

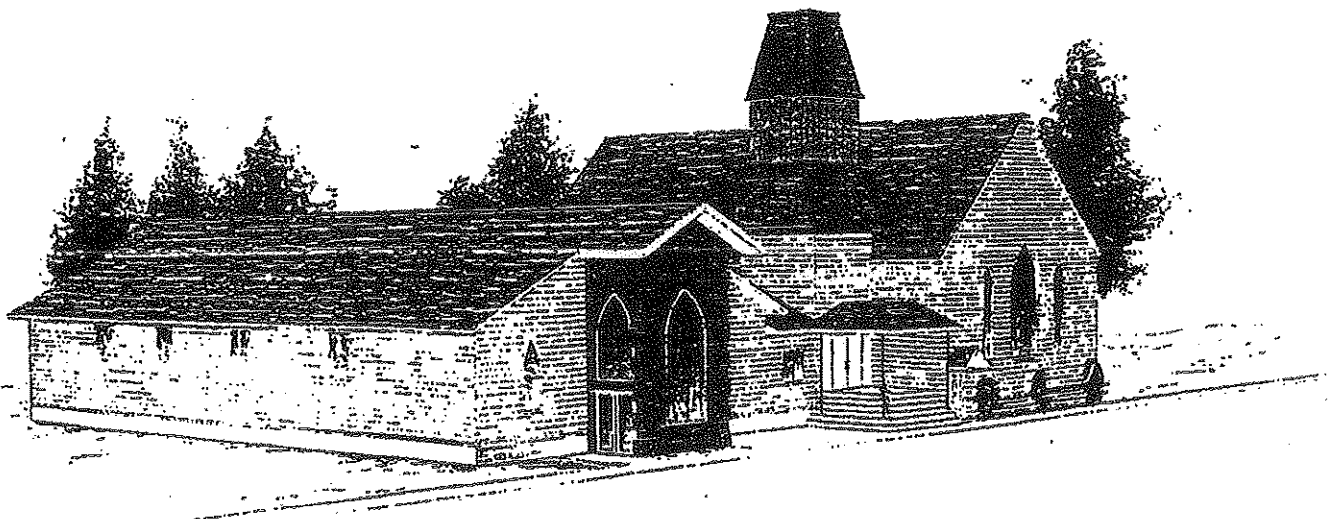
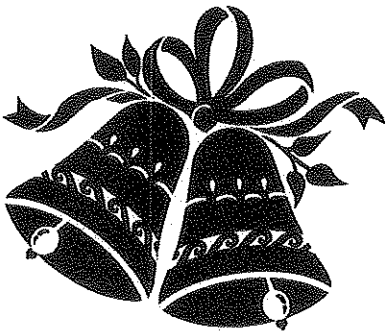
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*The
Chimes*

April Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

CHRISTIANS SAY, "THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE," BUT HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT SOME OF THEM ARE POSTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

What a great reminder that people are watching and listening to everything that we say and do!! We need always be careful with what we put on Facebook or Twitter or any of the social media platforms, so that people will know we are Christians—followers of Jesus—by what we say and do. 1 John 4:7a says: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” And if we love God, our speech and our actions should be a witness to that fact.

Pastor Joel

Announcements

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Service will be April 1 at 7 p.m. with communion.

EASTER BREAKFAST: The Diaconate will be providing Easter breakfast on Easter Sunday beginning at 8:00am until church begins at 9:00am. We will provide breakfast pizza, donuts, juice and coffee. If you will sign up in the narthex or email the church, we can get an idea of how many pizzas to order.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP: Will meet on April 20th at 9 a.m.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on April 21st at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION: Will be April 25, 2021

DIACONATE: Will Meet on May11 at 10:30 a.m.

PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY: We are collecting green items for March. Examples: Jello, tea, dish soap, green olives.....

REMINDER: All contributions for the CHIMES newsletter are due to the Office by the 3rd Friday of every month.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$6,821.50

	February	January-February
General Fund	Income \$ 5,607.00	9,294.00
	Expense \$ 4,749.61	9,508.02

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 4- Richard Remer
Laura West (Remer)
12-Julie Fry, Pat Lingbeck
14-Keith Long
17- Allen Asche
18-Dorothy Spielman
19-Colton Asche

April 8 Richard & Tari Woods
20-Mark & Barb Klinger

Diaconate Minutes for February 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by Karleen Merchant. Members present were Dennis Freedlund, Bev Weerda, Char Remer, Karleen Merchant, Barb Daubs, and Rev. Joel Hicke. Also present was Maury Daubs. Pastor Joel led us in prayer.

Karleen thanked Dennis for his work on the Diaconate. Other members whose terms have ended are Cletus Hoppe and Mary Jane Zipse.

The elected officers for 2021 are Karleen Merchant-Chairman, Bev Weerda- Treasurer, Barb Daubs-Secretary. Char Remer will set up for Communion.

Dennis gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 645.04. Karleen read the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting which were accepted as read.

Pastor Joel reported that the camera and sound worked better last Sunday, but they will continue working to upgrade the quality. Upgrading the speed, however, will be very costly. Karleen asked Pastor Joel to give the Diaconate his list of the month's contacts and visits at each meeting.

OPEN ISSUES:

Pastor Joel will change messages on the outside sign more frequently. Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Everyone hopes that we will be able to celebrate all of our Advent and Christmas tradition in 2021. The tentative date for Confirmation will be Palm Sunday, March 28. Final Confirmation plans will be made at our next meeting. Maury asked whether our DVD players are being used. More discussion will follow at our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our next Communion will be on February 28. Ash Wednesday services will be in-person and on Facebook at 7:00 P.M. on February 17.. All other Lenten services will be on Zoom each Wednesday at 7:15. Our church will host on March 17. Theresa will put an announcement concerning lilies in the Chimes and bulletin. Karleen will order the lilies, and Barb will order the palms. No Easter breakfast is planned at this time. We will discuss it at our next meeting. Pastor Joel will add specifics about our special events to our Gazette church information.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 P.M. by Char, seconded by Bev. Our next meeting will be on March 10 at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Daubs

March 10, 2021 Diaconate Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Chairman Karleen Merchant. Members present were Char Remer, Bev Weerda, Jean Mennenga, Karleen Merchant, Jackie Cunningham, Barb Daubs, and Pastor Joel Hicke. Char led us in prayer.

Barb read the minutes of the February 9 meeting. Bev made the motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Char. The motion passed. Bev gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 645.04 plus the money collected from the February 28 offering.

Pastor Joel's report showed one visit, as well as a number of calls and texts.

OPEN ISSUES:

Due to Pastor Joel's illness, Confirmation will tentatively be held on April 25. Plans were made for Confirmation Sunday. Barb has ordered the palms for Palm Sunday, and forms for lily purchase have been placed in the bulletin. Our Easter service will be at 9:00 A.M., with music by the children. Char made the motion to have the Easter breakfast, with breakfast pizza, donuts, juice, and coffee available from 8:00 to 9:00, seconded by Jackie. The motion passed. Those who plan to attend should contact the church office. A freewill offering will be taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Lenten service on March 17 will be led by Pastor Joel at 7:15 P.M. on Zoom and in-person. Communion will be offered on Palm Sunday, during the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 P.M. on April 1, and on April 25. Each Diaconate member will contact church members about their concerns, prayers, and ideas for the church. Karleen feels that the Diaconate members need to welcome new Seward residents. Plans for Mother's Day were discussed. The May 16 Promotion Sunday plans were also discussed. Our summer schedule will begin on May 23 with the 9:00 A.M. worship service. Pastor Joel will put this information in the Chimes.

The motion to adjourn was made by Karleen at 11:20 A.M., seconded by Jean. Our next meeting will be on May 11 at 9:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Daubs

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 20, 2021

PRESENT: Pastor Joel, Effie Hoppe, Brenda VanHauen, Tari Woods, Matt Cowman, Scott Whitney, Dick Remer

ABSENT: Aaron Ackerman

Call to Order/Prayer at 6:35 PM by Tari and she led us in prayer.

Minutes: November's minutes were read by Matt and were approved. Motion by Brenda, second by Dick.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary's Report: reviewed and approved. Motion by Dick, second by Scott.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel had 12 contacts and averaged 35 hours per week. He averaged 284 contacts for the year.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Scott will replace two kick plates on the doors instead of replacing the doors. This will be a fraction of the price.
2. Camera for recording services is up and running, but there is still no sound. They will try with a laptop instead of the tablet.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual meeting will follow a shortened Sunday service and will be held in the sanctuary to maintain social distance, need 10 attendees for a quorum-January 31, 2021
2. Dick Remer is now returning as a Trustee in 2021, Maury is coming on as a Trustee, but whose place is he taking? Aaron?
3. Ash Wednesday and Lent will interfere with February and March's meetings. They have been rescheduled to Thursday the 18th in February and March to accommodate.

Maintenance Report:

1. Sanctuary cleanliness still not been completed, Joel went over the contract with the cleaning person. Hopefully, it is taken care of.

Next Meeting: ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday, February 18th, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 PM: Motion by Effie, second by Scott

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 18, 2021

PRESENT: Pastor Joel, Effie Hoppe, Brenda VanHauen, Tari Woods, Matt Cowman, Scott Whitney, Dick Remer, Maury Daubs

ABSENT: None

Call to Order/Prayer at 6:35 PM by Tari and she led us in prayer.

Minutes: November's minutes were read by Matt and were approved. Motion by Effie, second by Brenda.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary's Report: reviewed and approved. Motion by Matt, second by Scott.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel had 24 contacts and averaged 32.5 hours per week. Pastor Joel suggested we look into a different internet provider for better service. Also, possibly swapping tablets with Kathy for better recording for live streaming.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. We approved for 4-H to go ahead and continue meetings.
2. We decided unanimously that the Aurand House is not for sale, so no need to move forward with that at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ash Wednesday and Lent will interfere with February and March's meetings. They have been rescheduled to Thursday the 18th in February and March to accommodate.
2. It has been brought up evaluate investments to possibly simplify things or consolidate.

Maintenance Report:

1. Maury will have the fire department come in a complete an inspection to make sure everything safe and up to date, for insurance purposes.


Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18th, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 PM: Motion by Brenda, second by Effie

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  MAUNDY THURSDAY Service 7:00 p.m.	2	3
4 Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. Worship Service 9 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Women's Fellowship 9 a.m.	21 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Communion and Confirmation	26	27	28	29	30	

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