

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)

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.

**DECEMBER
2024**

From Northwoods STaR Ministries...

DECEMBER *Special Worship Events*

COME & JOIN US!

THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP TOGETHER THIS SEASON AT NORTHWOODS STAR MINISTRIES:

- DEC. **4** **WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE**
FIRST OGEMA | 6 PM
- SUN., DEC. **8** **LIVE NATIVITY IN THE BARN**
AT PALMQUIST'S "THE FARM" | 3 PM
N5136 RIVER ROAD, BRANTWOOD, WI
- DEC. **11** **WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE**
FIRST OGEMA | 6 PM
- DEC. **18** **WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICE**
FIRST OGEMA | 6 PM
- TUE., DEC. **24** **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
ZION BRANTWOOD | 5 PM (LAY LED)
FIRST OGEMA | 9 PM *Candlelight Services*
- WED., DEC. **25** **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
FIRST WESTBORO | 10 AM (LAY LED)
- SUN., DEC. **29** **JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE**
FIRST OGEMA | 9:30 AM
(POTLUCK LUNCH AFTER SERVICE)



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



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



**OGEMA FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH QUILTING GROUP
QUILT RAFFLE WINNERS—November 24, 2024**
1st Prize—Queen Size Quilt Brandon & Arlene Makovsky—Prentice
2nd Prize—Table Runner Brandon & Arlene Makovsky—Prentice
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our quilt raffle.
Proceeds help support our quilting outreach projects.

From Bishop Martin...



THE GIFT THAT IS YOU! 2024 Christmas Message

As I reflect on my time in Malawi back in early November, I had so many experiences that merit being shared. As I write this letter, perhaps the most important lesson I can offer was that of my new reality as a guest overseas.

Everywhere I turned, I truly felt like I was the most important person present. Yes, there were times where I was the honored guest as a bishop. I was granted the best seats in the church, in the van, on the stage. When I walked the grounds at the Lutheran Compound

in my purple clerical, EVERYONE immediately stopped what they were doing to greet me, even if that was their first encounter with me. I was fed better than most and I never had to carry my own luggage. I had women pour water over my hands before certain meals (including communion) much like Christ did during the Last Supper in washing the disciples' feet. And despite my innermost desires to remind them that I was just another guy, I simply could not insult them in that manner. The way in which they treated me was at the core of their faith practice.

Thankfully, Deacon Laura taught me a valuable insight that helped my understanding more clearly. They didn't treat only bishops that way, they treat all guests that way! Having been to Malawi five times before she took me, Laura has experienced that generous hospitality time and time again. And now that I'm a few weeks removed from their genuine welcome, I still firmly believe that their faith has taught them to love their neighbor and lift them up no matter how far away we may come.

What if we all treated our neighbor as though they are the most important person present at that time? What if we lifted the spirits of the people God places in our lives each and every day? As we prepare for the Christmas story once again this year, we emphasize the gift that comes in the Christ child, God made flesh to live among us mortals. Just think about the lives that the Christ child touched! It started with Mary and Joseph, continued to the shepherds in the fields, and even gave the heavenly host something to praise!

Of course, Jesus went on to touch so many lives - people in need of healing, children in need of welcoming, outcasts in need of community, sinners in need of redeeming. Jesus became the gift who helped them all feel that they were the most important person present at the time, people worthy of his unconditional love, people whose spirits were uplifted.

As we march through the season of Advent toward the birth of God Emmanuel, Jesus the savior of the world, remember the gift of God's presence in your lives. Recognize that God is even present within you and that you are a gift as well! And much like my new friends in Malawi, be that gift for others. Reveal Christ's presence to others through your continued faithfulness and dedication to the God of love because that love can overcome division. You are a gift to this synod and to God's church when you let God's light shine in and through you! May this Christmas also reveal to you the light of Christ through others.

—Bishop Martin

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

Thank You...

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway or joined us for our Northwoods STaR Ministries Fall Suppers—Zion Brantwood Harvest Dinner, First Lutheran—Ogema Fall Supper and the First Lutheran-Westboro Fall Supper. Your support is greatly appreciated!



Upcoming Events, Opportunities and Information...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST OGEMA | 9 AM



First Ogema will decorate the church in place of a regular Sunday morning service on December 1.

We invite everyone to help us as we decorate and enjoy some holiday fellowship. Light snacks and refreshments will be served as we decorate the sanctuary and church for this special season.



PLEASE JOIN US
Christmas
DECORATING



WEDNESDAY

Advent

SERVICES

at First Ogema
6 pm



GOD IS IN
THE



manger

★ DECEMBER 4

★ DECEMBER 11

★ DECEMBER 18

"CELEBRATING ADVENT MEANS LEARNING HOW TO WAIT."
--DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



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

First Westboro Members:

Anyone wishing to donate a poinsettia in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, please bring it to the church by December 15. Please be sure to note who it is donated by and in whose name.



Women of the ELCA



Upcoming Meeting—PRENTICE

No meeting in December

Upcoming Meeting—OGEMA

Sunday, December 8, 2024—9 am

We will be preparing Christmas cards to send to our members and friends. Please join us and send some holiday cheer.

Live Nativity Information...

Live Nativity in the **BARN**

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE EVENT AT
PALMQUIST'S "THE FARM"
 N5136 River Road Brantwood, WI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
3 PM

SPONSORED BY:
 ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANTWOOD,
 AND NORTHWOODS STAR MINISTRIES

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS &
 FELLOWSHIP WILL FOLLOW IN THE
 PICKAROON LODGE

A SPECIAL OFFERING WILL
 BE COLLECTED FOR THE
 PRICE COUNTY FOOD
 PANTRY

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE SHARE THIS CHRISTMAS GIFT WITH OUR
 COMMUNITY. EXPERIENCE THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH WITH LIVE
 ANIMALS, SCRIPTURE READINGS AND CHRISTMAS HYMNS.
 (DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER)

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Once again we are looking forward to having a Live Nativity celebration at Palmquist's Farm. Shawnda will be reaching out to families for help again this year, and will need kids to be there by 2:30 pm for getting into costumes. Like last year, we will dress up in the lodge, and then walk to the barn when it is time. Call Shawnda at 715-657-0954 or Tracy in the church office 715-767-5155 with any questions.

We are asking for help from everyone to contribute snacks and finger foods for our fellowship after the Live Nativity event. If you're able to bring something, we could use the following:

- Sweets (cookies, brownies, bars, etc.)
- Savory snacks (cheese/sausage, crackers, chips/dips)
- Fresh fruit or veggie tray
- Finger Sandwiches

Your contributions will help make our time of fellowship even more special as we celebrate the season together.



HELPING OTHERS



In addition to the regular offering, a free-will offering will be collected and donated to the Price County Food Pantry

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

1 Wendy Cummings	16 Butch Dahlke
Grant Cravaack	17 Beverly Hartmann
Ethan Heikkinen	18 Ken Pearson
3 Ron Larson	19 Dolores Olson
4 Jim Wiles	Seamus Highfill
5 Kyle Cummings	20 Ron Arkola
6 Jeanne Cummings	21 Kimberly Ertl
8 Francis Dums	23 Tim Peterson
Marlene Johnson	Craig Cummings
10 Roxanne Peterson	David Pfarr
	25 Serena Moore
	28 Kason Moore
	30 Claryssa Moore

Baptisms


1 Karagan Esterholm	16 Kiah Kalandar
2 Nicholas Cravaack	Kim Kalandar
3 Caelyn Ulrich	Sheridan Makovsky
15 Alice Nelson	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1 Bob/Dawn Pipkorn
29 Kevin/Jamie Hawkins



DECEMBER 2024 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O)- Decorating the church 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W) Council Mtg after worship (W)	2 9 am Quilters (O) 6:30 pm Council Mtg (P)	3	4 6 pm Advent Service (O) 	5	6	7
8 9 am W/ELCA Mtg/Xmas Card Day (O) 3 pm Live Nativity Joint Worship Service @ Palmquist's Farm Light refreshments/fellowship following service 	9 9 am Quilters (O) 7 pm SAM Zoom Mtg	10	11 6 pm Advent Service (O) 	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Council Mtg (O) 8:30 am Worship (P) 9 am Worship (W) 10:30 am Worship (Z) 10:30 am Worship (O)	16 9 am Quilters (O)	17	18 6 pm Advent Service (O) 	19	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship (Z) 9 am Worship (O) 10:30 am Worship (P) 10:30 am Worship (W)	23	24 5 pm Worship (Z) 9 pm Worship (O) CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 	25 10 am Worship (W) CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 	26	27	28
29 8 am Parish Council Mtg (O) 9:30 am Joint Worship Service @ First Ogema w/Travis (Potluck to follow worship)	30	31 	1 	2	3	4

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.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

First Lutheran—Ogema Food Service
Sandy Henthorn



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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2024

Sunday December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**
Shawnda Hora (SAM) leading worship (Communion)
9:00 am Ogema (w/ Travis) **10:30 am Westboro**
Deb Strobl (SAM) leading worship at Westboro (Communion)

Wednesday December 4

6 pm Ogema—Advent Worship Service
Travis Rogers leading worship

Sunday December 8

3 pm Joint Worship Service at Palmquist's Farm
Live Nativity in the Barn—Travis Rogers leading worship
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

Wednesday December 11

6 pm Ogema—Advent Worship Service
Travis Rogers leading worship

Sunday December 15 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Prentice **10:30 am Zion Brantwood**
Rebekah/David Bergman-Leaders Linda Heikkinen-Leader
9:00 am Westboro **10:30 am Ogema** (w/Travis)
Dennis Scheithauer-Leader (W) (Communion at Ogema)

Wednesday December 18

6 pm Ogema—Advent Worship Service
Travis Rogers leading worship

Sunday December 22 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Zion Brantwood **10:30 am Prentice**
Linda Heikkinen—Leader Marv Steliga—Leader
9:00 am Ogema (w/Travis) **10:30 am Westboro**
RuthAnn Pipkorn—Leader (W)

Tuesday December 24 **Christmas Eve**
(Candlelight Services)

5 pm Zion Brantwood – Lay Led Service (Pat Zomchek)
9 pm Ogema Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion at Ogema)

Wednesday December 25 **Christmas Day**
(Candlelight Service)

10 am Westboro—Lay Led Service (Rich Peterson)

Sunday December 29 1st Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am Joint Worship Service at First Ogema
Travis Rogers leading worship (Communion)
COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW WORSHIP

