

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Third Sunday in Advent December 17, 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
CANDLE LIGHTERS & LAY READERS:.....Sunday School Children

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “Joy to the World” – Sunday School

Story: “Lullaby for the King”

Watchword for the Week

Lighting of the Third & Fourth Candles of Advent

Hymn #283 (v. 1 – 3) “O Come All Ye Faithful”

A Christmas Lovefeast

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament: Isaiah 61: 1 – 4, 8 – 11

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 24

Meditation

Offertory: “Lo How a Rosebud Springing” – Christmas Chorale

Prelude by Johannes Brahms

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 in G Minor’ – by Charles Villiers Stanford

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined – Isaiah 9:2

TODAY: Time of Fellowship following Worship

MONDAY: Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY: 10:00 a.m. Trustees

WEDNESDAY: 9:30 a.m. Caring Hands

SUNDAY: NO 10:30 A.M. SERVICE!

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve 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

Prayers of the Church adapted from a Pastoral Prayer found at

<https://johnwesleyumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Sunday-Prayer-Website-3.pdf>

THANK YOU to our young people, parents and to our leaders- Erin & Brent Bristol, Bob Volpe. We are so blessed!

SET UP CREW NEEDED! After our Fellowship Hour, we need people to take down tables and set up chairs for the Christmas Eve Services.

FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES- If you are able to walk without difficulty, please park on the street or in the Upper parking lot, so that the lower lot is reserved for those who need accessibility. The pastor’s driveway will be available for those needing to park close to the church.

The Moravian Lovefeast

Adapted from the book: Customs & Practices of the Moravian Church
By Dr. Adelaide L. Fries

The Lovefeast began in the first gathering of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and ate together, symbolizing their union and equality. These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which followed them. They were Agape, the Greek word for the highest type of spiritual love. Gradually the Agape lost their devotional character, and toward the end of the fourth century the church gave them up.

The Lovefeast was revived by the Moravian Church in 1727. It happened in Herrnhut, Germany where Moravians had settled on the Estate of a nobleman named Count Zinzendorf. The community had been through a period of controversy which threatened to tear the small group apart. On August 13, during a Communion service, the Holy Spirit came upon the townspeople and tore down the hatred and divisions which had arisen. After the service, seven groups of the participants continued to talk about the great spiritual blessing which they had experienced. They did not want to separate and return to their own homes for the noonday meal. Count Zinzendorf, sensing the situation, sent them food from his manor house, and each group ate together, continuing in prayer, religious conversation, and the singing of hymns. This incident reminded Zinzendorf of the primitive Agape, and the tradition was revived to this day.

The Lovefeast is primarily a song service, relating to a central theme. Today, our theme is the coming of Christ. A simple meal is served while hymns are sung. Once everyone has received, a table grace is offered and then we hold 'blessed conversations' with each other. As we sing the songs and enjoy our fellowship, let us again turn our thoughts to the Christ of Bethlehem, whose coming has given us hope for the future.