

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

Synodically Authorized Ministers:

Shawnda Hora

Deb Strobl

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.

**JANUARY
2024**

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 and starting the new year together.

**The joint worship service will be held at First Westboro on
Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:30 am with Travis leading worship.
(Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)**

This will be the only worship service on January 28.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

*May God's love light your way
and lead you into a new year
that shines with His special joy.*

Happy New Year!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 | 10:30 am
First Lutheran Church — Westboro**

ANNUAL MEETING

**Notice of Annual Meeting of the
Congregation**

First Lutheran Church—Ogema

Sunday, January 21, 2024

(Following 10:30 am Worship
Service)

February Annual Meetings

**First Lutheran Church—
Westboro**

Sunday, February 4, 2024

**First Lutheran Church—
Prentice**

Sunday, February 11, 2024 –
tentatively

**Zion Lutheran Church—
Brantwood**

Sunday, February 18, 2024



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

From Travis...

Jesus and Politics

Politics are at the center of the story of Jesus. His historical life ended with a political execution. Crucifixion was used by Rome for those who systematically rejected imperial authority, including chronically defiant slaves and subversives who were attracting a following. In the world of Jesus, a cross was always a Roman cross.

So also the heart of his message was political: it was about the coming of "the kingdom of God." These are the first words of Jesus in Mark, the earliest Gospel, an advance summary of what the Gospel and the story of Jesus are about (Mark 1:14-15). Of course, Jesus' message was also religious: he was passionate about God and what God was like. That passion led him, in his teaching and actions, to proclaim the kingdom of God.

In his world, "kingdom" language was political. Jesus' hearers knew about other kingdoms—the kingdom of Herod and the kingdom of Rome (as Rome referred to itself in eastern parts of the empire). The kingdom of God had to be something different from those kingdoms.

The kingdom of God is for the earth. The Lord's Prayer speaks of God's kingdom coming *on earth*, even as it already exists in heaven. It is about the transformation of this world—what life would be like on earth if God were ruler and the lords of the domination systems were not.

If Jesus had wanted to avoid the political meaning of kingdom language, he could have spoken of the "family" of God, or the "community" of God, or the "people" of God. But he didn't, he spoke of the kingdom of God.

This would be a world of economic justice in which everybody had the material basics of existence. And it would be a world of peace and non-violence. Together, economic justice and peace are "the dream of God"—God's passion for a transformed world.

Jesus' passion for the kingdom of God created conflict with the authorities. His public activity began after the arrest of his herald, John the Baptizer, by the Rome-appointed ruler of Galilee (Mark 1:14). Conflict dominates his story throughout the Gospels and climaxes in the last week of Jesus' life with his challenge to the authorities in Jerusalem and his crucifixion.

Jesus also used political means, most dramatically in two public political demonstrations. First, his preplanned entry into Jerusalem on a donkey symbolized a kingdom of peace in which the weapons of war would be banished. Second, he publicly indicted the temple as "a den of robbers" because it had become the center of collaboration with Roman imperial rule and taxation (Matt 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46).

Jesus' passion for the kingdom of God led to his passion in the narrower sense of the word: his arrest, suffering, and death. This is the political meaning of Good Friday. Easter also has a political meaning: it meant that God said yes to Jesus' passion for a transformed world and no to the powers of domination that killed him. Of course, Good Friday and Easter have more than a political meaning—but not less.

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!

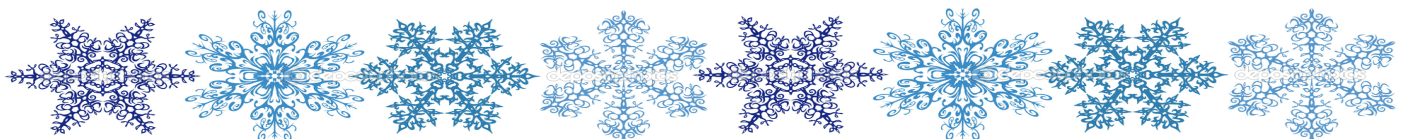
Offerings can be mailed to your church anytime:

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



Live Nativity in the Barn...

The Live Nativity church service was held at The Palmquist Farm in Brantwood on Sunday, December 3. The service was sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church in Brantwood, a partner in the Northwoods STaR Ministries Parish. The service was led by our Minister, Travis Rogers and Beverly Heikkinen was the organist. The Christmas story was told in Word and song as delightfully portrayed by numerous youth and children from Parish churches and community as Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, and wise men. The sheep and horses in the stable were an authentic addition to the tableau. The large gathering was inspired to begin the Christmas season singing the familiar carols and hearing the words of Jesus birth. Refreshments were provided in the Pickaroon Lodge and the fellowship was enjoyed by the large attendance of area residents. We thank Jim and Helen Palmquist for offering their facilities and Lynn Peterson for sharing their sheep. A free will offering was taken to benefit the Price County food pantry.



Women of the ELCA

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!

Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

No meeting in January

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, February 11, 2024,
following worship

Bible Studies...

History of WORLD RELIGIONS

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

Thursday, January 25, 2024
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!

NORTHWOODS
STaR MINISTRIES

"United in Christ, Sharing God's Love"

BIBLE STUDY

Acts

AWAKENING TO GOD
in Everyday Life

Thursday, January 4, 2024 | 5:30 pm
Thursday, January 18, 2024 | 5:30 pm

First Lutheran Church - Prentice

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

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

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...



Confirmation Schedule for January

January 7, 2024—OGEMA at Noon
January 14, 2024—OGEMA at Noon
January 21, 2024—OGEMA at Noon
January 28, 2024—WESTBORO at Noon
(following the Joint Worship Service)



Westboro Sunday School
Sunday School will resume
classes on Sunday,
February 4.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



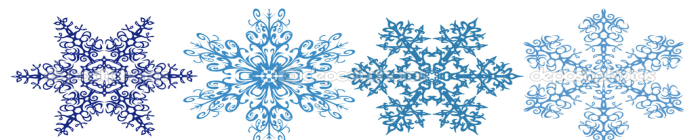
4 George Hanson
James Peterson
Anthonia Meier
5 Garrett Cummings
6 Chris Hallstrand
Garret May
7 Julie Engfer
8 Dawn Pipkorn

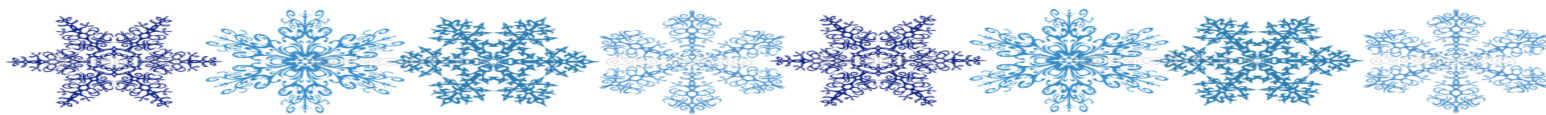
9 Mark Zimmerman
10 Zach Schmidt
11 Connor Highfill
Shawn Koch
18 Nicholas Cravaack
19 Carol Dering
Ed Peterson
Sophia Wiles
21 Kal Esterholm
23 Brittany Strobl
Dallas Severson
25 Gayle Klimpke
31 Keagan Esterholm




2 Charles Schantner
4 Tanner Mindock

7 Shawnda Hora
Anthonia Meier
18 Lauren Geiger





January 2024 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 	2	3	4 5:30 pm Bible Study (Acts—Awakening to God in Everyday Life) @ First Prentice	5	6
7 7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	8 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	9	10 10 am Council Mtg (W)	11	12	13
14 8:30 am Worship (Z) & Council Mtg after worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Noon Confirmation (O)	15 9 am Quilters (O)	16	17	18 5:30 pm Bible Study (Acts—Awakening to God in Everyday Life) @ First Prentice	19	20
21 8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) 10:30 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O) Annual Mtg after worship (O) Noon Confirmation (O)	22 9 am Quilters (O)	23	24	25 5:30 pm Bible Study (World Religions)@ First Prentice	26	27
28 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Westboto (Potluck to follow worship) Noon Confirmation (W)	29 9 am Quilters (O)	30	31	1	2	3

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service

Jeanne Cummings

Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty

The Ladies of Zion



Next Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 9 am
First Lutheran—Ogema



February Joint Worship Service

Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 10:30 am
First Lutheran—Ogema

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2024

Sunday January 7 **Baptism of Our Lord**

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 January 14 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

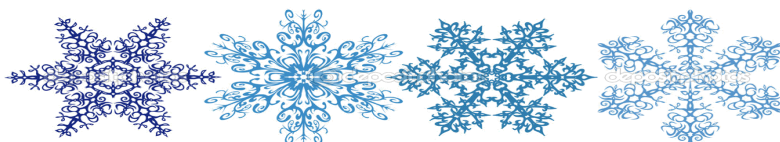
8:30 am Zion Brantwood	10:30 am Prentice
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)	
9:00 am Ogema	10:30 am Westboro
Jeanne Cummings—Leader	Dennis Scheithauer—Leader

Sunday January 21 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

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

Sunday January 28 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

10:30 am Joint Service at First Westboro
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)
POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW WORSHIP



Missed a service?
Click to watch all our sermons on



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.