

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

Phone: 920-854-2804

www.ephraimmoravian.org

First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2024

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe
MINISTERS:.....Members of the Congregation
MUSIC DIRECTOR:.....Colin Welford
SECRETARY:.....Erin Bristol
LAY READER:.....Linda Gibson Taylor

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: 'Prelude & Fugue in Bb' – by J.S. Bach

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #773 "And Can It Be That I Should Gain"

Liturgy of Penitence and Prayer

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (Hymn #825)

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord

Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament: Psalm 25: 1 – 10

Gospel: Mark 1:9 – 15

Sermon

Offertory: 'Flute Piece' – by George Green

Doxology

Hymn #754 "When Peace Like a River"

Benediction

Postlude: 'Sun Dance' – by Bob Chilcott

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way. – Psalm 25:8

TODAY

Time of Fellowship following Worship

2:00 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

4:30 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

MONDAY:

11:00 a.m. Chuck Pearson Service

WEDNESDAY:

9:30 a.m. Caring Hands

3:45 p.m. After-School Program

FRIDAY:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

SUNDAY:

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 2024: 'Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.' - 1 Timothy 3:16

COLIN & FRIENDS CONCERTS - TODAY! You are invited to attend a special concert, either at 2.00pm or 4:30 p.m. This year's VALENTINE'S-THEMED CONCERT of beautiful and thought-provoking music is set warm the heart, and spread the love!

Our organist COLIN WELFORD is joined by special guest TERESE PARISOLI, on violin and viola. Admission is free. Donations gratefully accepted. Seating is limited, so arrive early -with a friend! Perhaps consider planning to attend the second performance - which is (truly) always better. Let's keep reaching out into the community!

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING for the life of Chuck Pearson will take place tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

LENT Please review the insert in your bulletin for Lenten Services in our area.

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

This time of year is aptly named, 'the dead of winter'. Many residents have relocated to warmer climes. The trees are barren, shops are closed, darkness descends in late afternoon. We count ourselves lucky if Spring weather returns by the month of May. In my household, one singular pleasure is watching the deer venture close to the house, hoping for a morsel or two. We gently open our window, trying not to startle them, and festoon the ground with a feast of bird seed, corn and peanuts. Somehow, these wild creatures provide a sense of community, even in the isolation of deep winter.

In Mark's spare description of the Wilderness, there is no mention of the dialog between Jesus and Satan, no mention of the types of temptations. But there is rich detail intermingled with the barren wilderness experience. 'He was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.'

Although he was harassed by the Tormentor for over a month's duration, Jesus emerged filled with Joyous Optimism, proclaiming the good news, which he embodied – the Kingdom of God come near. I can imagine that the animals provided blessed distractions from the grinding isolation. I don't know what form the angels took that waited on him. The word 'angel' literally means, 'messenger'. In whatever form they manifested, they, along with the animals, gave Jesus the strength to face down the Evil One.

This story reminds us that even in the most barren landscape, when friendships are in short supply, when options are limited, and resources stretched- God does not leave us in our isolation. We are gifted with blessed distractions, with Messengers of God in many forms. So dear friends, as we embark on another journey in the 'dead of winter', may we look to the Savior and declare with joy, the Kingdom of God has indeed come near!