

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.

DECEMBER
2022

From Northwoods STaR Ministries...

Come & Join Us!

December is filled with a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

For us here at Northwoods STaR Ministries, it is also filled with many wonderful opportunities to worship together this season.

December *Special Worship Events*

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER

4

LIVE NATIVITY IN THE BARN
AT PALMQUIST'S "THE FARM" | 5 PM
N5136 RIVER ROAD, BRANTWOOD, WI

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER

7

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE
FIRST OGEMA | 6 PM

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER

14

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE
ZION BRANTWOOD | 6 PM

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER

21

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE
FIRST PRENTICE | 6 PM

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER

24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
ZION BRANTWOOD | 5:30 PM
FIRST PRENTICE | 7 PM
FIRST OGEMA | 8:30 PM

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER

25

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
FIRST WESTBORO | 10 AM



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

From Travis...

The Canonization of the Bible—Part 1

In my last submission for the newsletter, I talked about Augustine being responsible to the Bible's arrangement as we have it now and I was asked to clarify on that.

The Hebrew Bible or Old Testament was not arranged and canonized until a Jewish council of rabbis and scholars determined what books should be included. That council—the Council of Jamnia—did not take place until 90 AD, a full 57-60 years after the Crucifixion and Ascension of Jesus. The canonization of the New Testament would take another 310 years, in 399 AD. It was a very long and perplexing project.

We just don't know who wrote most of the New Testament. Tradition has assigned the Gospels and most of the Epistles to certain authors, all of whom were important figures in Jesus' life or the early days of the faith. It was important for the early church to believe the authors wrote the works attributed to them, since their eminence lent the writings authority. But since we don't have the original signatures, none can be verified except through textual clues. We are very certain that Paul wrote at least seven (1 Thessalonians, Galatians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon, and Romans) of the 13 letters that are ascribed to him. Three more of those letters (Ephesians, Colossians, and 2 Thessalonians) may be authentic. While the last three (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) are definitely not Paul's. Everything else is up for grabs.

Simply put, the first generation of Christians didn't see any need for a permanent written record of the sayings and stories of Jesus. Jesus' return and the restoration of the Kingdom of God on earth were believed to be imminent, so why bother preserving stories if history was about to end? Stories were simply passed along orally, primarily as a means of preaching and convincing outsiders. But as the first generation began to die off and hopes for the Second Coming dimmed, there arose a need to preserve Jesus' words and deeds for posterity.

Quite a few collections of stories about Jesus circulated in the early church, among them The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary, and the Secret Book of John. Some of these gave very different and, in some cases, conflicting accounts of the gospel and, most importantly, of Jesus' resurrection. Some argued for the physical resurrection, with the mantle of leadership falling on those who had experienced it firsthand: the apostles. Others said the resurrection was a spiritual event that anyone could experience. Some thought this latter "heresy" would have led the church away from an organized entity into a situation where anyone could judge the truth for themselves. As Elaine Pagels points out in *The Gnostic Gospel*, this was no trivial matter. The decision on which interpretation was "correct" was central to the future of the church.

We'll return to the question of how the "canonical" books of the New Testament were determined in the following monthly newsletters. For now, we'll just say that Irenaeus, the bishop of Lyons in 180 AD, decided that the validity of any work had to be judged by whether it was "apostolic." That is, it should have been written by or for one of the twelve apostles. But, as Pagels goes on to say, regardless of whether the names given to the Gospels are those of the actual authors or merely reflect a claim to apostolic authority, "we know virtually nothing about the persons who wrote the Gospels."

Recent scholarship or, more correctly, recent rethinking of previous scholarship has brought an intriguing possibility to the table. Matthew, Mark and Luke are termed the Synoptic Gospels, so called because they generally agree on the details and timeline of Jesus' life, sometimes even using the same words to describe the same events. Because of this similarity, quite a few scholars posit that there was a previous collection of Jesus' sayings and works which all three gospel writers relied on when compiling their histories. This collection, as yet just a theoretical construct, has been given the name "Q" (short for *Quelle*, German for "source"). My own thinking is that the Gospel of Thomas would have served in that role.

It's a tempting idea. Mark is regarded as the earliest gospel and hence closest to Q. Of the 661 verses in Mark, only 24 aren't quoted in either Matthew or Luke. Matthew and Luke occasionally disagree with Mark regarding Jesus' words or the order of events, but they never both disagree on the same point.



From Lyle...

Merry Advent Season: Here we are, approaching Christmas again. It seems like the last year has flown by and the month of December contains additional events and activities.

It is my hope and wish that all of us can find some joy and special meaning at least part of the time. However, it is my opinion that it is not always possible to be joyous. That is normal. It happens to all of us at times. Do not let it "beat you up". Try to avoid being pressured or letting others pressure you to feel more upbeat.

I do though believe it is important to not shut the door. Leave it open in case positive experience wants in. I also feel we need to be careful not to put pressure on someone to get involved. Provide the opportunity but don't pressure.

An Idea for Advent: I encourage the following activity. The idea is to give you a moment of calm and peace. If it stresses you instead, consider not doing it.

At least once a day, take a moment, breath in and out a couple of times and think about something positive about advent, God, Jesus or anything happening in your life. If you are having a "blue" day, then tell God, who always listens. The idea is to give you a short break, not add to your day.

A Blessing To You:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson...



On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.



From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson continued...

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson

Bible Study...



How We Got the Old Testament

BIBLE STUDY

We will be taking a break with our Bible Study Classes in December. Classes will resume in January. Until then, you can catch up with our recorded classes on YouTube.



Find us on **YouTube**

Women of the ELCA News...



ATTENTION—All First Ogema Ladies—we are asking for everyone to bring 3 dozen cookies to our meeting on December 11. (They do not need to be individually wrapped.) If you are unable to attend the meeting, cookies can be dropped off at the church before December 11.



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE—

No Meeting in December

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA—

Sunday, December 11 following worship

Cookie Packing Day



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



ATTENTION WESTBORO MEMBERS:

First Westboro will continue their noisy offering in December for the Heifer project/ELCA Good Gifts.



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



Nearly 30 College Care Packages were prepared at First Prentice by Northwoods STaR Ministries members. The boxes were sent out to our college students to let them know we are thinking of them as they are away at school. Thank you to everyone who helped with the process.



Live Nativity in the BARN

Special Worship Service Event

PALMQUIST'S "THE FARM"
N5136 River Road
Brantwood, WI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022
5 PM
(DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER)

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & FELLOWSHIP WILL FOLLOW IN THE PICKAROON LODGE

SPONSORED BY:
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANTWOOD
AND NORTHWOODS STAR MINISTRIES

NORTHWOODS
STaR MINISTRIES
"United in Christ, Sharing God's Love"

Please join us as we present this Christmas gift to our community. Experience the story of Jesus' birth with live animals, scripture readings and Christmas hymns.

Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

Join Us

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

DECEMBER 7
FIRST LUTHERAN OGEMA | 6 PM

DECEMBER 14
ZION LUTHERAN BRANTWOOD | 6 PM

DECEMBER 21
FIRST LUTHERAN PRENTICE | 6 PM



Everyone in the community is invited to join us for a worship series, called God with Us, based on the Advent themes of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.



Zion Brantwood Harvest Dinner...



Zion Brantwood Harvest Dinner setup and crew.

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...

Christian Youth Formation at First Lutheran Church—Prentice

CYF schedule for December

- December 7 | 3:20—4:30 pm
- December 21 | 3:20—4:30 pm



Confirmation Schedule for December

December 4, 2022—Help with Live Nativity Service
 December 11, 2022—WESTBORO at 11:30 am
 December 18, 2022—ZION BRANTWOOD at 11 am
 Classes will resume in January.

confirmation class 



**First Westboro
 Connor Paul Highfill**

Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.
 Joshua 1:9 CEV



On Sunday, November 6, 2022, during the regular worship services at First Westboro and First Ogema, members witnessed these confirmands as they affirmed their faith through the rite of Confirmation. These two young adults made public profession of their faith in front of their congregations of family and friends after having completed their Confirmation education. Be sure to welcome our newest members to First Westboro, First Ogema and Northwoods STaR Ministries.



**First Ogema
 Blake Edward Griebel**
 "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."
 Acts 16:31 RSV



CONFIRMATION
 Affirmation of Baptism



Westboro Sunday School Program Sunday, December 18 9 am

During regular worship service
 Jesus birthday cake following the service

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

First Lutheran—Ogema

Greeters/Ushers

MEMBERS

Acolytes

MEMBERS

Altar Service

MEMBERS

Food Service

Sandy Henthorn

Cleaning

MEMBERS

Snow Shoveling

OPEN

First Lutheran — Westboro

Greeters/Ushers

MEMBERS

Acolytes/Altar Service

MEMBERS

Food Service

MEMBERS

Reader

MEMBERS

Cleaner

MEMBERS

First Lutheran—Prentice

Shepherding Group

MEMBERS

Acolytes

Confirmation Students

Food Service/Funerals

MEMBERS

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood

Cleaning Duty

Karin Kivela & The Ladies of Zion

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Wendy Cummings
Grant Cravaack
Ethan Heikkinen
- 3 Ron Larson
- 4 Jim Wiles
- 5 Kyle Cummings
- 6 Jeanne Cummings
- 8 Francis Dums
Marlene Johnson
- 10 Roxanne Peterson
- 16 Butch Dahlke

- 17 Beverly Hartmann
- 18 Ken Pearson
- 19 Dolores Olson
Seamus Highfill
- 20 Ron Arkola
- 21 Kimberly Ertl
- 23 Olivia Bishop
Ryne Gerstberger
Tim Peterson
Craig Cummings
David Pfarr
- 25 Serena Moore
- 28 Kason Moore
- 30 Claryssa Moore



Baptisms



- 1 Karagan Esterholm
- 2 Nicholas Cravaack
- 3 Caelyn Ulrich
- 15 Alice Nelson
- 16 Kiah Kalandar
Kim Kalandar
Sheridan Kalandar

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- 1 Bob/Dawn Pipkorn
- 29 Kevin/Jamie Hawkins
- 31 Kreg/Kathleen White

Offering Information...

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

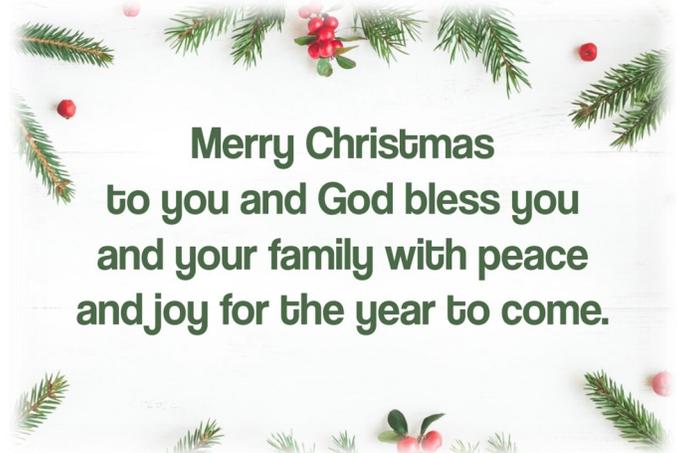
Offerings can be mailed to your church anytime:

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





December 2022 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
			Hanging of the Greens Services 5:30 pm First Prentice 7 pm First Ogema 			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:15 am Sunday School (W) 5 pm Live Nativity Joint Worship Service @ Palmquist's Farm Light refreshments and fellowship following service (only worship service on 12/4) 	9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)		3:20-4:30 pm CYF @ First Prentice 6 pm Advent Service (O)  Parish Council Meeting after Advent worship			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) W/ELCA Mtg /cookie packing following worship (O) 9:15 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) 11:30 am Confirmation (W)	9 am Quilters (O)		6 pm Advent Service (Z) 			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) w/Sunday School Program 10 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) 11 am Confirmation (Z)	9 am Quilters (O)		3:20-4:30 pm CYF @ First Prentice 6 pm Advent Service (P) 			Christmas Eve Worship Services 5:30 pm Worship (Z) 7 pm Worship (P) 8:30 pm Worship (O) 
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day Worship Service 10 am Worship (W) (only worship service on 12/25) 	9 am Quilters (O)					

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2022

Sunday December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent

5 pm Joint Worship Service at Palmquist's Farm

Live Nativity in the Barn—Travis Rogers leading worship

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

Wednesday December 7

6 pm Ogema—Advent Worship Service

Travis Rogers leading worship

Sunday December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent

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)

Wednesday December 14

6 pm Zion Brantwood—Advent Worship Service

Travis Rogers leading worship

Sunday December 18 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Prentice 10 am Zion Brantwood

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

9:00 am Westboro 10:30 am Ogema

RuthAnne Pipkorn/Sunday School Jeanne Cummings-Leader

Wednesday December 21

6 pm Prentice—Advent Worship Service

Travis Rogers leading worship

Saturday December 24 Christmas Eve

5:30 pm Zion Brantwood

7 pm Prentice

8:30 pm Ogema

Travis Rogers leading all worship services (Communion)

Sunday December 25 Christmas Day

10 am Westboro

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

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)