

# Northwoods STAR Ministries Newsletter

## PARISH OFFICE

W4950 State Highway 86  
Ogema, WI 54459  
715-767-5155

email: [office@1stfamily.org](mailto:office@1stfamily.org)

Web site: [www.1stfamily.org](http://www.1stfamily.org)

Office Hours: 8:30AM—12:30PM  
Monday - Thursday

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH —OGEMA

W4950 State Highway 86  
Ogema, WI 54459  
Worship Service: 9:00 AM  
3rd Sunday: 11:00 AM

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—WESTBORO

N8909 Business Hwy. 13  
PO Box 214  
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](mailto:firstlutheranprentice@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.  
Monday-Thursday  
715-428-2575  
Worship Service: 10:30 AM

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—BRANTWOOD

N5090 County Road D  
Brantwood, WI 54513  
Worship Service: 8:30 AM

Pastor Evelyn Weston  
715-922-0823 (cell)

email: [pastorevelyn@1stfamily.org](mailto:pastorevelyn@1stfamily.org)

Pastor Steven Weston  
715-922-0824 (cell)

email: [pastorsteve@1stfamily.org](mailto:pastorsteve@1stfamily.org)

**Visitors and new members are always  
welcome!**



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

OCTOBER  
2020

## From Pastor Evelyn & Pastor Steve...



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

In the Bible, a prophet is someone who speaks for God. Biblical prophecy isn't usually about the future or "end times." Prophets in the Bible gave messages from God for the people they were speaking to, not people in a distant future. The prophets' words are meaningful today because human nature and God's truth have not changed over the centuries. The Hebrew prophets emphasized three main points. Each prophet gave their messages in a particular way for particular circumstances, but there were lots of similarities.

The prophets' first point was this: **Be faithful to God.** That means not worshiping false gods and not worshiping the true God falsely. It also means not putting our faith in things that aren't God, such as wealth, power, military might, rulers, etc. Idolatry (worshiping false gods) has always been a problem for God's people, so that message continues to be relevant today.

The prophet's second point was that God's people have to **quit mistreating each other.** The strong were oppressing the weak. The rich were taking advantage of the poor. Those with power used it for their own selfish interests, not the common good. Widows, orphans, and other disadvantaged people were not being taken care of. Foreigners were mistreated. The prophets called instead for justice— for things to be put right.

These prophets repeatedly warned that God wasn't going to put up with such behavior forever. They warned that God's judgment on the people's sins would come in the form of foreign invasions and loss of freedom. In the history recorded in the Bible, that's what happened. Even before that judgment came, the third point the prophets made was this: **God is going to put things right in the end, so hang in there.**



## From Pastor Evelyn & Pastor Steve (Continued)...

Here in our nation, Christians are not oppressed or persecuted. Some like to say Christians are persecuted to promote a political agenda, but it's just not true. In this prosperous part of the world, the prophets' first two points are what need our attention. We have to stop running after false gods, and we have to do a much better job of working to make things right for all people— of promoting God's justice.

The preaching of Jesus echoed these messages from the prophets. In the parable of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus basically says that the way we treat others is the way we treat Jesus, for good or ill. Being faithful to God and working for justice in the world are really the same thing. We still live in a world where some people go hungry or unhoused or uncared for when they are sick. For too many, the economic deck is stacked against them, so no matter how hard they try, they can't get ahead.

In Bible times, prophets urged kings to rule more fairly. We American Christians live in a country where “We the People” hold the power. If we follow the prophets' message in our area and nation, that means urging and working for laws in keeping with God's justice. It means voting for politicians who will do something about the fact that the strong continue to oppress the weak, the rich continue to take advantage of the poor, many are homeless or lack access to health care, and immigrants are stripped of their human dignity.

God is going to put everything right in the end. That's good news, of course. But one might hear it as bad news if one currently benefits from things being wrong. The call to end racism may sound harsh if we are unwilling to see our privilege. The wealthy may feel attacked when the plight of the poor is brought to their attention. When those who abuse power are called out, they may cry, “Unfair!”

There is more to being a Christian than one's personal salvation and personal relationship with Jesus. The Apostle Paul tells us, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life” (Ephesians 2:8-10). We belong to God, who has redeemed us in Christ, and given us a purpose and a mission to make God's love and justice real in this world.

- Pastor Evelyn and Pastor Steve

## Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

### **NSM Parish Council Highlights—Unofficial summary of September 20 meeting**

- After a few minor changes, the revised Parish Agreement was approved, to be considered by church councils and annual meetings.
- Churches will make half-payments to NSM in October. All churches reported a decrease in offerings since April. This may affect the churches and parish in 2021.
- Parish Council will begin work on NSM's 2021 budget in October.
- October meeting - 4pm Sun Oct 25 at FLC-Westboro.

### **ATTENTION FIRST LUTHERAN PRENTICE MEMBERS**



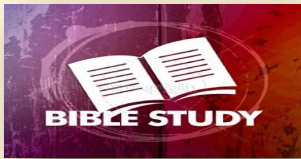
First Lutheran-Prentice will be cleaning Highway A north of Prentice on Sunday, October 4th at 12:30 pm.

We are requesting all ages, as you are able, to join us. Many hands make light work and the more people we have the faster it will get done. Plastic gloves and safety vests will be provided.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**—First Lutheran Ogema has a house for rent in Ogema. Available immediately. \$600 per month plus utilities. For more information, please contact Scott Raab at 715-657-0758.



## Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...



### Bible Study Opportunities

Pastor Steve will again be hosting the following bible studies:

#### Tuesdays

7 pm—Zoom Bible Study

#### Wednesdays

9 am—Zoom Bible Study

1 pm—Bible Study at First Prentice

Bible studies are open for members & non-members. If anyone is interested in participating, please email Pastor Steve at [pastorsteve@1stfamily.org](mailto:pastorsteve@1stfamily.org)

### Confirmation Parents and Students...

The format for Confirmation classes (Zoom or in-person) will depend on the changing status of the Covid-19 situation in our community and area schools.

Information could be changing weekly, so please continue to watch for emails regarding any changes to the Confirmation classes.

Contact Pastor Steve at 715-922-0824 or [pastorsteve@1stfamily.org](mailto:pastorsteve@1stfamily.org) if you have any questions or need any additional information.



## Women of the ELCA News



### The Purpose of Women of the ELCA

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

### Meeting Information—PRENTICE

First Lutheran Prentice W/ELCA will not be holding monthly meetings for the remainder of 2020. We hope to start again in January 2021. While we are not able to meet we ask ALL women to hold up each other in prayer and do as we are able to promote the purpose as women of the ELCA.

### Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Wednesday, October 21 at 1 pm  
NO LUNCHEON



## Offering Information...

We give thanks for all the ways you bless our ministry together— through worship, gathered together in body, mind, and spirit; through prayer, wherever each of us may be; through all the ways the Spirit leads us to reach out to others— we give thanks for your partnership in Northwoods STaR Ministries.

Some will worship in NSM's church sanctuaries. Some will continue worshipping at home. Wherever you are, the greatest offering each of us brings to God is ourselves— willingly offering ourselves in service to Christ. What might God call you to do for the sake of your church, our communities, and God's world? Christ is counting on you!

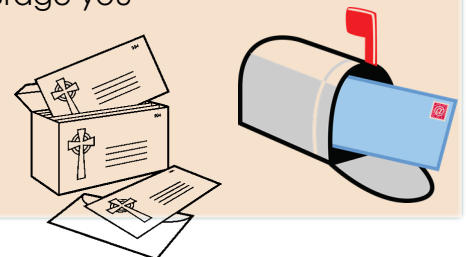
If you aren't able to bring your financial offering to church yet, we encourage you to continue mailing your offering to your church:

FLC-P. 670 Main Street, Prentice, WI 54556

FLC-W, P.O. Box 214, Westboro, WI 54490

FLC-O, W4950 State Hwy 86, Ogema, WI 54459

Zion LC, c/o Karin Kivela, W2476 US Hwy 8, Brantwood, WI 54513



# OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

## First Lutheran—Ogema

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Randy and Jeanne Cummings

### **Acolytes**

OPEN

### **Altar Service**

OPEN

### **Food Service**

N/A

### **Lawn Mowing**

OPEN

## Zion Lutheran—Brantwood

### **Cleaning Duty**

The Ladies of Zion

## First Lutheran—Westboro

### **Greeters/Ushers**

MEMBERS

### **Acolytes**

MEMBERS

### **Altar Service**

MEMBERS

### **Food Service**

N/A

### **Reader**

Cathy Scheithauer

### **Cleaner**

Lori Tlusty

### **Lawn Mowing**

OPEN

## First Lutheran—Prentice

### **Shepherding Group**

Cindy & Pete Heikkinen

Bob & Jean Hladish

Mike & Tara Murphy

### **Acolytes**

Oct 4 Matthew Schmidt

Oct 11 Logan Geiger

Oct 18 Jonas Staroba

Oct 25 Matthew Schmidt

### **Food Service/Funerals**

## 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
- Rhonda Cummings
- 13 Richard Peterson
- Isabella Foster
- 14 Annette Larson
- 15 Pat Zomchek
- 17 Pete Heikkinen

- 18 Sara Griebel
- Brady Sidenbender
- 19 Nicolas Voda
- 21 Jodie Filenius
- Liam Raab
- 23 Jenny Voda
- Kristie Bergman
- Quinton Swenson
- 28 Bob Cummings
- Adam Granberg
- 30 Pete Jacobson
- Kate Schmidt
- Elizabeth Lawrence



- 5 Bob/Sara Lawrence
- James/Judith Hook
- 6 Bob/Gayle Larson
- 9 Kyle/Michell Komarek
- 11 Mick/Ruthanne Pipkorn
- 14 Pete/Barb Jacobson
- 19 Tim/Jacky Peterson



- 3 Molly Bogen
- 13 Tara Murphy
- 15 Josh Esterholm
- Katherine Mindock
- 18 Robert Hora
- Rena Willett
- 19 Samuel Esterholm
- 20 Cindy Lawrence
- 26 Jennifer Stroba
- 27 Kate Schmidt
- Robert Hladish
- 28 Keagan Esterholm
- Camden Luedtke
- Hudson Luedtke

FIRST LUTHERAN OGEMA is looking for volunteers to help clean the church. The Ogema Council has decided to seek volunteers to help with the cleaning, rather than hire a church custodian at this time. This will help with expenses as we continue to adjust to these changing times. (Cleaning volunteer schedules could be filled by the week or by the month.) If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mark Nyberg or Scott Raab.



### **Bread From the Heart**

Bread from the Heart will provide a home cooked meal, as well as a prayer of healing and hope to people in need in our community. Please call one of the following coordinators, they will make the necessary arrangements.

- Amy Esterholm 715-428-2200
- Shawnda Hora 715-428-2026
- Rebekah Bergman 715-922-0374
- Dallas Severson 715-564-3328

# October 2020 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) 12:30 pm First Prentice Roadside Cleanup	5 Pastors' Day Off	6 7 pm Zoom Bible Study	7 9 am Zoom Bible Study 1 pm Bible Study at First Prentice 7 pm Confirmation Class	8	9	10
11 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) 11:15 am Council Mtg (W)	12 Pastors' Day Off	13 7 pm Zoom Bible Study	14 9 am Zoom Bible Study 1 pm Bible Study at First Prentice 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P) 7 pm Confirmation Class	15	16	17
18 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (W) 9:30 am Council Mtg (Z) 10:30 am Worship (P) 11 am Worship (O)	19 Pastors' Day Off	20 7 pm Zoom Bible Study	21 9 am Zoom Bible Study 1 pm W/ELCA Mtg (O) 1 pm Bible Study at First Prentice 7 pm Confirmation Class	22	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) 4 pm Parish Council Mtg (W)	26 Pastors' Day Off	27 7 pm Zoom Bible Study	28 9 am Zoom Bible Study 1 pm Bible Study at First Prentice 7 pm Confirmation Class	29	30	31 Halloween— All Hallows' Eve  Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 1

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



### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2020**

#### **Sunday October 4 (Communion)**

18th Sunday after Pentecost

**8:30 am Zion Brantwood      10:30 am Prentice**

Pastor Steve leading worship

**9:00 am Ogema                      10:30 am Westboro**

Pastor Evelyn leading worship

#### **Sunday October 11**

19th Sunday after Pentecost

**8:30 am Zion Brantwood      10:30 am Prentice**

Pastor Steve leading worship

**9:00 am Ogema                      10:30 am Westboro**

Pastor Evelyn leading worship

#### **Sunday October 18 (Communion)**

20th Sunday after Pentecost

**8:30 am Zion Brantwood      10:30 am Prentice**

Pastor Evelyn leading worship

**9:00 am Westboro                      11 am Ogema**

Pastor Steve leading worship

#### **Sunday October 25**

Reformation Sunday

**8:30 am Zion Brantwood      10:30 am Prentice**

Pastor Evelyn leading worship

**9:00 am Ogema                      10:30 am Westboro**

Pastor Steve leading worship

On-line video of our worship services will continue to be available for those who wish to worship at home.