

Northwoods STaR Ministries Newsletter

PARISH OFFICE

W4950 State Highway 86
Ogema, WI 54459
715-767-5155

email: office@1stfamily.org

Web site: www.1stfamily.org

Office Hours: 8:30AM—12:30PM M-TH

Travis Rogers, Minister
715-271-7471 (cell)

Office Hours:

**Wednesday 9 am to 3 pm in the
Pastor's Study at First Ogema
Thursdays by Appointment**

Lyle Roe, Minister
715-613-3153 (cell)
715-229-2293 (home)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—OGEMA

W4950 State Highway 86
Ogema, WI 54459

Worship Service: 9:00 AM
3rd Sunday: 10:30 AM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—WESTBORO

N8909 Business Hwy. 13 PO Box 15
Westboro, WI 54490-0214

Worship Service: 10:30 AM
3rd Sunday: 9:00 AM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—PRENTICE

670 Main Street
Prentice, WI 54556

email: firstlutheranprentice@gmail.com

Office Hours: by appointment
715-428-2575

Worship Service: 10:30 AM
3rd Sunday: 8:30 AM

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—BRANTWOOD

N5090 County Road D
Brantwood, WI 54513

Worship Service: 8:30 AM
3rd Sunday: 10 AM

**Visitors and new members are
always welcome!**



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SEPTEMBER
2022

From Northwoods STaR Ministries...

NSM JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join our four congregations of Northwoods STaR Ministries—
First Ogema, First Westboro, First Prentice and Zion Brantwood in
worshiping together this month.

**The joint worship service will be held at First Westboro on
Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 10:30 am with Travis leading
worship. (Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)**
(This will be the only worship service on September 25.)

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

PRAISE THE LORD.
PRAISE THE LORD, MY SOUL.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 | 10:30 am
First Lutheran Church — Westboro

**Upcoming
EVENTS**
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHURCH SUPPERS

Be sure to mark your calendar for
church suppers coming up at
Northwoods STaR Ministries:

October 15 First Ogema Fall Supper
October 22 Zion Brantwood Fall Harvest Dinner
November 5 First Westboro Fall Supper

Look for additional information to come in
the October newsletter
and postings at the churches.



So we, being many, are
one body in Christ, and
individually members of one
another. Romans 12:5

Reading Romans Backwards (Part 1 of 2)

Paul's letter to the Romans is the pinnacle of the apostle's theology — a dense, rich text that biblical studies experts have been poring over for centuries. But I'm willing to bet that few of those scholars tried reading Romans from the end to the beginning, which is what evangelical scholar and popular author Scot McKnight does in his new book, "Reading Romans Backwards: A Gospel of Peace in the Midst of Empire."

"Backmasking" Romans (the term refers to recording backward for effect, as the Beatles did on their song "I'm Only Sleeping") gives us a totally different perspective. The historical context that's at the end of the letter — information about the house churches in Rome, names of the women and men who were in charge and hints about the deep divisions between Jews and Gentiles — is crucial for understanding the meaty theology in the first half.

What's more, it's crucial for understanding the divisions we're experiencing right now. There may never have been a more important time for American Christians to study Romans than during the age of Donald Trump.

Why should we read Romans backward?

Romans is the most significant theological text in the New Testament for the development of Christian theology and yet, today, it is a network of arguments and problems. In reading Romans over the years, I became convinced that the book became abstract theology, if not systematic theology, and it totally lost connection with its historical context.

And here's why: It's a lot of work to read Romans 1 through 8. When you add Romans 9 to 11, it's even more work. By the time people get to Romans 12, they're exhausted, and they skim over it. They make a pledge that next time, they will just use Galatians.

So, what is the most important social and church context for understanding Romans — namely chapters 12 through 16 — is often ignored when people only read Romans 1 through 11. And yet this letter, like all of Paul's letters, is addressed to a specific context and a particular set of people. So, ignoring 12-16 flattens the reading of the book and misses the historical context.

What do we know about the churches Paul was writing to in Rome?

I think there are four major aspects to the context.

The first is that there are probably five house churches in Rome, evidently comprised of mostly slaves with a clear presence of female leaders. So we know the social context. The churches were made up of perhaps 100 mostly poor people.

Second, Phoebe is the letter courier. It is unlikely that Paul hired a professional reader from Rome to read to a group of poor Christians in Rome, so it is highly likely that Phoebe read the letter aloud at least five times, once for each house church. Furthermore, a letter-reader's responsibility was not just to read, but to perform, to ad-lib and to answer questions.

Third, in the Book of Romans we see the most emphasis on the church's division of any letter Paul wrote. There's a chapter and a half of discussion and exhortation to the strong and the weak. "Strong" does not mean theologically brilliant; it means having high social status. And "Weak" does not mean being theologically unengaged, but socially having a low status.

So Paul spends a lot of time talking about the tension between the high- and low-status believers in Rome, who are almost certainly divided between gentile believers (the Strong) and Jewish believers (the Weak). The Strong thought Torah observance was passé, while the Weak thought the Strong's disregard for the Bible's teaching was disobedience.

Fourth, there's an emphasis on Christian living in Romans 12-16, which can be summarized in the idea of learning to live in the way of Christ, conforming to Christ.

Paul did not write this letter to get Romans saved. It is not an evangelistic letter. He wrote this letter to saved Christians to get them to eat together in peace, to live as siblings as Christ, not as enemies with one another.

Paul's mission was not to get gentiles saved, but to get saved gentiles to live in peace with saved Jews. And I don't think that's our emphasis today. It's not on the church, but on personal redemption. Some would root that in Augustine's "Confessions," and others would see it as arising from the Enlightenment and its focus on the individual. That may be where we get our radical emphasis on individualism.

From Lyle...

THANK YOU: Based on the many comments and the response that I saw at the July 31 joint service, worshipping with "Breaking Chains" can definitely be considered a success. A big thank you to Zion and everyone else that helped in some way. The Knox Creek Heritage Center was extremely cooperative in making sure we had what we needed. The willingness and support of the leadership team, the parish council and the church councils to try something different is greatly appreciated.

For the impressive number in attendance, thank you and "stay tuned". Discussion related to having "Breaking Chains" again next year has already begun.

"DIGGING DEEPER": As I run across articles, poems, sayings and etc., that catch my attention, I put them in a file for future reference. The amazing thing is that I normally remember where the file is. The following is the first part of an article written by Pastor David J. Stratton for the clergy column of his local newspaper many years ago. I want to share it with you.

I went through the line at the coffee hour after church. When I got to the coffee cake most of the bottom layer of the cake was still in the pan, though people had been taking their piece and moving on. I, on the other hand, took the spatula and dug into the leavings as this was where the sugar and cinnamon and sticky good stuff were to be found.

The coffee cake was very good, but the bottom was the best.

I wonder how often, we go through life skimming off what is easy, doing whatever to get by, but missing the very best, because we did not dig deeper and give more effort into what life offered?

He goes on to share that he had read a book a week for over 25 years. He did not suggest that everyone do this but felt it had made him a better pastor, a better counselor, and a better person.

We all normally have busy schedules, including myself, but I feel that we all can benefit from making time to "dig deeper". We can "dig deeper" related to a present activity or we can choose a new one. The potential list is endless but a few that come to mind are: volunteering, zoom and livestream events (especially those we couldn't attend in person), a new skill or hobby, assisting at schools, getting to learn about people from different cultures, backgrounds and religions, hiking in nature, lay school of ministry and other educational opportunities.

If you give this a try please share with me your "digging deeper" experience. God's Peace, Lyle

Breaking Chains Service...



We had a beautiful day for the Breaking Chains service. The weather was perfect, the service was well attended by members and guests, and the potluck was delicious. Thank you to Lyle Roe for coordinating this service with Breaking Chains. We look forward to doing this again next year.



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

Community Ecumenical Choir Info

The ecumenical choir will start again in just a few weeks with rehearsals beginning on Tuesday, September 13th. Rehearsals will be at the Ogema Baptist church starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. Performances will be November 6th and 13th. This fall's program will focus on Peace.



THANK YOU TO ALL PARISH MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Thank you to everyone for their generosity in helping provide hygiene kits for Ukraine. First Lutheran Church Westboro sent out 30 kits to Lutheran World Relief with your help. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...



Christian Youth Formation at First Lutheran Church—Prentice

CYF will begin this year on Wednesday, September 7th with a Kick Off at Lion's Park from 3:20—4:30 pm.

Classes will be every other week again this year. The second time we meet will be September 21st

at First Lutheran Church—Prentice from 3:20-4:30 pm. Hope to see everyone there!

Westboro Sunday School Announcement

First Lutheran Church—Westboro will be starting Sunday School Classes on Sunday, October 2.

More info will be provided in October. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!



New Confirmation Year Begins!

The Northwoods STaR Ministries Confirmation program will begin on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 11 am at Zion Lutheran Brantwood. There will be an explanation of this year's program curriculum, registration and meeting with Travis Rogers, who will be leading Confirmation. Students who will be attending Confirmation (both 1st and 2nd year students) and at least one parent or guardian should attend this meeting.

Upcoming Confirmation Schedule:

September 18, 2022	ZION BRANTWOOD at 11 am	October 16, 2022	OGEMA at 11:30 am
September 25, 2022	WESTBORO at 11:30 am	October 23, 2022	WESTBORO at 11:30 am
October 2, 2022	WESTBORO at 11:30 am	October 30, 2022	PRENTICE at 11:30 am
October 9, 2022	PRENTICE at 11:30 am		

(A light lunch will be served for the students/parents during each Confirmation class. Parent attendance is not required at each class, but you are welcome and encouraged to attend.)

Please note that the Confirmation classes will rotate again this year to each of our congregations based on Travis' worship service schedule, meaning the rotation will differ weekly and monthly. We understand that Confirmation class will not be held each Sunday at your home congregation, but we encourage you to join worship at the Confirmation class location and have a chance to visit and meet with members from other congregations.

The NSM Confirmation program is for students from all four of our congregations, as well as any friends who might want to participate. It is designed as a two-year program starting in 7th grade.

Parents/Guardians—If there are any students entering 7th grade that are interested in beginning Confirmation please contact the Parish Office at 715-767-5155 or email: office@1stfamily.org.

NSM Parish-Wide Vacation Bible School 2022

Vacation Bible School 2022 was another huge success! This was the second year for our parish to join together and offer a “parish-wide” VBS program. We had an amazing turnout of 38 kids from our communities participating in the fun and learning! Thank you to everyone to helped contribute in anyway to this wonderful outreach program. We had a monumental time celebrating God's greatness and we look forward to continuing this collaborative effort in next year.



Women of the ELCA News



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

No Meeting in September

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, September 4 following worship

Come see the ladies from the Ogema First Lutheran Church W/ELCA group at the Ogema Christmas Tree Festival, Saturday, September 24, near the Depot. We will be selling treats and beverages during the day's festivities.





**First Lutheran Ogema
Rummage and Bake Sale
October 21st and 22nd**



Bake Sale!

Friday, October 21st—(8 am—4 pm)
Saturday, October 22nd (8 am—Noon)

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

First Lutheran—Ogema

Greeters/Ushers

MEMBERS

Acolytes

MEMBERS

Altar Service

MEMBERS

Food Service

Nancy Meye

Cleaning

MEMBERS

Lawn Mowing

OPEN

First Lutheran — Westboro

Greeters/Ushers

MEMBERS

Acolytes/Altar Service

MEMBERS

Food Service

MEMBERS

Reader

MEMBERS

Cleaner

MEMBERS

Lawn Mowing

MEMBERS

First Lutheran—Prentice

Shepherding Group

MEMBERS

Acolytes

Confirmation Students

Food Service/Funerals

MEMBERS

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood

Cleaning Duty

The Ladies of Zion

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 26 Daniel Berg
Troy Larson
- 27 Ronald Rinehart
Kreg White
- 30 Kayla Kraimer
Michelle Esterholm
Marv Steliga



- 1 Josie Bacholl
- 7 Kiah Kalandar
- 8 Vicky Peterson
- 11 Joyce Peterson
- 13 Chase Jensen
Mason Bryan
- 16 Vi Nelson
- 17 Nancy Meye
- 18 Bev Hora
Jonas Staroba
- 22 Ruth Ann Pipkorn

Baptisms



- 1 Michael Meier
- 4 Jaeger Haubert
- 5 Terry Teeters
- 10 Doug Hora
- 11 Rachel Dahlke
- 22 Michael Hill
- 27 Ethan Schantner
- 30 Josie Bacholl

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- 10 Jared/Roxanne Peterson
- 11 Sam/Michelle Esterholm
- 19 Brian/Wendy Cummings
- 21 Scott/Tracy Raab
- 27 Lance/Dallas Severson
- 29 Ron/Kris Arkola

Bible Study...

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME
TO ATTEND**

BIBLE STUDY

How We Got the Old Testament

This bi-weekly Bible study will focus on the history, languages, and cultures that shaped the Hebrew Bible. We will discuss when the books were written, who actually wrote them, and to whom were they written. It is like a great detective story, following the clues to determine whodunnit.

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

If you can't make it in person,
watch the video...



Find us on
YouTube

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 | 5:30 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 | 5:30 PM
First Lutheran Church—Ogema





September 2022 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 9 am—3 pm First Lutheran Prentice Pie Sale @ Prentice School Cafeteria
4 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	5 9 am Quilters (O) 	6	7 7 pm NSM Worship Leadership Team Mtg (O) 3:20-4:30 pm CYF Kick Off at Prentice Lion's Park	8 5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema	9	10
11 7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	12 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) 10 am Council Meeting (W) 10 am Worship (Z) 11 am Confirmation (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O)	19 9 am Quilters (O)	20	21 3:20-4:30 pm CYF @ First Prentice	22 5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema	23	24 Ogema Christmas Tree Festival
25 9 am Parish Council Meeting (W) 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Westboro (Potluck to follow worship) 11:30 am Confirmation (W)	26 9 am Quilters (O)	27	28	29	30	1

Northwoods STaR Ministries
W4950 State Highway 86
Ogema, WI 54459-8340



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday September 4 13th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

9:00 am Ogema **10:30 am Westboro**

Lyle Roe leading worship (Communion)

Sunday September 11 14th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**

Linda Heikkinen-Leader Deb Strobl-Leader

9:00 am Ogema **10:30 am Westboro**

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

Sunday September 18 15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Prentice **10 am Zion Brantwood**

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

9:00 am Westboro **10:30 am Ogema**

Dennis Scheithauer-Leader Mark Nyberg-Leader

Sunday September 25 16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Joint Service at First Westboro

Travis Rogers, SAM leading worship (Communion)

POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW WORSHIP

Please Note: If you need pastoral care or if you know of anyone who should be contacted about receiving a Communion or home visit, please contact the parish office at 715-767-5155 or email office@1stfamily.org.

Or, you may contact our Ministers: Travis Rogers 715-271-7471 (cell)

Lyle Roe 715-613-3153 (cell) 715-229-2293 (home)

Offering Information...

Your generosity allows our churches to keep moving forward and be able to fulfill the mission, vision, & call God has placed on them. We thank you for your support!

If you aren't with us for worship, offerings can be mailed to your church anytime:

FLC-Prentice, 670 Main Street, Prentice, WI 54556

FLC-Ogema, W4950 State Hwy 86, Ogema, WI 54459

FLC-Westboro, P.O. Box 15, Westboro, WI 54490

Zion LC, c/o Karin Kivela, W2476 US Hwy 8, Brantwood, WI 54513