

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.

APRIL
2023

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 for a **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**.

The joint worship service will be held at Zion Brantwood on
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 10:30 am with Lyle leading worship.

(This will be the only worship service on April 30.)

There will be a fellowship potluck lunch after the service—
so bring a dish to pass.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

10:30 am

Zion Lutheran Church — Brantwood

A SERVICE OF JOY AND
LAUGHTER IN EASTER

HOLY
HUMOR
SUNDAY
Let's laugh out loud!



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

From Travis...

The Law of Love (Part 1)

My favorite epistle and my favorite chapter of that epistle is the epistle of *First John*, chapter 4.

This text cuts through all the rules, all the legalism, that religiosity tries to place on us. The theology of *First John* rests firmly and completely on the new commandment that Jesus gave us as recorded in the Gospel According to John 13:34-35. *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Yes, the Hebrew Bible gave us 10 commandments to follow. But those commandments were to be descriptive of the life of a believer. Sadly, we have all too often made those commandments to be prescriptive. That is to say, we make those ten declarations to be laws when, in fact, the Hebrew word for *Torah* is not law but *teachings*. When we turn those declarations into prescriptive law, it means that we are more concerned with the rigidity of following those rules to the letter. By declaring them to be descriptive, and we believe they are, those ten statements serve to describe what our lives should look like. Therefore, when we break those commandments, the tragedy is not in a broken commandment but that it reveals and identifies a brokenness inside ourselves.

The Transformative Commandment of Love

John, in his Gospel and in his first epistle, shows the transformative command of Jesus that we are to love – love God and love each other. Love becomes the proof of our relationship to God and it is the hallmark of the life of the believer in the way that we love each other. By loving others, we are showing our closeness to God by loving those whom God loves. To freely love others means we remove all judgement of them and attempt to see them as God sees them.

So, when we “break a commandment”, we are showing our lack of love—the broken part of us that does not love as we should.

Loving Much

Luke 7:41-48 reads, “A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

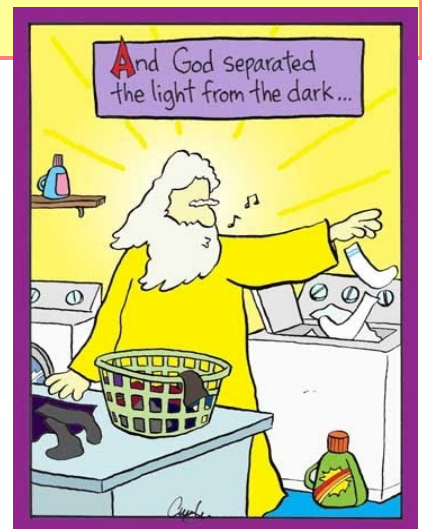
The Danish theologian and philosopher Søren Kierkegaard wrote extensively on this passage and on chapter four from *First John*. Kierkegaard rightly points out that we have gotten the cart before the horse by saying that forgiveness comes before love. It certainly looks that way in a casual reading of Luke Chapter 7 but, on closer investigation, we see that the woman lavishes her love and the final act is Jesus saying that her sins are forgiven. Love, Kierkegaard declares, precedes forgiveness.

From Lyle...

I hope the Season of Lent has been good for you. We just completed the last Wednesday night service and we will be into the Easter season starting with Palm Sunday, also known as the Sunday of Passion.

Joint Service: I want to jump ahead to the last Sunday Joint Service at Zion-Brantwood on April 30, 10:30 a.m. This will be a service with the same basic structure but with a twist. It will be a Holy Humor service.

I will be conducting that service and will be needing your help. There will be scripture, reflections and times to share church appropriate jokes and humor. Please come prepared to share jokes. If that isn't your “cup of tea”, feel free to bring a joke that someone else could read.



April 2023 Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson ...

Matthew 28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it... the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said... go quickly and tell his disciples."



Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,
Join me and that great cloud of witnesses this Easter in the acclamation:
Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

The gospel reading for this Easter is from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the only gospel writer that records an **earthquake** on Easter morning. The women arrive at the tomb and are greeted by an earthquake, an angel rolling back the stone, and the news that their Lord and Savior wasn't there, JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD. What? The women were filled with shock and fear. The aftershocks of this earthquake are still felt. The news that death doesn't win and is defeated by the power of God in Christ Jesus continues to shock and amaze us.

What if we imagined Easter not as a lovely spring ritual filled with pastel-colored eggs and candy but as the violent earthquake that it is? Few living in the Midwest have experienced an earthquake. A pastor born in California remembers her mother putting rubber bands on the kitchen cupboard handles so the china dishes wouldn't fall out when there was an earthquake. When has a death of a loved one shaken the foundation of your world? When have you realized how fragile life can be? Christ's resurrection from the dead, his victory over sin, death, and the devil shakes up everything. It is the good news that can even shake us loose from our grief.

What if we experienced Easter as a violent earthquake more like a fresh egg dropped to the floor than one hard-boiled and beautifully decorated? What if the Easter Earthquake shakes us awake, shakes everything out of the cupboards and closets so we are forced to do spring cleaning and decide what to put back and what to throw out? What if we get rid of stuff that doesn't work and give more space to what's important? What is really important? What is God's will for you? What are our Easter priorities?

What if this year the Easter Earthquake cracks open and rolls away the stone from our hearts, shakes loose old ideas, breaks down rock-hard prejudices, and opens us up to new ways to love our neighbor and to share this amazing good news that Jesus lives? What new life might rise up from the rubble? What new relationships might develop? Like a chick struggles to break free of the egg's shell, new beginnings are rarely easy, but they are worth it.

The good news is that Christ's resurrection from the dead and his victory over death is good news even to those who have experienced a literal shifting of tectonic plates beneath the earth. On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Turkey and Syria leaving over 50,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands more wounded, displaced, or homeless. More than 10,000 aftershocks have been felt since February 6 leading to more deaths, fear, and trauma. The aftershocks will continue for a long time.

This Easter, in response to the earthquake that opened the tomb and to the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead, I encourage you to give a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response to help the victims of the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Here is a link to help you do that. https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis?_ga=2.89763675.1129066314.1679579365-256581953.1608055964

Suddenly there was a great earthquake...

In Christ, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 2 Palm Sunday

Zion Brantwood 8:30 am

First Ogema 9 am

First Prentice 10:30 am

First Westboro 10:30 am

April 6 Maundy Thursday

Zion Brantwood 5:30 pm

First Ogema 7 pm

April 7 Good Friday

(Tenebrae Services)

First Westboro 1pm

First Prentice 5:30 pm

First Ogema 7pm

April 9 Easter Sunday

◇ Easter Breakfast @ First Ogema
from 7:30—8:30 am

Zion Brantwood 8:30 am

First Ogema 9 am

◇ Continental Potluck Easter Breakfast
@ First Westboro from 9:30-10:15 am

First Prentice 10:30 am

First Westboro 10:30 am



EASTER GARDEN FLOWERS

At First Prentice and First Ogema:

REMINDER: If anyone is interested in bringing a plant or flower to church to help decorate our sanctuaries for Easter, you can bring them in any time — even on Easter Sunday. Green plants as well as flowering plants make a beautiful garden!

At Zion Brantwood:

If you plan on donating flowers for Zion's Easter Garden have them to the church on or before Saturday morning April 8th.



EASTER BREAKFAST SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

First Ogema

French toast, scrambled eggs, sausages, fruit, coffee & juice
Serving from 7:30-8:30 am

Join us for breakfast to start your Easter morning!

First Westboro

Continental potluck breakfast from 9:30-10:15 am
Bring a treat to share or just come and join us!

RUMMAGE

SALE

AND

Bake Sale

First Lutheran Church
Ogema, WI

**Friday, April 21, 2023
8 AM to 4 PM**

**Saturday, April 22, 2023
8 AM to NOON**

Women of the ELCA of First Lutheran Church—Ogema
W4950 State Hwy 86 | Ogema, WI



**The Community Ecumenical Choir
2023 Spring Concert Information:**

Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2 pm
Ogema Baptist Church

Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 7 pm
Prentice Baptist Church

Bible Study...

How We Got the Old Testament BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 | 5:30 PM & 7 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023 | 5:30 PM & 7 PM

First Lutheran Church—Ogema



Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 9:30 am

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

No April meeting scheduled

All women who are members are also members of Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA).

We are involved in many areas to promote health and well-being of our church and those who need our help elsewhere.

Please join us!

April Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Linda Dahlke
- 4 Carlina Frombach
- 4 Harlow Frahm
- 5 Waylon Granberg
- 7 Scott Brehm
- 8 Colton Cummings
- 9 William Cummings
- 10 Sadie Jensen
- 11 Megan Enders
- Josh Esterholm
- Sawyer Frahm
- 13 Cindy Dering

- 16 Melinda Peterson
- Megan Pipkorn
- Adam Raab
- 17 Tim Griebel
- Angus Peterson
- Brinley Jensen
- Ty Heikkinen
- 19 Olivia Nehls
- Emily Rodman
- Sarah Pfarr
- 25 Thomas Erickson
- 28 Melissa Raab
- Devyn Raab



- 4 Grant Cravaack
- 5 Todd Pemper
- 8 Julia Hora
- 15 Larry Englund
- 17 Wayne Hora



- 5 Dan/Candy Zutavern
- Carl/Vicky Peterson



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



Zion Brantwood's First Quarter Noisy Offering was donated to a family in need in our area.

First Ogema will be continuing a noisy offering in April for the Outreach Fund to help with sponsoring an Easter Family and other giving projects this spring.

Thank you to everyone for your help in collecting change to make a change.



NSM Vacation Bible School...

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2023



Held at First Lutheran Church-Ogema
July 30—August 3, 2023
(Sunday—Thursday)
5:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Supper @ 5)
All kids are welcome!
Age 4k—5th Grade (Entering Fall 2023)



Our Parish-Wide VBS will send everyone over the moon!
Be sure to join us!

This year's theme:
STELLAR - Shine Jesus' Light

Kids will launch into a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. STELLAR VBS will rocket kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...

Prentice First Lutheran Church CYF Class

Our CYF class was learning how Jesus loves them. Sincere gratitude to our CYF Leaders: Deb Strobl, Shawnda Hora and Bev Hora who all make this program happen for our children. First Prentice provided this wonderful after-school Christian youth learning opportunity for kids in our area for many years and with the size of our active group, we plan on many more.



JESUS
LOVES me THIS
I KNOW
for THE Bible
tells ME so.



Christian Youth Formation at First Lutheran Church— Prentice

CYF schedule for April

- April 5 | 3:20—4:30 pm
- April 19 | 3:20—4:30 pm



Confirmation Schedule for April

- April 2, 2023—WESTBORO at 11:30 am
- April 9, 2023—NO CLASS ON EASTER SUNDAY
- April 16, 2023—OGEMA at 11:30 am
- April 23, 2023—PRENTICE at 11:30 am
- April 30, 2023—ZION at 11:30 am

WESTBORO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School, along with support from the congregation, picked out ELCA Good Gifts including a piglet, bees, fish farm, school supplies, seeds & garden tools and fruit tree seeds.



**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**



**Give a gift
that isn't
easy to
wrap.**

Shop **ELCA Good Gifts**
for 50 different gifts
that grow the church,
fight hunger and
transform lives.

ELCA.org/goodgifts



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



April 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
 <p>8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:15 am Sunday School (W) 9:30 am W/ELCA Mtg (P) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) 11:30 am Confirmation (W)</p>	<p>9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)</p>		<p>3:20-4:30 pm CYF @ First Prentice</p>	 <p>5:30 pm Worship (Z) 7 pm Worship (O)</p>	 <p>1 pm Worship (W) 5:30 pm Worship (P) 7 pm Worship (O)</p>	
 <p>7:30 am Easter Breakfast (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:15 am Easter Breakfast (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)</p>	<p>9 am Quilters (O)</p>			<p>5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema</p>		
<p>8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) 10 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) 11:30 am Confirmation (O)</p>	<p>9 am Quilters (O)</p>		<p>3:20-4:30 pm CYF @ First Prentice</p>		<p>8 am to 4 pm Rummage/Bake Sale @ First Ogema</p>	<p>8 am to Noon Rummage/Bake Sale @ First Ogema</p>
<p>8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:15 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) 11:30 am Confirmation (P)</p>	<p>9 am Quilters (O)</p>			<p>5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema</p> <p>7 pm Bible Study @ First Ogema</p>		
<p>9:15 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Holy Humor Joint Worship Service at Zion Brantwood (Potluck to follow worship) 11:30 am Confirmation (Z)</p>						

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service

Jeanne Cummings

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty

The Ladies of Zion

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2023

Sunday April 2 Palm Sunday

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**
Lyle Roe leading worship (Communion)
9:00 am Ogema **10:30 am Westboro**
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

Thursday April 6 Maundy Thursday w/Travis

5:30 pm Zion Brantwood
7 pm Ogema

Friday April 7 Good Friday Tenebrae w/Travis

1 pm Westboro
5:30 pm Prentice
7 pm Ogema

Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday

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 April 16 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Prentice **10 am Zion Brantwood**
Deb Strobl-Leader Linda Heikkinen-Leader
9:00 am Westboro **10:30 am Ogema**
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

Sunday April 23 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)
9:00 am Ogema **10:30 am Westboro**
Jeanne Cummings-Leader Dennis Scheithauer-Leader

Sunday April 30 4th Sunday of Easter

10:30 am Joint Service at Zion Brantwood
Lyle Roe leading Holy Humor 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)