

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

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www.ephraimmoravian.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 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 READERS.....Shayla & Liz Opitz

Serving the Community Since 1853

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: ‘Canzonetta in Bb’ – by Josef Rheinberger

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #771 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Liturgy for Lent, p. 72

Joyful Noise Offering for Door CANcer: ‘Puck’ – by Edvard Grieg

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament: Numbers 21: 4 – 9

New Testament: Ephesians 2: 1 – 10

Gospel: John 3: 14 – 21

Sermon

Offertory: ‘Seventeen Come Sunday’ from the ‘English Folksong Suite’ – by R. Vaughan-Williams

Doxology

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.*

Benediction

Postlude: ‘Allegretto’ – by Percy Whitlock

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. – Ephesians 2:8

TODAY

Time of Fellowship following Worship

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

MONDAY:

Pastor’s Sabbath

TUESDAY:

12:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting

WEDNESDAY:

10:00 a.m. Elders Meeting

3:45 p.m. After-School Program

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

2:00 p.m. Colin & Friends Concert

4:00 p.m. Chess Club

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

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.

Reflection- Pastor Dawn Volpe

Growing up in New York, our only interactions with the natural world were limited to trips to my dad's childhood home in the Tennessee mountains. On a hike through the mountain trails, with its crystal-clear streams and spectacular views, the only one who noticed the copperhead snake in our path was my dad. Before any of us could let out a scream or leap away, a rock flew out of dad's hand, instantly killing the snake. We city dwellers were much more cautious for the balance of the hike, very grateful to know that the years had not diminished my father's aim.

It is one thing to be able to dispatch a lone venomous snake on a mountain path, but what can be done about an infestation? This is the terror that the Israelites dealt with encamped in the wilderness (Numbers 21: 4 – 9). The infestation was so awful that many people were bitten and died. The writer attributed this calamity to divine wrath. Whatever the cause, the people asked Moses to intercede for them. Moses' prayer was answered in an unusual way. The snakes were not removed, no anti-venom kits distributed. God told Moses to create an image of a snake, erect it on a pole, and instruct all who were stricken to look on the image and be cured. What a curious solution- for people to survive, they had to gaze upon the source of their terror.

When Jesus said, 'just as Moses lifted up the serpent... so must the Son of Man be lifted up', he was describing the horror of crucifixion. This means of death was cruel and degrading. Empty crosses were placed at strategic locations by the Romans to bully the populace into compliance. And yet, through Jesus death on a Roman cross, the object of terror transformed into a beacon of hope. The cross lost its evil hold over the imaginations of the people. As the people of Israel gazed upon the serpent and lived, so we set our sights on the cross and live, abundantly in this life and eternally in the life to come. Amen