

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.

**NOVEMBER
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.

**The joint worship service will be held at First Westboro on
Sunday, November 26, 2023, at 10:30 am with Travis leading
worship. (Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)**

This will be the only worship service on November 26.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

Give thanks to
THE LORD

Sunday, November 26, 2023 | 10:30 am
First Lutheran Church — Westboro



Don't forget to
Fall Back!



**Daylight saving time ends
Sunday, November 5 at 2 am.**
**Set your clocks back one hour before
bed on Saturday night.**



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



From Travis...

What is going on in Palestine and Israel is about 70 years old. People want to say that it is centuries, or even thousands of years, old but they are wrong. Also, it is not a religious struggle. People want to make it that way but it is something even more fundamental than that. The question is over economics and land ownership.

Sure, the adversaries are of different religions (the Israelis are largely Jewish and the Palestinians are Muslim), but it's still more than that. After the Romans had pushed the Jews into exile after the Bar Kochba Rebellion during the second century A.D., the Jews were scattered across the Roman Empire. Some were sent to Spain and France and North Africa, while others went to what is today considered eastern Europe, even Russia.

The Jews had a very difficult time finding a home. Even after the fall of the Roman Empire, the Jews could not carve out for themselves a new homeland. The Muslims/Arabs had taken over Palestine and it was now their home. For many of them, Palestine had always been their homeland.

As the Empire gave way to the Middle Ages and then to Modern Europe, the Europeans continually wanted to push out the Jews from Europe and there were many pogroms against them in Russia and Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic and Slovakia), as well as Germany, Spain, and even Italy.

In 1914, before the start of World War I, Lord Balfour of Britain made what came to be known as the *Balfour Declaration*. The declaration declared the need for a Jewish homeland. The target was a homeland carved out of Palestine. During the war, the British had taken Palestine from the Ottoman Empire (the Turks) and now they were ready to use that land to create the Jewish homeland. It wasn't because Balfour loved the Jewish people. In fact, it was quite the opposite. Balfour and other European nobility wanted to chase the Jewish people out of Europe and this was the perfect way to do it. The truth is, Balfour had no right to make such a Declaration, but it gained much support.

With the end of World War I, the British were suddenly not so interested in providing a homeland for the Jews. They didn't want to get rid of this newly-acquired territory in the near east. So, the whole idea of a Jewish homeland was put on hold until the catastrophe of World War II. It wasn't just Nazi Germany that tormented the Jewish people, the Soviet Union was also responsible, as was Italy, and so many other places. Even the United States turned away ship loads of Jewish refugees, sending them back to Germany. The same went for England and France, Spain, and Sweden. The end of World War II and the Holocaust saw the need for a Jewish homeland.

From 1946 to 1948, the United Nations and the European powers began the creation of the state of Israel. The only problem was, of course, that there were already people living there... The Palestinians, who had been there for almost 2000 years. But the Jews, now called Israelis, demanded that this was their ancestral home and the European powers agreed with them. From the beginning, the Palestinians declared that the land was not Britain's to give.

So, imagine this. You own your home in Wisconsin or wherever and you have lived there for all your life and maybe even your parents' and grandparents' lives. Then, one day, a family of Native Americans knock on your door and says, "Our family lived here 600 years ago. We were sent away to live somewhere else but now we've come back and your house belongs to us." That is what happened between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It wasn't even that the Palestinians were told to move to another house, they were told to get out of the country.

They were given other places to live, and then they were pushed from those places. Some of the Palestinians tried to go into Jordan, some to Saudi Arabia, some to Syria, some to Egypt, and no one accepted them. In that way, the Jews and the Palestinians are so much alike. They have been chased out of everywhere and no one wants them.

Then the Israelis stepped up the program of gobbling up more and more Palestinian lands. You should look at maps that compare Palestine in 1946, 1961, 1969, 1972, 1990, and today. You will see just how drastic the landgrab has been, with the Palestinians losing almost all of the land allotted to them, while Israel has grown 300% or more.

In 1967, the Israelis launched a preemptive attack against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In the process, they attacked a US surveillance ship, called the USS Liberty. Google the attack on the USS Liberty and see what you find. The Israelis wanted to disable the US intelligence-gathering capability in order to hide this preemptive assault on three sovereign nations. It was called the Six Day War. They gobbled up more land in the process.



From Travis continued...

Then came the Yom Kippur war in 1973, when Egypt tried to retake the Sinai Peninsula from Israel and Syria wanted to retake the Golan Heights from Israel. It was mostly unsuccessful and Israel began at decades-long process of creating new housing settlements in these conquered territories. All the while, the Palestinians were continually driven from place to place looking for somewhere to call home.

The Palestinians did indeed fight a guerilla style war against the Israelis but, in the 1980s, other nations began to get involved in proxy wars against Israel. After the Camp David accords of 1979, Egypt was now out of conflict. But 1979 also saw the Islamic Revolution in Iran. When the Ayatollah Khomeini took over from the Shah in February 1979, he began Iran's own proxy war against the Israelis. Hamas and Hezbollah both became puppets of Iran in that struggle.

The current struggle is an Iran-funded all-out assault by Hamas against Israel. But when Israel responds, it is not against Hamas. It is against the Palestinian people in Gaza and other Palestinian districts. It is a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. President Jimmy Carter has called the situation in the Occupied Territories "an apartheid regime."

Truth be told, my heart goes out to the Israeli families who have suffered but, in equal measure, to the Palestinians who have suffered.

Israel has won the right to exist but the Palestinians are fighting an existential struggle for survival and autonomy. The two-state solution, Palestine and Israel, is the only real solution for peace but nobody seems to support the idea anymore.

People fail to see that the Palestinians and the Israelis are simply flip sides of the same coin. Nobody wants either one of them.

The British surrendered Palestine because it technically had taken Palestine from the Ottoman Empire. It really wasn't theirs in the first place but, since they had seized it during World War I, they offered it for the new Israeli homeland.

It was originally a protectorate under the British empire, and the British weren't willing to let it all go. So, 1947, David Ben-Gurion began a successful war of liberation from the British. He later became the first Israeli Prime Minister. Albert Einstein had been offered the presidency.

However, Einstein did not support the establishment of a Jewish state, instead asserting that he would "much rather see a reasonable agreement reached with the Arabs on the basis of living together in peace" under the framework of a binational Jewish-Arab state. No one listened.

Zion Brantwood Harvest Dinner...



We had a wonderful turnout and a successful evening filled with fun, visiting, laughter, and good food for the Zion Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 28.



Homemade stew was the perfect meal for such a chilly, fall day!



The quilt was won by two-month old Grady Kurth.



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



First Lutheran Church Westboro

ANNUAL FALL Supper

SATURDAY NOV. 4

4-6 PM

at the VFW Hall - Westboro

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE
715-965-0308

Swedish Meatballs,
Pork Loin, Vegetables,
Parsley Potatoes, Rolls,
Fruit Salad, Dessert and
Beverage

Adults \$13 / Kids 6-11 \$6
Kids 5 & under free

Basket Raffles!



OGEMA FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTING GROUP

Quilt Raffle

1ST PRIZE - FULL SIZE QUILT
2ND PRIZE - TWIN SIZE QUILT
3RD PRIZE - LAP QUILT

Tickets \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Tickets will be available for purchase at
Raab's Extra Innings, and from members of
Ogema First Lutheran.

DRAWING TO BE HELD
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023
OGEMA FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 AM

Winner need not be present to win
Raffle License No. R0022970A-36424

Ogema Christmas Tree Festival and Trunk or Treat...



Ogema First Lutheran held a pie cup sale and used our Vacation Bible School decorations for a parade float at the Ogema Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday, September 30. Luckily the rain ended just in time for the events and there was a great crowd. The pie cups were a hit and we think our float was out-of-this-world fun!



Ogema First Lutheran members handing out candy and shining Jesus' light at the Ogema Trunk or Treat on October 28. It was a chilly evening, but we had lots of fun with this community event.



Reformation, Authorization & Confirmation...

Our Northwoods STaR Ministries joint worship service on October 29 was filled with joyous celebrations. Along with commemorating Reformation Sunday, we had a Rite of Authorization (led by Pastor Bob Giese) for our newest Synodically Authorized Ministers, Deb Strobl and Shawnda Hora, and we witnessed the Affirmation of Baptism for three of our confirmands from First Prentice.



These three young adults made public profession of their faith in front of their congregation, family, and friends after having completed their Confirmation education.

Be sure to welcome our newest members to First Prentice and Northwoods STaR Ministries.



Kate Tirunesh Schmidt

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. (Proverbs 2:6 NRSV)

Lauren Marie Geiger

Our Lord, we belong to you. We tell you what worries us, and you won't let us fall. (Psalm 55:22 CEV)

Sofie Lynn Staroba

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23 NRSV)

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...

Confirmation Schedule for November

November 5, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
November 12, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
November 19, 2023—OGEMA at Noon
November 26, 2023—WESTBORO at Noon
(following the Joint Worship Service)



COLLEGE & MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

We will be sending out college care packages in mid-November, so we would like addresses of Northwoods STaR Ministries college students and those on active duty in the military.

Please provide names and current addresses to Bev Hartmann at First Prentice at 715-428-2575 no later than November 12.



November Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Tessa Voda
3 Emilie Hallstrand
4 Stephen Pipkorn
Cheryl Steliga
7 Brock Thiede
8 Dave Henthorn
13 James Highfill
Shawnda Hora
14 Scott Komarek

15 Karin Kivela
16 McKenzie Blomberg
Nick Gerstberger
Alice Nelson
Rhonda Hartmann
18 Pat Hanson
20 Lauren Geiger
23 Jennifer Kraimer
26 Lynn Ertl
27 Karen Westberg
Tammy Johnson
29 Sandy Henthorn



2 Sawyer Haubert
7 Bev Hora
Devyn Raab
Liam Raab

7 Megan Maki
13 Kal Esterholm
16 Troy Larson
26 Jonas Staroba



19 George/Pat Hanson



Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

No meeting in November

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, November 12, 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 Studies....

History of WORLD RELIGIONS

Join us for an extensive study of the World's Great Religions.

Thursday, November 9, 2023
5:30 pm
First Lutheran Church -
Prentice

Thursday, November 30, 2023
5:30 pm
First Lutheran Church -
Prentice

This will be a bi-weekly, ongoing class covering the major religions of the world. Open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. Invite a friend!



POINTING to the PROMISE AN ADVENT STUDY GUIDE



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

Thursday,
November 2, 2023
5:30 pm
First Lutheran Church -
Prentice

Thursday,
November 16, 2023
5:30 pm
First Lutheran Church -
Prentice

This is a bi-weekly Bible Study and open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend. Invite a friend and join us!

The holidays remind us of things we wish were different... Is your soul weary from waiting? For prayers to be answered. For rings on left hands. For the doctor's report to be different. For empty arms to be filled. For the lives of loved ones to be changed. For things to go back to "normal." We can all become a little weary from waiting. But there is still a reason to rejoice this year. Jesus, the Promised One, the Prince of Peace, has come and He is going to come again. Advent points our hearts back to Jesus. In the heaviness and weariness the holidays can bring, we can have hope and rejoice that God is still fulfilling His promises to us.

November 2023 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2 5:30 pm Bible Study (Pointing to the Promise) @ First Prentice	3	4 First Westboro Fall Supper @ VFW Hall 4—6 pm
5 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)	6 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	7	8	9 5:30 pm Bible Study (World Religions) @ First Prentice	10	11  VETERANS DAY
12 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) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	13 9 am Quilters (O) 7 pm SAM's Zoom Mtg	14	15	16 5:30 pm Bible Study (Pointing to the Promise) @ First Prentice	17	18
19 8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) 10 am Sunday School (W) 10 am Council Mtg (W) 10:30 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) Noon Confirmation (O)	20 9 am Quilters (O)	21	22	23  Happy Thanksgiving No Bible Study	24	25
26 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Westboro (Potluck to follow worship) Noon Confirmation (W)	27 9 am Quilters (O)	28	29	30 5:30 pm Bible Study (World Religions) @ First Prentice	1	2

FYI—Early Service at First Prentice

We will take a break from having breakfast after our early service (3rd Sunday) during the winter. (Coffee will still be available.)



NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service

Dolores Olson

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty

The Ladies of Zion



Congregational Meeting Notice for First Ogema

There will be a Congregational Meeting at First Ogema following worship on Sunday, November 5, 2023—regarding boiler heating system.



Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 | 6:30 pm
First Lutheran—Ogema



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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday November 5 All Saints Sunday

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

Sunday November 12 24th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Zion Brantwood Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)	10:30 am Prentice
9:00 am Ogema Shawnda Hora (SAM) leading worship (Communion)	10:30 am Westboro

Sunday November 19 25th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday November 26 Christ the King Sunday

10:30 am Joint Service at First Westboro

Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)

8

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 Minister,
Travis Rogers 715-271-7471.**

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



Zion Brantwood's Forth Quarter Noisy
Offering will go to the Phillips Food Pantry.