

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.

**MARCH
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 together.

**The joint worship service will be held at First Prentice on
Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 10:30 am.**

(Fellowship potluck will follow the service.)

This will be the only worship service on March 17.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024
10:30 am
First Lutheran Church —
Prentice**



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



**Daylight saving time begins
Sunday, March 10 at 2 am.
Turn your clocks ahead one
hour before bed on
Saturday night, March 9.**

**thank
you!**

To all the Parish and Church
Council Members who have
served their terms and have
now gone off the councils —
thank you for your
dedication and service to
our churches and parish.



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

Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie **AN INCOMPLETE SENTENCE Mark 16:8**



Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

The gospel of Mark begins with this verse, Mark 1:1, *The beginning of the good news^[a] of Jesus Christ*. Then it ends with an incomplete sentence.¹ Mark's Easter Story ends with an incomplete sentence. What was the editor thinking? Where are the punctuation police when you need them?

Look at it for yourself. Mark 16:8 in Greek

καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχεν ὁ γὰρ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις· καὶ οὐδὲν οὐδὲν εἶπαν, ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ

See, it ends with the word “gar” which can be translated “for or because.” Why did the writer of Mark end the gospel with the word “because?” Word-for-word the last part of the verse reads *to none nothing they spoke they were afraid because*

So just to be clear, the purpose of the gospel of Mark is to tell the good news of Jesus Christ and then it ends with an empty tomb and the only witnesses to it run away in fear saying nothing to anyone because...

It should be noted there is no punctuation in the original Greek and we can of course rearrange the English words and make a sentence, but still the incompleteness of the Greek sentence, abrupt ending and the incompleteness of story itself are telling.²

Matthew, Luke and John end their Easter story with Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection. These gospels end with proof of the resurrection that others see with their own eyes and some even touch Jesus. Mark has no proof of the resurrection. He doesn't even finish his last sentence.

Mark 1 was intended to be just **the beginning** of the story of the good news of Jesus. It can't be completely recorded with paper and pen because it is still being written in the lives of the believers today. Friends, the story of Easter didn't end with the frightened women. If it did we wouldn't be here today. Some of Mark's Easter story will be written by your life, my life, our witness to the empty tomb and the transforming power of God love in our life. The rest of the story will be written by those who come after us and whose lives bear witness to God's power to transform death to life. We are proof of the resurrection. Our lives transformed by the power of God's love and forgiveness are proof that Jesus rose from the dead. We are writing new verses and chapters for Mark's gospel, so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's grace.

Rev. Laurie M. Olson

Mark 16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid

¹McCoy and Fistler, Pulpit Fiction Podcast #540, Easter 2023

²Mark has two alternative endings (Mark 16:9-20) which many biblical scholars believe were added at a much later date by those who couldn't tolerate ending with an incomplete sentence!

³Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

Join us each week for our mid-week Lenten services and suppers



These stirring devotions will guide and inspire as they move through the weeks of Lent and Easter, encountering themes of prayerful reflection, self-denial, temptation, suffering, and the meaning of the cross. Passages from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's letters and sermons provide special encouragement to prepare spiritually for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

March 6

Zion Brantwood 5:30 pm (Soup Supper at 4:30 pm)
First Ogema 7 pm (Soup Supper at 6 pm)

March 13

First Prentice 5:30 pm (Soup Supper at 4:30 pm)
First Westboro 7 pm (Soup Supper at 6 pm)

March 20

Zion Brantwood 5:30 pm (Soup Supper at 4:30 pm)
First Ogema 7 pm (Soup Supper at 6 pm)



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!



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

Sunday, March 10, 2024, 9:30 am

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, March 10, 2024, following 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

Westboro Noisy Offering for March will go to the Rib Lake Food Pantry.



Worship Schedule for Holy Week & Easter

March 24 Palm Sunday

Zion Brantwood 8:30 am

First Ogema 9 am

First Prentice 10:30 am

First Westboro 10:30 am

March 28 Maundy Thursday

First Prentice 5:30 pm

First Westboro 7 pm

March 29 Good Friday

(Tenebrae Services)

First Westboro 1pm

Zion Brantwood 5:30 pm

First Ogema 7pm

March 31 Easter Sunday

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

Zion Brantwood 8:30 am

First Ogema 9 am

◊ Easter Fellowship @ First Westboro
from 9:30-10:30 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.

First Prentice: Flowers can be dropped off on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

Green plants as well as flowering plants make a beautiful garden!

At First Westboro:

Easter Lily order forms are available at church or you can contact Mary Wagenknecht or Jody Kantola to place an order.



EASTER BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY, March 31, 2024

Join us to start your Easter morning!

First Ogema

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

First Westboro

Fellowship coffee and pastries from 9:30-10:30 am

SPRING CLEANING?

DONATE



DONATE YOUR ITEMS TO:
OGEMA FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
W4950 STATE HIGHWAY 86
OGEMA, WI

Drop off your donations to us between April 1, 2024 and April 17, 2024.

Clothing, books, toys, furniture, household items, etc.

DONATION

Questions: Contact us at 715-767-5155

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - OGEMA
W4950 STATE HIGHWAY 86
OGEMA, WI

Spring **RUMMAGE** and



BAKE SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024
8 AM TO 4 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
8 AM TO NOON



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



April Joint Worship Service
Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 10:30 am
Zion Lutheran—Brantwood



Next Parish Council Meeting
Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 9 am
Zion Lutheran—Brantwood

Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth...



Confirmation Schedule for March
No Confirmation classes for the month of March.



NSM Vacation Bible School 2024 — SAVE THE DATE



Held at First Lutheran Church-Ogema
July 28—August 1, 2024
(Sunday—Thursday)
5:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Supper @ 5)
All kids are welcome!
Age 4k—5th Grade (Entering Fall 2024)

Watch for more info to come.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 3 Hannah Raab
- 4 Todd Pemper
- 6 Tom Seidl
- Sylus Peterson
- 7 Scott Pipkorn
- Ryan Bergman
- 8 Mick Pipkorn
- 9 Melissa Highfill
- 13 Debra Reichert
- 15 Dave Nehls
- Amanda Voda
- 16 Ryan Griebel
- 17 Jari Lynn Sackman
- Logan Geiger
- 18 Brent Steffen

- 20 Pat Barr
- 21 Helena Hall
- 22 Craig Dering
- 23 Lori Dums
- 30 Alicia Eisner
- Wayne Hora



- 2 Serena Moore
- Claryssa Moore
- 5 Brittany Strobl

- 5 Harlan Gunderman
- 24 Barbra Esterholm



- 1 Ron/Annette Larson
- 13 Doug/Shawnda Hora
- 24 Craig/Joyce Cummings
- 31 Dennis/Debra Reichert





MARCH VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service
Sandy Henthorn
Zion Lutheran—Brantwood Cleaning Duty
The Ladies of Zion





March 2024 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	World Day of Prayer 1	2
3 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	4 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	5	6 4:30 pm Soup Supper (Z) 5:30 pm Worship (Z) 6 pm Soup Supper (O) 7 pm Worship (O) 	7	8	9
10 7:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) & W/ELCA Mtg (O) after worship 9 am Sunday School (W) 9:30 am W/ELCA Mtg (P) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	11 9 am Quilters (O) 7 pm SAM Zoom Mtg	12	13 4:30 pm Soup Supper (P) 5:30 pm Worship (P) 6 pm Soup Supper (W) 7 pm Worship (W) 	14	15	16
17 10:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Prentice (Potluck to follow worship) 	18 9 am Quilters (O)	19	20 4:30 pm Soup Supper (Z) 5:30 pm Worship (Z) 6 pm Soup Supper (O) 7 pm Worship (O) 	21	22	23
 24 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9 am Sunday School (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	25 9 am Quilters (O)	26	27	 28 5:30 pm Worship (P) 7 pm Worship (W)	 29 GOOD FRIDAY 1 pm Worship (W) 5:30 pm Worship (Z) 7 pm Worship (O)	30
 31 7:30 am Easter Breakfast (O) 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 9:30 am Easter Fellowship (W) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	1	2	3	4	5	6

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2024

Sunday March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Zion Brantwood	10:30 am Prentice
Linda Heikkinen—Leader	Shawnda Hora—Leader
9:00 am Ogema	10:30 am Westboro
Jeanne Cummings—Leader	Mary Wagenknecht—Leader

Wednesday March 6 Mid-Week Lenten Service

5:30 pm Zion Brantwood (Zion Soup Supper 4:30 pm)
7 pm Ogema (Ogema Soup Supper 6 pm)

Sunday March 10 4th Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Zion Brantwood	10:30 am Prentice
Linda Heikkinen—Leader	Deb Strobl—Leader
9:00 am Ogema	10:30 am Westboro
Mark Nyberg—Leader	Dennis Scheithauer—Leader

Wednesday March 13 Mid-Week Lenten Service

5:30 pm Prentice (Prentice Soup Supper 4:30 pm)
7 pm Westboro (Westboro Soup Supper 6 pm)

Sunday March 17 5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 am Joint Service at First Prentice
Deb Strobl/Shawnda Hora (SAMS) leading worship (Communion) **POTLUCK MEAL TO FOLLOW WORSHIP**

Wednesday March 20 Mid-Week Lenten Service

5:30 pm Zion Brantwood (Zion Soup Supper 4:30 pm)
7 pm Ogema (Ogema Soup Supper 6 pm)

Sunday March 24 Palm Sunday

8:30 am Zion Brantwood	10:30 am Prentice
Lay Led Worship Services at Zion & Prentice	
9:00 am Ogema	10:30 am Westboro
Shawnda Hora (SAM) leading worship services (Communion)	

Thursday March 28 Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm Prentice
7 pm Westboro

Friday March 29 Good Friday Tenebrae

1 pm Westboro
5:30 pm Zion Brantwood
7 pm Ogema

Sunday March 31 Easter Sunday

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