



**Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450**

**Welcome to the House of the Lord**

**Rogation Sunday  
April 28, 2019 - 8:30 a.m.**

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## **ROGATION SUNDAY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation, which God declared good, is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people.

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word, Rogation, has its roots in the Latin word “rogare” which means to ask or petition and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places, the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God’s blessing.

Churches that have maintained the practice of celebrating Rogation Days in our time now no longer mark these days specifically before Ascension. Instead, Rogation Days are celebrated at times and places that meet local needs. With an increased awareness of the need for the stewardship of creation both within the church and within contemporary culture, the themes of thanksgiving for the land and petitions for a fruitful earth may be adapted around broader cultural celebrations of Earth Day or at other times.

Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor. The themes of Rogation Days may be highlighted in a special worship service or in prayers of intercession in the Sunday assembly during the spring.



PRELUDE

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Surely the Presence*

Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Creator God, we praise you for your creation, for your gift of the beauty of nature, for your trust in human kind in giving us dominion over your world. We thank you for the power of thought and talent that has produced people whose daring, down through the ages, has made life more comfortable for us through faithful use of your gifts. We praise you most for your great gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. He has brought to us the awareness of your love for us. Help us to be good stewards of that love by sharing it with others.

**Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom, but we live with tightness in our chests. You have called us to be the light of the world, but we have often times covered our light in the presence of others. You have called us to move in new directions, but we cling to the paths that we know. You have called us to reach outward to each other on love, but we draw inward to ourselves for protection. You have called us to live, in fear. God, forgive us.**

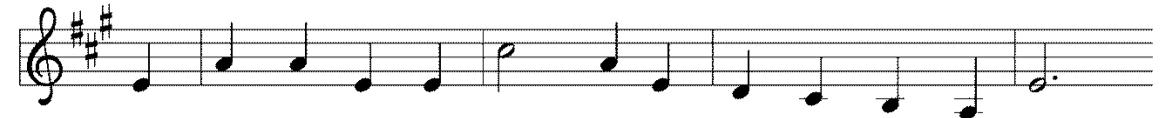
By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.  
We live now in his peace.

Amen.

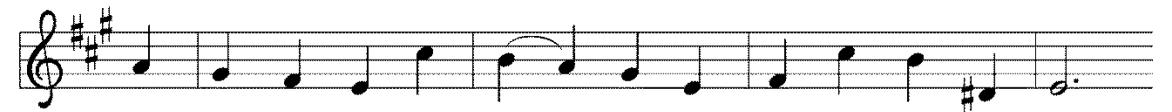
Song

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

ELW #681



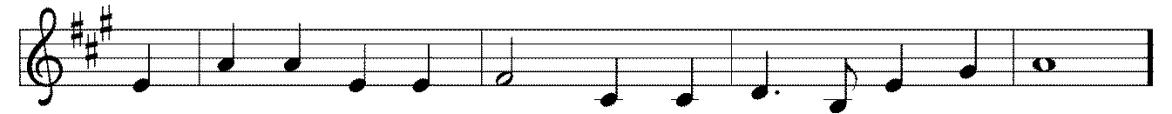
1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

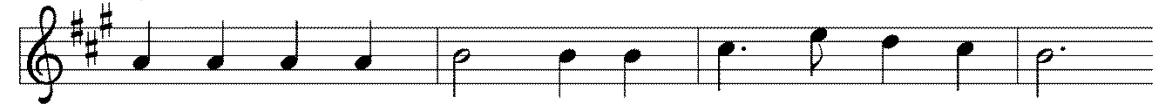


who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

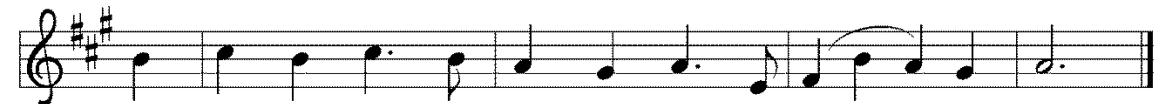


the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## LITANY AND WORDS OF DEDICATION

Let us give thanks to God: For the beauty of your world, the glory of starlit skies, the wonder of the changing seasons, the ever new miracle of stirring life in field and forest **We give you thanks, O God.**

For the Privilege of sharing with you in the act of creating the good things of earth for your children and for your nearness in all the processes of agricultural life. **We give you thanks, O God.**

For the Christ of the country road, who walked and served in the pleasant land of Galilee, and who today walks the country roads of the world in comradeship with all who till the soil, **We give you thanks, O God.**

For widening horizons of rural life, the open doors in which entering we may serve the rural peoples of the world, and walk the byways with Christ,  
**We give you thanks, O God.**

That it may please you speedily to grant a just and lasting peace in all the earth, that all peoples may again beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that they may all live together in fellowship and tranquility in the lands you have given them. **We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

To the recreation of the beloved community bound together by ties of love in every countryside, in which all people shall share with joy in sowing the seed and reaping the harvest of the Kingdom of God,  
**We dedicate our hands and minds, O Lord.**

To a renewed appreciation of the Holy Earth and its resources, material and human. **We dedicate our hands and minds, O Lord.**

To comradeship with the rural folk of all the world, and to serving them devotedly with all the gifts and graces you have bestowed on us.  
**We dedicate our lives, O God.**

**Accept our thanksgiving, hear our prayers and intercessions, and graciously use the gifts of mind, body, and life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## First Lesson Genesis 1: 27-31

A Reading from Genesis.

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Song

## *Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

ELW #512

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are as follows:

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**Gospel Mark 4:26-32**

The Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

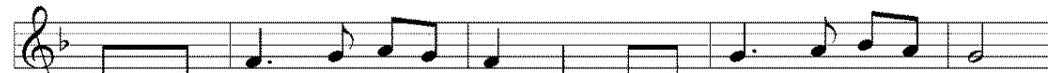
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**SERMON SONG** *In the Bulb There is a Flower: Hymn of Promise*

LS 56



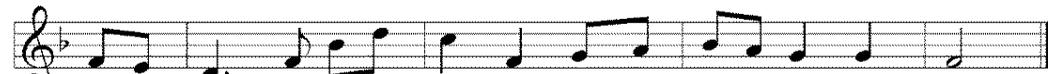
1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - 'ry si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - 'ry dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty;



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING SONG**

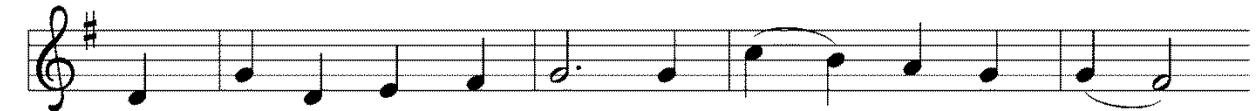
*Lord of the Dance*

**Choir**

**OFFERING SONG**

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

**ELW #686**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LITANY AND PRAYER OF "BLESSING"

Brothers and sisters in Christ; Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness for his wondrous creation. We especially seek God's blessing at this time of planting and so we have brought with us signs of this season.

**We dedicate our equipment, our seed, our time, and our selves to the glory of God.**

All your works praise you. O Lord.

**And your faithful servants bless you.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You make the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth. of things, seen and unseen. You stretched out the heavens like a curtain; you divided the day from night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and for building up. Be with us now and bless the work of those who labor in the fields. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation.

**Amen.**

Let the people praise you, O God:

**let all the peoples praise you**

The earth has brought forth her increase;

**May God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing,

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

For the seed . . . Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, you give seed to the sower and bread for food. Nourish, protect, and bless the seed which people have sown and will sow in hope, so that by your good providence and bountiful giving, it may bring forth fruit in due season and be gathered with thanksgiving to satisfy the needs of your people. Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the equipment . . . Gracious Lord, be with us now and bless us as we set apart this equipment to your glory and praise. Grant us diligence in maintenance, safety and caution in use, and patience during breakdowns. Give us the faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the soil . . . O Loving Lord, the eternal fountain and giver of life, we give thanks that we again behold on every side the awakening of nature in answer to your call to arise from winter's sleep; and as you cheer our spirits with freshening grass, budding trees, and unfolding plants, grant us thankful hearts to praise you for the promise of your renewed provisions for our bodies and lives and an abiding trust in your unchanging love now and forever. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the rain and sunshine . . . Lord God, by your providence alone we receive the fruits of the earth. In your mercy send us such weather that our fields may bring forth abundantly to our sustenance and that at the time of harvest we may take of your gifts for our good and give thanks to you with gladness.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless the pastures and meadows, all growing grass and green fields. May the soil be wholesome and the crops good. May the weather be favorable and the workers of good heart. And may God who gives breath and life to the sower, multiply the seed sown and increase its fruits. May God be with us and among us and around us now and forevermore. **Amen**

**Sending Song**

**All Creatures of Our God and King**

**ELW #835**



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,  
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-  
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia. Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Preaching:** Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey  
**Assisting:** Pastor Joel Guttormson  
**Ushers:** Doug Bruhns, Harris Honsey  
**Reader:** Elijah Stene

**Acolytes:** Becca Holtan, Kyla Johanson  
**Altar Guild for April:** Marilyn Hoffman, Janet Swenson, JoAnn Villa

**The radio broadcast and the live-streaming service are sponsored by Pam Moe with thankfulness for those who adopt, foster, host foreign exchange, and help young ones in need of attention and care -- embracing children as one's own.**

**APRIL 28 ROGATION DAY...**Observance of Rogation Day began in France during the 5th Century. This Christian Festival is a time when the world celebrates and blesses the earth, seedlings, crops and nature.

Rogation observance began in the 5th Century after a series of natural disasters (disease, fire, earthquakes, wild animal attacks) caused much suffering among the people. This ancient custom of Rogation Day honors God for His creation and reminds us of our roles NOT as masters or owners of creation but as stewards of creation. On this day, we ask for God's blessings for the growing season ahead. Members are encouraged to participate in this custom by bringing containers of seeds and/or soil or gardening tools/gloves as we ask for God's blessings upon the forthcoming season of earth's renewal and resurrection. Seed, soil and gardening tools/gloves will be gathered and placed by the altar for the blessing. Seeds and soil may be brought in any type of container or in original packaging.

**Lake Mills' City-Wide Garage Sale...***We need your help* – We need things to sell – If you have some things lying around that you no longer use, but are still in good shape, please share them with us. Items that sell well are pictures, kitchen items, baby things, puzzles, etc., etc. Please bring your donated items to Salem Lutheran Church on the west side of the Education Wing, Room 11 **by Friday, April 27.**

**Salem Garage Sale will be held from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**



National Day of Prayer - May 2, 2019 - 7:00 a.m.  
Held in the Salem Lutheran Church Chapel.  
Fellowship time will follow the service.

**“National Stamp Out Hunger”** is Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> by LM letter carriers. City and rural postal customers are invited to place a sack of non-perishable food items next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers mail. All donated food collected will be given to the LM Food Shelf.

**Church Dashboard for Contributions 04/23/2019**

**LAST SUNDAY, 04/21/19: \$7,618**

**Year-to-date as of 04/23/19: \$81,366**

**Last year as of 04/23/18: \$82,012**

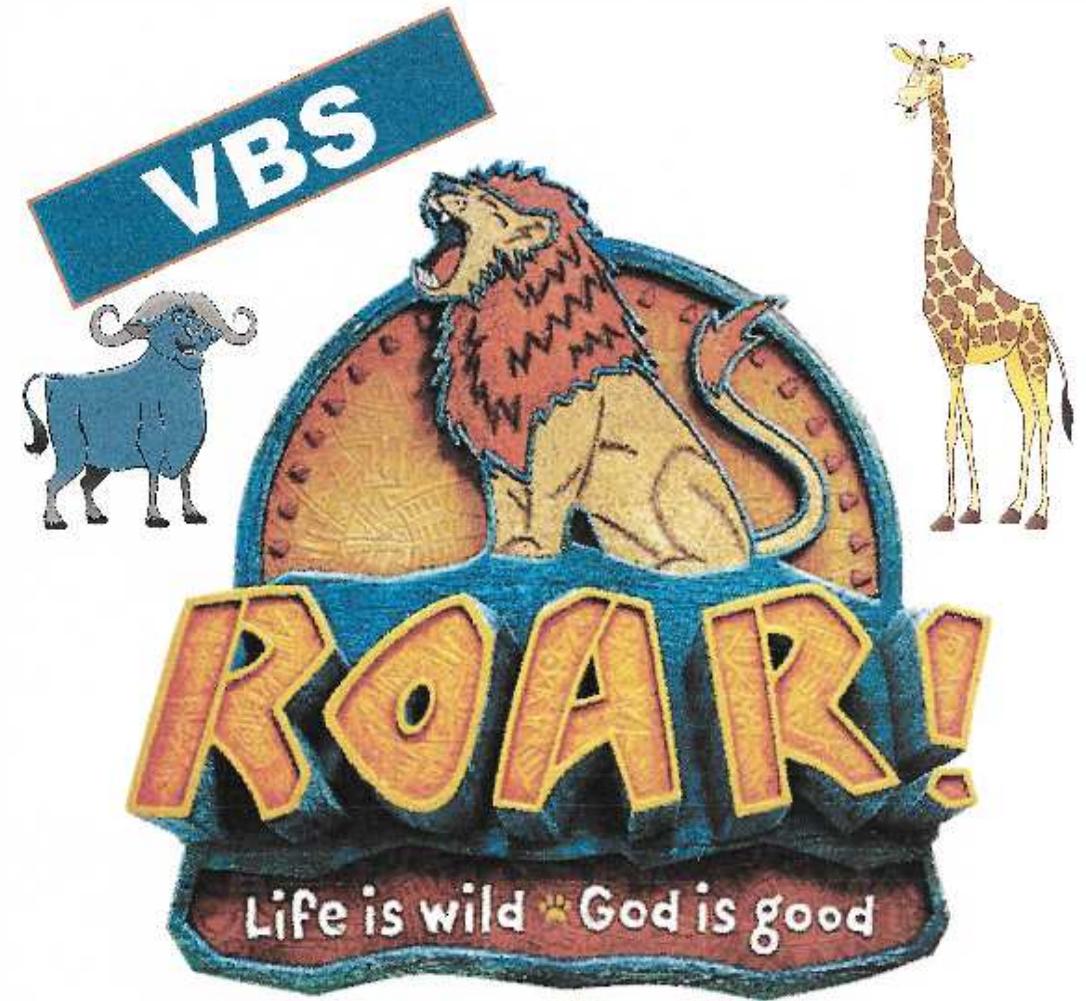
**DIFFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE: -\$646**

**NOISY OFFERING 04/14/19: \$616 BAKE SALE 04/14/19:\$780**

**Attendance: Those worshipping April 20/21: 368**

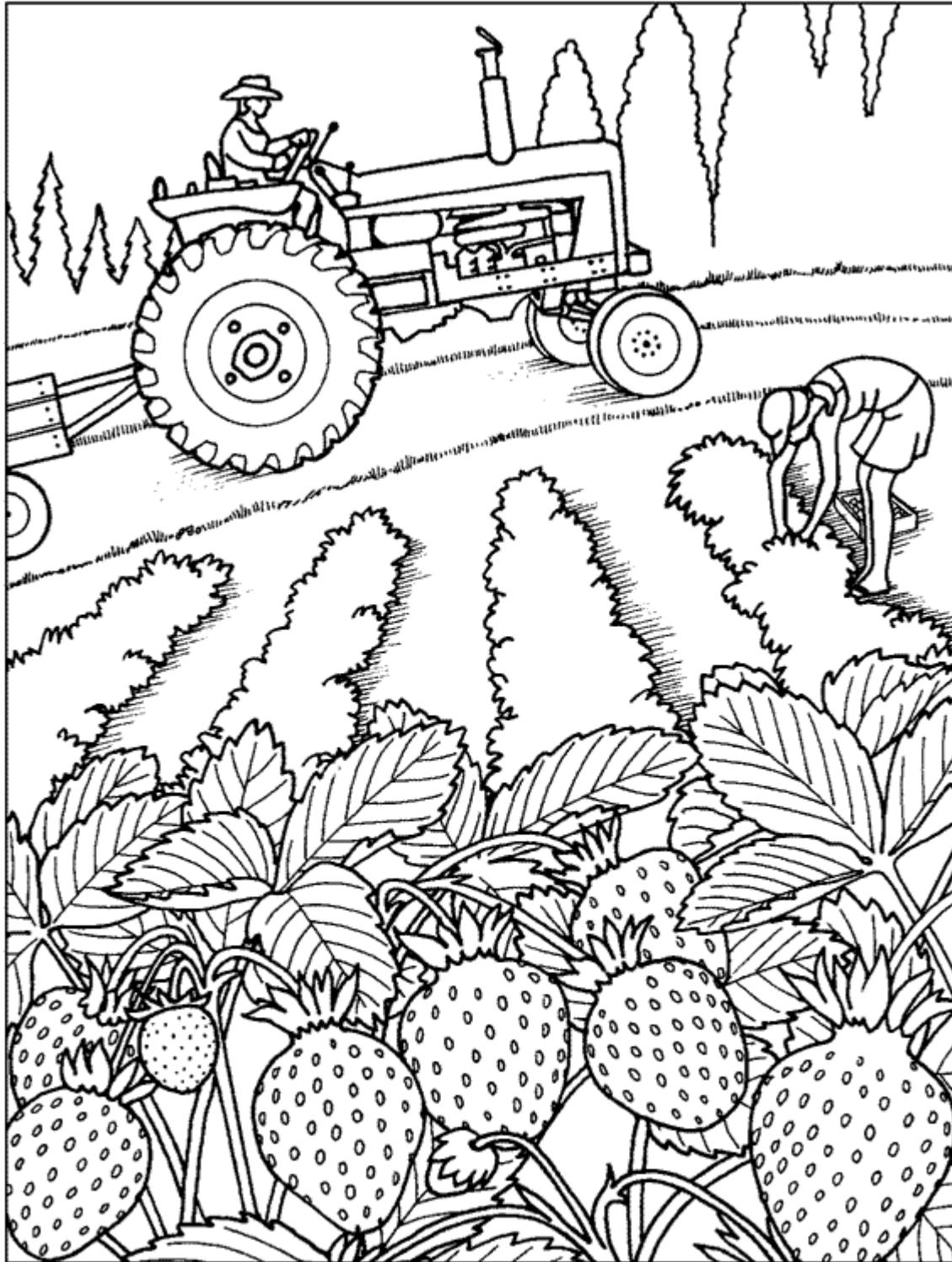
**SUMMER CAMP**

There are between 12-14 youth who have expressed interest in attending Summer Camp this year at Riverside, Good Earth, Ingham-Okoboji or EWALU. With generous donations, help from Salem’s Enduring Gifts Funds and Youth Fundraisers, every attempt is made to provide scholarships. To receive a scholarship from Salem, parents are asked to register their youth at the camp of their choosing; pay the registration fee and provide a copy of the registration to the church office. Salem will make every effort to pay the remainder of the camp fees. No child will be excluded from camp based on inability to pay. If families do not have the funds, Salem and the camps have monies available, so lack of funds do not inhibit a child from attending. Extra fees for horseback riding or other high adventure activities beyond the regular camp fees cannot be covered by our scholarship program.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
*Sponsored by* **ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH,  
& SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**9:00 – 11:30 AM JUNE 10—13**  
**@ WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**40029 210TH AVE, LAKE MILLS IA**  
**Info: 641-567-3550**





## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. Congregational Meeting

Faith Formation - Chapel; Praise Creature Choir– Choir Room;

Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service – Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting – Winnebago Lutheran Church

### MONDAY, APRIL 29

8:00 a.m. Monday Coffee - Lounge

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet Open – Room #7

2:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

3:15 p.m. Cadette Scouts – Room #2

### TUESDAY, APRIL 30

1:00 p.m. Staff

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

6:00 p.m. Faith Statement Night

6:30 p.m. Senior Choir – Choir Room

### THURSDAY, MAY 2

7:00 a.m. National Day of Prayer Service - Chapel

9:30 a.m. Grace Circle – Library; Ruth Circle – Rita Bakken; Sarah Circle – Fellowship Hall

2:00 p.m. Martha Circle - Library

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

3:15 p.m. Junior Scouts – Room #2

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Youth Rummage Sale

5:30 p.m. Casual Communion Service - Chapel

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service

9:35 a.m. Faith Formation - Chapel; Praise Creature Choir– Choir Room

Confirmation Reception/Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Confirmation Service – Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. McCluskey Family – Youth Rooms

1:00 p.m. Christian Family – Fellowship Hall

12:00 p.m. Henderson Family - Lounge

#### **Salem Contact Information:**

**Pastor Joel Guttormson:** 641.596.0535

**Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey:** 563-581-9965

**Ashley Hoffman, Communications:**

**Ruth Sheldon, Organist:** 641.592.0184

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