

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 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:.....Rob Davis

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks” – Arr. Norman Johnson
Watchword for the Week

Hymn #775 “For God So Loved Us”
Liturgy for Lent 2, p. 78

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response: (Hymn #741)

Savior, now with contrite hearts we approach your throne of love

Asking pardon for our sins, peace and comfort from above

You once suffered on the cross to atone for sinners’ guilt

May we never, Lord, forget that for us your blood was spilled. Amen.

Offertory: “Prelude” – by Charles Villiers Stanford

Doxology

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Meditation

The Lord’s Supper – Lent (Insert)

Postlude: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Arr. Diane Bish

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. – 1 Corinthians 1:18

TODAY

Time of Fellowship following Worship

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

Pastor’s Sabbath

MONDAY:

WEDNESDAY:

3:45 p.m. After-School Program

THURSDAY:

12:30 p.m. Ladies Time Out- Al Johnson’s

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. All are welcome to the Lord’s Supper.

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

LADIES TIME-OUT All ladies are invited to Al Johnson’s restaurant for a time of fellowship at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday (each pays for their own meal). No agenda- just good food and friendship! Please RSVP to the church office at worship@ephraimmoravian.org by Wednesday.

LENT There are still opportunities Wednesdays in Lent for Spiritual enrichment:

Sister Bay Moravian- 12 noon Lunch & Conversation.

St. Paul Lutheran, 1 p.m. Study on Lament

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran, 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner & Service

Saint Luke’s Episcopal, 5:30 p.m. Service

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

“Holy House-Clearing” – Pastor Dawn Volpe

There is something very cathartic in pitching things out. I’m not talking about boxing treasures up or giving a few precious items away. I’m talking about the satisfaction one derives when seeing stuff sail into the dumpster. I remember assisting a family member in sorting through years of accumulated possessions in preparation for a major move. We were going through the tedium of deciding what things to keep, donate or pitch, when I happened upon a random old stuffed toy. I held it up and, as my family member launched into a heartfelt narrative on the sentimental value, the object sailed from my hand right into the dumpster. I smirked with glee as my loved one shrieked.

Perhaps this is why the story of Jesus clearing out the temple has such appeal to me. I love the decisive action. There were no incremental steps to the purge. He cleared the house pretty quickly!

The Sacred Space, which was designed to reflect the majesty of God, designed to honor the history of a people favored and anointed by God, designed to be a place to encounter the Glory of God, was cluttered with commercial enterprise. This ‘stuff’ was noisy- it’s awfully difficult to pray with all that cooing, mooing and bleating going on. This stuff encroached on the space needed for worship- merchants tables took precedence. A holy house-clearing was necessary to reclaim the space for its intended purpose.

In this Sacred season, which gives us time to reflect on the things that are most essential to life with God- what are the things cluttering our inner beings? What are the things which need to sail into the dumpster? What are the things which are taking up valuable space? Perhaps we need a ‘holy house-cleaning’. Let us make room for the Grace, Mercy, Peace and the Love of God, so that within ourselves we can embody Sacred Space. Amen