
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 24 - 30

Discomfort: Sign of Grace?

Poor Jonah. The guy never could get comfortable. He was uncomfortable with his God-given call to preach to Nineveh; he was uncomfortable in the arms of the sailors as they hoisted him over the boat's edge and tossed him into the sea; he was uncomfortable as the ocean's raging waves flung him about like flotsam; he was—undoubtedly—uncomfortable in the fish's belly; and he was uncomfortable and downright angry with God's mercy on the people of Nineveh. Jonah had a hard time getting comfortable with himself, and, even more so, Jonah was uneasy embracing the wideness of God's grace.

The same can be said about the laborers in Jesus' parable here in Matthew 20. The laborers who came in the early morning hours grumbled against the landowner because they were paid the same as others who started later and worked fewer hours. These laborers are ill-at-ease with the landowner's choice "to give to this last the same as I give to you." Like Jonah, they are uncomfortable with the unchecked mercy offered by the landowner/God. God doesn't play by our rules, and that can be very discomfoting for us all.

Our discomfort with grace manifests itself in all sorts of ways. It can be discomfoting for us to engage the poor and the outcast of our society. It can be discomfoting for us to welcome immigrants into our communities. It can be discomfoting to address the pervasive racism that still surrounds us. And it can be very discomfoting for us to open our lives to the transforming power of the cross of Christ, whereby "the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matt. 20:16).

Could it be that the more uncomfortable we become with the reckless love of God, the closer we are to understanding the meaning of grace?

THIS WEEKS TEXTS

Jonah 3:10--4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16



NEXT WEEKS TEXTS

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

Each week we will lift up five church families/members in prayer.

THIS WEEK WE WILL PRAY FOR: Matthew & Andrew Fjelstad, Sheri Fjelstad, Tanner and Beckham Fjelstad, Lucas Bellinger and LeAnna Saxon, Angela Franks and Travis Manley and Bradlee Freeman

This week the following members will be celebrating their birthdays and we would like to wish them a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Please call the office if you have an upcoming birthday, to ensure we have it in our records. 641.592.1771

24-Benett Eaton

25-Dalton Thorson

27-Kristopher Belica

24-Reece Helgeson

26-Dan Rice

27-Kyle Sprecher

25-Jacob Langenbau

26-Adam Sauer

28-Randy Anderson

25-Dan Schriever

26-Ben Stene

29-Barb Brackey

29-Janet Chiu

-WEEKLY GIVING-

LAST SUNDAY: 9/17/23 \$ 3,980

YEAR-TO-DATE: 9/20/23 \$ 134,381

LAST YEAR: as of 9/20/22 \$ 153,712

DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE: \$ -19,331

-Last Weeks Attendance-

87

Tuckpointing/Steeple Project Update: Total received as of 9/20/23 **\$158,882**

All contributions towards this project are greatly appreciated! Please remember to note the "Tuckpointing Project or Steeple Project" when submitting your contribution. Thank you!

"Thanks" to the Board of Youth and the Board of Stewardship/Social Ministries for holding a fun Rally Sunday event this past Sunday! It was a perfect day for outdoor activities and for grilling hot dogs. Watching the kiddos play Minute to Win It games was priceless! Thanks for making memories for our youth and church family. - Members of Salem

Cowboy Church: Hats will be passed during the service for a free will donation that will be given to Midwest Cowboy Ministries. There will be an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary for Salem offerings.

September 24th: The Live Stream Broadcast is given in Loving Memory of Mike Langerud and Ernie Langerud from Sue, Mindy and Family.

Start Saving Loose Change: We will be collecting “noisy offering” during worship **October 1-29** for those who are suffering as a result of the wild fires in Hawaii. Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders. Wildfires are also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season. Your gifts will support wildfire survivors and will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

-The Stewardship Board

Council Minutes: Council President Shannon Bruhns is out of town Sunday, September 24th when Council Minutes would have been included in the bulletin announcements and then be discussed at Coffee Fellowship. Because of this absence, she has requested that Council Minutes be published Sunday, October 1st. Thank you for your understanding!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 16-20: Who can attend? Anyone that will have completed 9th grade by June 2024. **Where do we start?** Go to the informational meeting about the trip on **Wed. Sept. 27th at 8:00pm** at Winnebago Lutheran Church, then call Marci in the office and let her know you are interested in going on the trip. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but you are interested in going on the trip, please let Marci know. We need to know how many students are interested in going as soon as possible so we can start planning/fundraising and register during the early bird registration time.

Volunteers Needed: The Youth Board is making weekly plans for music, games, crafts & activities, **BUT.....we NEED** your help to make Faith Formation a success. Please consider donating your time to supervise and interact with the children of Salem. No planning, experience or training needed. Just pick a date that works with your schedule and sign up on the bulletin board across from the chapel. Thank you to everyone that is helping to create memories for these children.

Living Waters Fall Cluster Invitation: Learn more ways to reach out to others. Live happier days. Learn how to share smiles with others. Invite others, all are welcome! **September 30th.** Coffee at 8:30am. Begins at 9:00am. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in **Manly, IA** (428 W. Walnut St.) Call or text if you can attend. 641-494-7614. -Lea Norlinger, Cluster President.

Salem's Clothes Closet is open every Monday from 2:00-4:00pm; and can be accessed at the south entrance. Clothes, shoes, boots, coats, jackets and a few other kids' items are available for free. We also accept donations; please make sure donations are folded and have no holes, tears or stains. Donations can be left inside the south entrance anytime.

Lake Mills Food Shelf is open 2:30-5:00pm every Monday for anyone in need of additional food. The only criteria for eligibility is to reside within the Lake Mills School District. The Food Shelf is located at Salem and can be accessed at the south entrance. Anyone in need of food when the food shelf is not open, please feel free to call and leave a message at 641-592-1771, someone will call back.

Celebrating Generosity: Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

Go Green—Go Paperless by giving in one of the following ways...

-- **Give through PayPal or Card** by going to www.salemlakemills.com and clicking the donate button at the bottom of the page

-- **Give automatically through the Simply Giving Program.** Sign up for weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals. Call the office to have a form sent to you or stop by the office. We also have forms in the Narthex. Please return forms to the office.

(We are charged a much lower service fee through the Simply Giving Program)

WELCA Church Bazaar: Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Manly has invited us to their WELCA church Bazaar on Saturday **October 7th, 8:30am-11:00am**. There will be baked goods/ethnic (lefse), basket/quilt donations, breakfast, crafts, garden goodies, mugs and cookbooks. (428 W. Walnut St.)

Fall Dinner: West Prairie Lutheran Church in Leland has invited us to their Fall Dinner on **October 8th, 11:00am-2:00pm**. BBQ Meatballs, Cheesy Potatoes, Southern Green Beans, Dinner Room, Dessert and Beverage. Adults: \$10, Ages 5-10 years old: \$5, Ages 4 and Under: Free

Women's Day Away: October 14th at Ingham Lake Bible Camp, Wallingford IA. Theme: ABIDE Ladies, can you imagine what it would be like if we would ABIDE in Christ at every turn? To truly live with, to make our home with, to spend time with...our Savior! During our time together we will dive into what Jesus has for us when we set aside our own agenda and all the things that distract us! He has a lot...a lot of love, grace, forgiveness, healing, fruit and peace. Enjoy...wonderful sessions and discussion, a banquet meal, worship, time to relax in a beautiful setting and connect with other women! And free time options such as pontoon rides, crafts, nature walks and pampering stations. Speaker: Susan Kliment. \$15 non-refundable deposit. Total cost: \$49. To get a registration form, contact Marci in the office or register online at www.okoboji.org/register

Volunteers Needed: If you are willing to usher, read or sing in the liturgical choir, please sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to learn how to help with sound, monitors or live stream, call the office. Thank you!

Devotionals: New devotionals for October/November/ December have been put out in the narthex and at the south entrance.

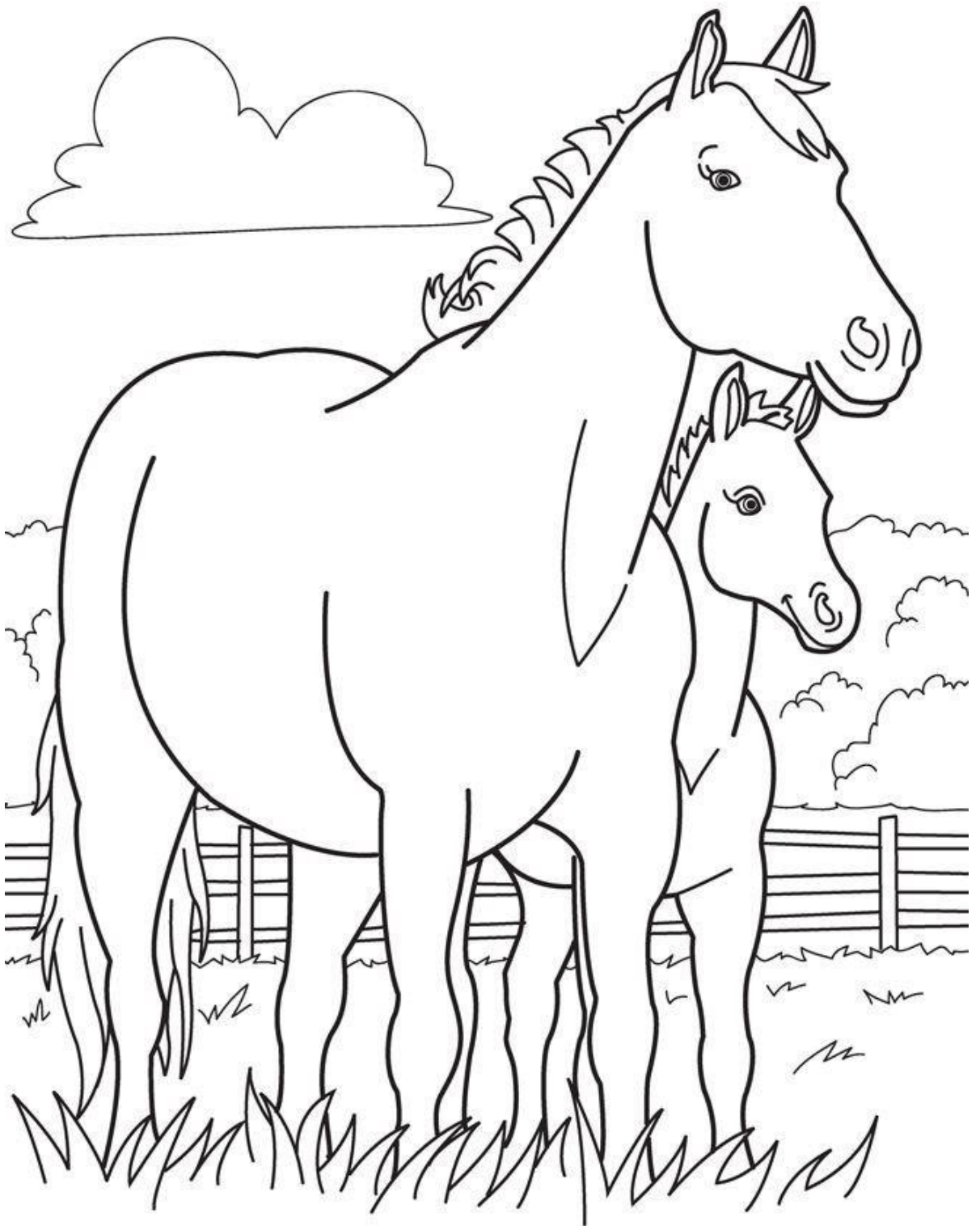
Live Stream Sponsorship: Call the office to reserve your date. Cost is \$40.

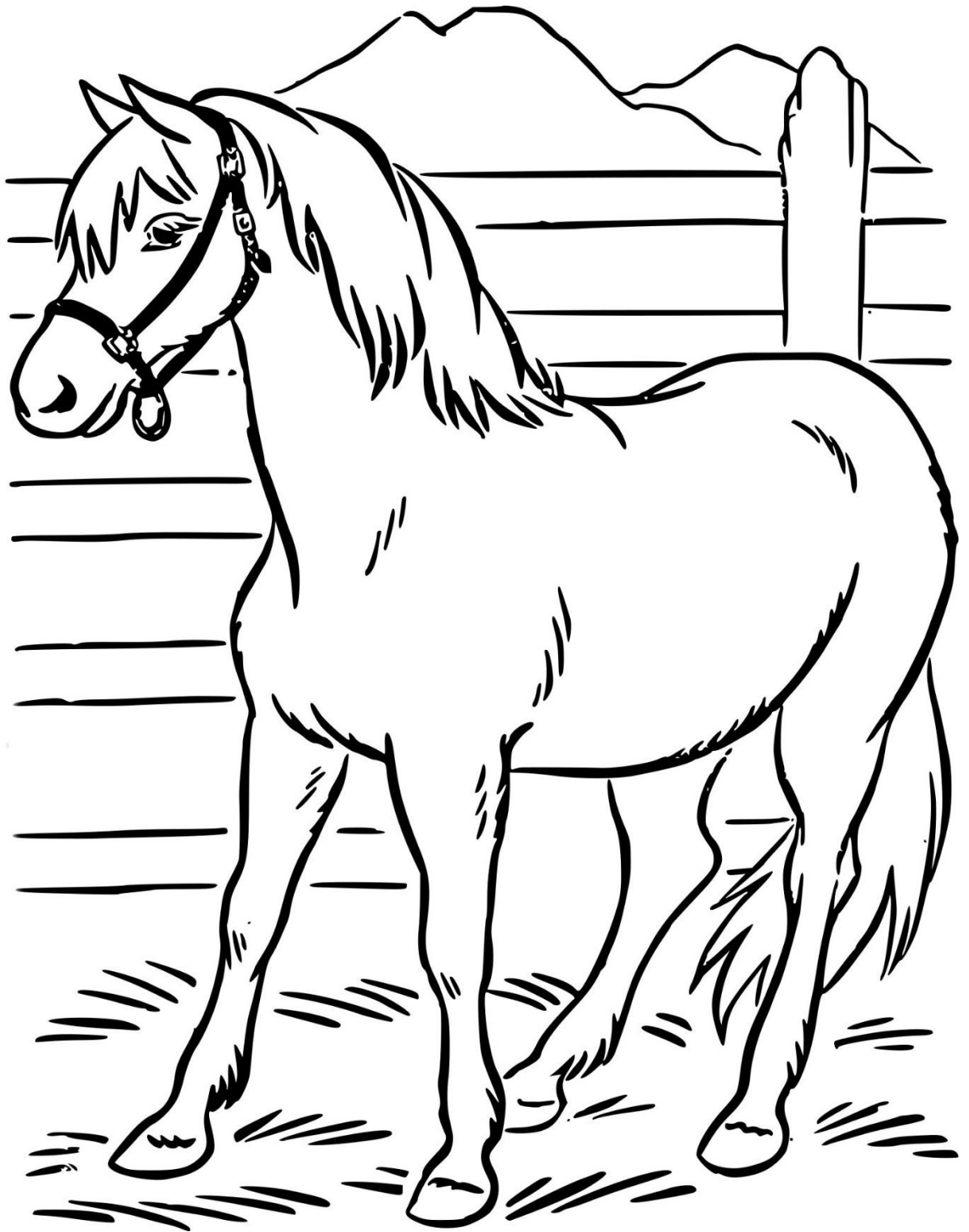
Dates available 2023: Oct. 15, 22, 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 31

Salem Office: 641.592.1771 (Marci)

Mon-Tues: 11am-5pm, Wed: 10am-2pm, Thurs-Fri: 11am-5pm

(Hours subject to change. You are welcome to call ahead to ensure the office is open)





All are invited downstairs after the worship for Fellowship

SUNDAY 9/24

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Cowboy Church)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

MONDAY 9/25

1:00pm-4:00pm Mission Quilters

2:00pm-4:00pm Salem's Clothes Closet is OPEN

2:30pm-5:00pm Lake Mills Food Shelf is OPEN

WEDNESDAY 9/27

10:00am Adult Bible Study-Choir Room

5:45pm Worship & Music Board Meeting-Salem Library

6:00pm Confirmation Class-Choir Room

8:00pm Informational meeting for 2024 Youth Gathering-Winnebago Church

SUNDAY 10/1

9:00am Worship Service-Sanctuary (Quilt Sunday) (Pastor Judith Wozniak)

10:00am Fellowship-Fellowship Hall

10:00am Faith Formation-Chapel

