

Ephraim Moravian Church

PO Box 73 - Ephraim, Wisconsin 54211

Phone: 920-854-2804

www.ephraimmoravian.org

Easter – March 31, 2024

Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

PASTOR:.....The Rev. Dawn E. Volpe

LAY READER:.....Elfi Johnson

Serving the Community Since 1853

**Prelude: “Praise the Lord, Oh My Soul” – Chorale Prelude by
Sigfrid Karg-Elert**

Welcome and Announcements

‘The Praises of God’ – 11th-Century text, music by Samuel Barber

Watchword for the Week

Hymn #358: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Liturgy for Easter, p. 90

Prayers of the Church

Congregational Response (Hymn #476):

His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord!

He is the mighty King, master of everything,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord!

He’s the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is he!

Bow down before him, love and adore him,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

Offertory: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” – from Symphony

No.9 by Ludwig v. Beethoven, Arr. Norman Johnson

*Doxology

Scripture Lessons:

Old Testament: Psalm 118: 1 – 2, 14 – 24

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11

Gospel: Mark 16: 1 – 8

“I Know That my Redeemer Liveth” – by G.F. Handel

Sermon

Hymn #792: “I Serve a Risen Savior”

Benediction

Postlude: “Hallelujah Chorus” – by G.F. Handel

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: But, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.
– 1 Corinthians 15:20

<u>TODAY:</u>	Time of Fellowship following the service
<u>MONDAY:</u>	Pastor’s Sabbath
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	9:00 a.m. Sunday School
	10:30 a.m. Worship
	4:00 p.m. Colin Welford Organ Concert
	St. Francis Xavier- Green Bay

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

THANK YOU to Cyndy Stiehl for enriching our worship service with her singing today!

COLIN WELFORD will be giving a free organ concert on the magnificent organ at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 140 S. Monroe Ave., Green Bay, NEXT SUNDAY April 7th at 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the Easter Season. All are welcome!

‘COLIN & FRIENDS’ will be giving two concerts here at EMC-Sunday, April 14, at both 2:00 and 4:30 p.m. Theme is ‘Death and Taxes!’ Bring yourself and friends! It’s a special occasion, with special guests, as they officially launch their 501(c)(3). These concerts are free, donations are gladly accepted.

Easter Reflection - Pastor Dan G. Olson

It seemed like the forces of darkness, death and destruction had completed their work and achieved the task before them. This Jesus, who was considered a threat and a blasphemer had finally been tucked away in his tomb, never again able to be a thorn in the side of the establishment and the true religion. And that was that!

As in everything else, God has the first word. Our Lord God spoke everything into existence, including life itself. We must remind ourselves that God never destroys the creation He has made. Further, God always has the last word. Even death couldn't, cannot, never will, deter him.

None of us can truly grasp the wonder and beauty of the Resurrection. In human terms it is an impossibility. But God is not handicapped by human terms. Instead, God ripped the fabric of death to pieces and obliterated its power over our lives. God took his obliterated Son and spoke new life in him. The true nature, life and reality of Jesus was restored. In so doing, he vicariously did the same for us. We too have been set free from the stranglehold of sin and death. To be sure, as life goes on, we will all have burdens and sufferings of a sort. One might say they are the birth pangs of death which deliver us to that day when our Lord will take us by the hand and gently lead us on. On that day, God will whisper in our ear, "Behold, I make all things new!" But even now, through Jesus' Resurrection, He also encourages us by saying, "Behold, I have made all things new for you, now!"

It is our joy and task to announce that Jesus' new life is pervasive among us. The seeds of new life sprout all about us. It is our happy responsibility to invite others along on the journey of life as we are all lifted up in Glory with the Living Lord!