

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**

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.

**OCTOBER
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
worshiping together this month on Reformation Sunday.

**The joint worship service will be held at First Prentice on
Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 10:30 am with Travis leading worship.
(Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)**

This will be the only worship service on October 29.



Best Wishes to Lyle...

Our prayers and undying gratitude go
with Lyle Roe for his two years of
service as a Synodically Authorized
Minister (SAM) for the Northwoods
STaR Ministries. Sunday, September 24,
was Lyle's last Sunday with us.



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



From Travis...

The Law of Love Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

I feel very pleased and privileged that today is the day I'm allowed to speak on behalf of Pastor Asafa. When I saw the texts for this Sunday, I was overjoyed to find that not only is my favorite epistle to be found but so is my favorite chapter. That is, the epistle of *First John*, chapter 4.

Cutting through the Legalism

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.

Love Fulfills the Law

In fact, Kierkegaard, and others like him, have focused on Jesus' declaration that love fulfills the law. In other words, when we love as we should and act according to that love, the law will be fulfilled ... The commandments will go unbroken. Loving as God loves shows are kinship and obedience to God.

God is Love

Verse 16 of the *First John* text declares without reservation that *God is love* and, related to that is, *those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them*.

See how easy it is. The commandment is simply love. Saint Augustine put it another way by saying love and do what you want. That sounds rather free-spirited and “new agey” but the fact is that, if we truly love and love as we ought, then there is no danger in us doing what we want because what we want will always serve love.

(continued)



From Travis continued...

The many commandments of the law have been condensed into the commandment to love. As Jesus said love the Lord your God with all your heart your mind and your strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Those aren't two commandments. They are the A and B sections of one commandment. The commandment is love and the two clauses simply tell us who to love.

Nothing to Fear

John concludes that passage by saying that, if we love as we ought, then there is nothing to fear on the day of judgment. Because *"there is no fear in love but"* and this is one of my favorite passages of the whole Bible *"perfect love casts out fear."*

On that day, we will have no fear of punishment, if we have reached perfection in love. And we will have reached it. Christ assures us of that.

Now here's the fun part for me. Next time, we get to pick up with the very next verse of the very next chapter. We'll call it Part 2.

Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



Ogema First Lutheran Church

FALL Supper

First Lutheran Church - Ogema
W4950 State Hwy 86
Ogema, WI

Saturday, October 14, 2023
4 - 6 PM

Delicious homemade lasagna served with
garlic bread, corn, coleslaw,
dessert & beverage
\$10
(Children under 5 - Free)
Carry-outs will be available

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



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRANTWOOD

Fall Harvest Dinner

Saturday, October 28, 2023
4 - 6 pm

BRANTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
W1593 US HWY 8, BRANTWOOD, WI

HOMEMADE BISON STEW AND BREAD,
PICKLES, PIE AND BEVERAGES
ALL YOU CAN EAT - \$10
(CHILDREN UNDER 5 - FREE)

Homemade bread and pies also for sale.

Raffle Prizes
Tickets are available for
purchase from Zion Members
and at the Harvest Dinner.

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



First Westboro Fall Supper
Saturday, November 4
Westboro VFW Hall | 4—6 pm
(more info next month)



October Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Jean Kilty
- 2 Sawyer Haubert
- 3 Tom Sarkkinen
- 5 Sheridan Kalandar
- Charles Schantner
- 6 Mark Nyberg
- Jace Moore
- 8 Noah Schantner
- 11 Sandra Nehls

- 13 Richard Peterson
- 14 Annette Larson
- 15 Pat Zomchek
- 18 Sara Griebel
- 19 Nicolas Voda
- 21 Liam Raab
- 23 Jenny Voda
- 28 Adam Granberg
- 30 Kate Schmidt



- 15 Josh Esterholm
- Katherine Mindock
- 17 Thomas Erickson

- 18 Robert Hora
- 19 Samuel Esterholm
- 26 Jennifer Stroba
- 27 Kate Schmidt
- 28 Keagan Esterholm



- 6 Bob/Gayle Larson
- 9 Kyle/Michelle Komarek
- 11 Mick/RuthAnne Pipkorn
- 19 Tim/Jacky Peterson



Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

Sunday, October 8 at 9:30 am

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, October 8, 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!

Bible Study

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 | 5:30 PM & 7 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 | 5:30 PM & 7 PM

First Lutheran Church—Prentice

YOU'RE INVITED

Thursday, October 12, begins the new season for our Bible Study with Travis Rogers. This year, the class will be meeting in Prentice on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 5:30 pm and 7 pm and are open to everyone. The focus will be on World Religions. Bring a friend and join us!



World Religions

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...



Confirmation Schedule for October

October 1, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
 October 8, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
 October 15, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
 October 22, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
 October 29, 2023—PRENTICE at Noon
 (following the Joint Worship Service)

Westboro Sunday School

Classes will begin on Sunday, October 1 from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. (Third Sundays will be 10 am to 10:45 am) Joint Service Sundays will be subject to change. A schedule will be provided to students/families.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone!



October 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:30 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	2 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	3	4	5	6	7
8 7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) & W/ELCA Mtg (O) after worship 9:30 am Sunday School (W) 9:30 am W/ELCA Meeting (P) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	9 9 am—Noon First Ogema W/ELCA Work Day	10	11	12 5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Prentice 7 pm Bible Study @ First Prentice	13	14 First Ogema Fall Supper 4—6 pm
15 8:30 am Worship (P) (Breakfast following worship @ Prentice) 9 am Worship (W) 10 am Council Mtg (W) 10 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) Noon Confirmation (O)	16 9 am Quilters (O)	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:30 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	23 9 am Quilters (O)	24	25	26 5:30 pm Bible Study @ First Prentice 7 pm Bible Study @ First	27	28 Zion Harvest Dinner @ Brantwood Community Center 4-6 pm
29 9 am Parish Council Mtg (P) 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Prentice (Potluck to follow worship) Noon Confirmation (P)	30 9 am Quilters (O)	31 	1	2	3	4 First Westboro Fall Supper @ VFW Hall 4—6 pm



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, October 15 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.



OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service

Jennifer Krammer

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty

The Ladies of Zion

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

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2023

Sunday October 1 18th 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

Mark Nyberg-Leader Mary Wagenknecht-Leader

Sunday October 8 19th 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 October 15 20th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Prentice 10:30 am Zion Brantwood

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

9:00 am Westboro 10:30 am Ogema

Dennis Scheithauer—Leader Jeanne Cummings—Leader

Sunday October 22 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Zion Brantwood 10:30 am Prentice

Linda Heikkinen—Leader Shawnda Hora—Leader

9:00 am Ogema 10:30 am Westboro

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

Sunday October 29 Reformation Sunday

10:30 am Joint Service at First Prentice

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW WORSHIP

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

Missed a service?

Click to watch all our sermons on

