have been an oddball, but his words were grounded in the enduring word of God and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Ordinary people like us can be brave, too. While sorting through my mother’s things, I found a small card titled “A Prayer for Courage”. The card has multiple thumb tack holes, so I think she pinned it on various bulletin boards near the different desks she used while working at Kraft. Mom returned to secretarial work following the sudden death of my father at age fifty.

God make me brave for life, Oh braver than this!

Let me strengthen after pain

As a tree strengthens after the rain, shining and lovely again.

God make me brave for life, much braver than this!

As the blown grass lifts, let me rise from sorrow with quiet eyes

Knowing Thy way is wise.

God make me brave – Life brings such blinding things!

Help me to keep my sight, help me to see aright,

That out of dark – comes light.

by Grace Noll Cromwell