

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: 10:30 AM

Visitors and new members are
always welcome!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**September
2023**

From Northwoods STaR Ministries...

NSM COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

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

The joint worship service will be held at First Westboro on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 10:30 am with Travis leading worship. (Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)

This will be the only worship service on September 24.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | 10:30 am
First Lutheran Church — Westboro

**Every day I will bless You, And I will
praise Your name forever and ever.**

Psalms 145:2



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

From Travis...

During the month of August, I was given the opportunity to attend the parliament of world religions. The first such meeting took place in Chicago in 1893 and has met at intervals of nearly 30 years since then. This year, the parliament returned to Chicago and this represented a once in a lifetime opportunity for me to attend.

I was blessed beyond measure that the parish council and the four congregations agreed just send me to this parliament. These, lodging, and mileage we're generously provided by the parish and congregations. In addition, several individuals contributed to help offset the costs of meals. In other words, there is no way I could have attended this conference without the generosity of the parish, the congregations, and generous parishioners. For that, I am eternally grateful and humbled.

The parliament itself was an eye-opening experience in regard to the personal connections and heartwarming experiences of meeting people from so many diverse spiritual traditions and cultures. I met some of the most wonderful people in the world: leaders from Hinduism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity, as well as Sikhs, Jains, Druids, Bahá'í, and Neo Pagans.

In open and honest discussions, we found ourselves stripping away the external descriptions and labels that had been applied to the various groups. What we discovered was that all of us, no matter what we called God or how we described God, were searching and opening ourselves to God—to the Divine. One of the high priestesses of a wiccan group pointed a finger and said, "You all think that we are Satan worshippers. We are not. We don't even acknowledge Satan. You say that we are nature worshippers but we are not. We venerate nature as an expression of the Divine. For us, nature is a finger that points toward the Divine. If you concentrate on the finger, you never see what it is pointing at. We are looking for the Divine, just like you."

Jews, Christians, and Muslims Punched that all three are worshipping the same God. It is simply that we call God by different names. In fact, Muslims call God "Allah." That is simply the Arabic word for God and even Arabic Christians will refer to God as Allah. It is simply a difference in languages.

On one day, lunch was to be provided by the Sikh community which was going to consist of a vegetarian meal of curry and the like. I had made a Sikh friend whose name was Sadhu Singh. Sadu plaintively said, "I eat Sikh food every day of my life. Can we please go someplace else?" We agreed to go to an Italian restaurant that I had spotted and Sadhu was very pleased at the suggestion.

When we walked into the restaurant, we were seated by the host. There we were, a Sikh with his turban, a Muslim Imam with his Kufi (prayer cap), a Jewish rabbi with his yarmulke (skull cap), a Roman Catholic priest with his collar, and me in my blue jeans. When the waitress walked up, she looked at the five of us and said, "This is like the beginning of a bad joke!"

Right after she had taken our orders and stepped away from our table, the radio played George Harrison's My Sweet Lord. Each of us said, in similar phrases, "Oh, I love this song." We spent the next 15 or 20 minutes discussing and analyzing the theology behind the great song. Each of us had our own interpretation, according to our religious tradition, but that single event helped us to understand just how much we were alike and how very small the differences were between us.

If we learned anything in that week, it was to strip away preconceptions and labels that have been imposed on us by others. We are all seeking the same goal. We are all looking for God.



A CALL TO CONSCIENCE:
Defending Freedom
& Human Rights



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

PRENTICE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prentice Progress Days

Pie Sale

Fundraiser

**Saturday,
September 2, 2023**

**PRENTICE
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

9 AM - 1 PM
(or until sold out)



NORTHWOODS
STAr MINISTRIES

"United in Christ, Sharing God's Love"

BIBLE STUDY

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

Bible Study Classes to begin in October

Our bi-weekly Bible study this year will focus on World Religions. Classes will start on Thursday, October 12 and are open to everyone. Bring a friend and join us! Be sure to watch for more information next month.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AT FIRST PRENTICE

Early Service at First Prentice with Breakfast

Start your Sunday off with attending church and enjoying a great breakfast at First Prentice.

Join us Sunday, September 17 at 8:30 am for our "Early Service at First Prentice with Breakfast" following. Hot breakfast will be served upstairs to enable all to participate.



Taking Care of Our Church

FIRST PRENTICE held a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 13 to approve painting the church steeple and window trim. The project was completed and the fresh coat of paint looks amazing.



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

**OGEMA FIRST
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PARFAIT
PIE CUP SALE**

*Ogema Christmas
Tree Festival*

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

9 AM - UNTIL SOLD OUT

LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE
OGEMA HOUSE HOTEL

Made by
MAIN STREET CAFE



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

**ATTENTION FIRST OGEMA MEMBERS
FALL CLEANING DAYS SCHEDULED**

Members of First Ogema—we need your help at church for some outdoor cleaning/yardwork projects.

We will be working on landscaping around the church (weeding & trimming shrubs) and washing outside windows. Work days will be Saturday, September 9 and Saturday, September 23. Both days will start at 9 am and should end by Noon.



CHURCH SUPPERS

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

October 14— First Ogema Fall Supper
**October 28—Zion Brantwood
Fall Harvest Dinner**
TBD—First Westboro Fall Supper



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

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

NSM Parish-Wide Vacation Bible School 2023



Vacation Bible School 2023 was another huge success! It's hard to believe this was our third year of our "parish-wide" VBS program. We had an great turnout of kids from our communities participating in the fun and learning! Thank you to everyone who helped contribute in anyway to this wonderful outreach program. We had a stellar time shining Jesus' light and we look forward to continuing this collaborative effort next year.



Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...



New Confirmation Year Begins!

The Northwoods STaR Ministries Confirmation program will begin on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at Noon at Ogema First Lutheran. 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 10, 2023 OGEMA at Noon
September 17, 2023 OGEMA at Noon
September 24, 2023 WESTBORO at Noon

(Parent attendance is not required at each class, but you are welcome and encouraged to attend.)

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 who are interested in beginning Confirmation, please contact the Parish Office at 715-767-5155 or Travis at 715-271-7471.

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...

Westboro Sunday School Announcement

First Lutheran Church—Westboro will be starting Sunday School Classes on Sunday, October 1. If anyone is interested in helping teach, please let Mary or Ruth Anne know. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

SUNDAY
SCHOOL

Christian Youth Formation at First Lutheran Church—Prentice

Although we will miss seeing the kids each month for activities at church, we have made the decision to take a break this year from having our Wednesday, CYF program at First Prentice.

WE'RE
TAKING
A BREAK!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Josie Bacholl
- 7 Kiah Kalandar
- 8 Vicky Peterson
- 11 Joyce Peterson
- 14 Mason Bryan
- 18 Bev Hora
Jonas Staroba
- 22 Ruth Anne Pipkorn
- 26 Troy Larson
- 30 Kayla Kraimer
Michelle Esterholm
Marv Steliga



Baptisms

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Michael Meier | 10 | Doug Hora |
| 4 | Jaeger Haubert | 11 | Rachel Dahlke |
| 5 | Terry Teeters | 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
- 29 Ron/Kris Arkola



Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA

Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

Sunday, October 8 at 9:30 am

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, September 10, 2023, following worship



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!



September 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 9 am—until sold out First Lutheran Prentice Pie Sale @ Prentice School Cafeteria (Prentice Progress Days)
3 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	4 9 am Quilters (O) HAPPY LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9 9 am—Noon First Ogema Fall Outside Cleanup
10 7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) & W/ELCA Mtg (O) after worship 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	11 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship (P) (Breakfast following worship @ Prentice) 9 am Worship (W) 10 am Council Mtg (W) 10:30 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) Noon Confirmation (O)	18 9 am Quilters (O)	19	20	21	22	23 9 am—Noon First Ogema Fall Outside Cleanup
24 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Westboro (Potluck to follow worship) Noon Confirmation (W)	25 9 am Quilters (O)	26	27	28	29	30 9 am—until sold out First Lutheran Ogema Parfait Pie Cup Sale @ Ogema House Hotel (Ogema Christmas Tree Festival)

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service

Jill Price

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty

Sarah Pfarr and The Ladies of Zion



Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, October 29, 2023 | 9 am
First Lutheran—Prentice

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday September 3 14th 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**

Jeanne Cummings-Leader Ruth Anne Pipkorn-Leader

Sunday September 10 15th 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 17 16th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Prentice

Shanwda Hora –Leader

10:30 am Zion Brantwood

Linda Heikkinen—Leader

9:00 am Westboro

10:30 am Ogema

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

Sunday September 24 17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Joint Service at First Westboro

Travis Rogers 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)

Missed a service?

Click to watch all our sermons on

