

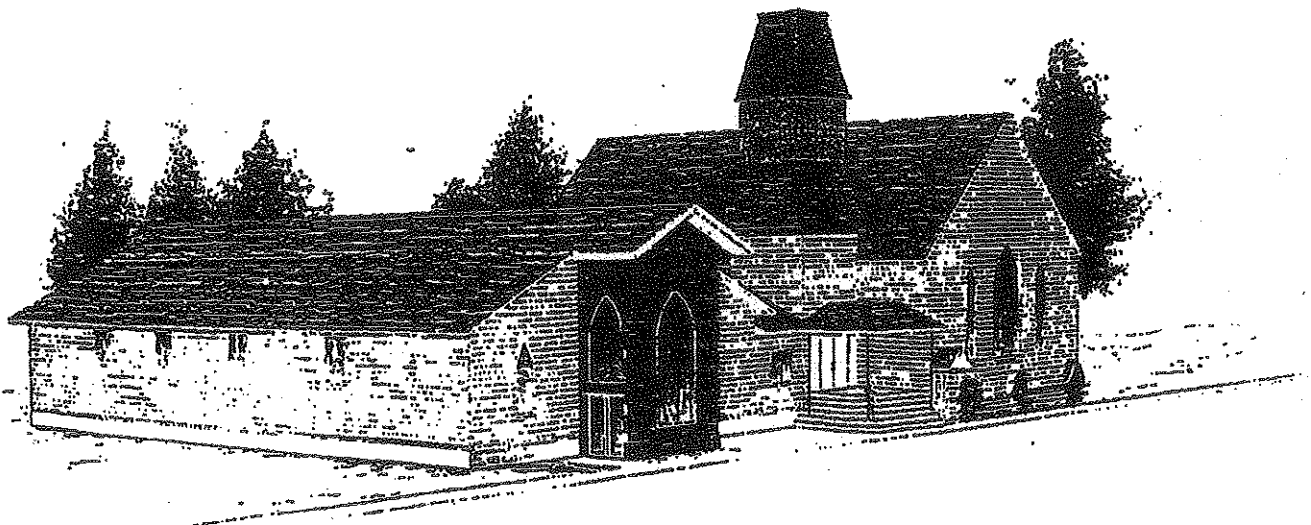
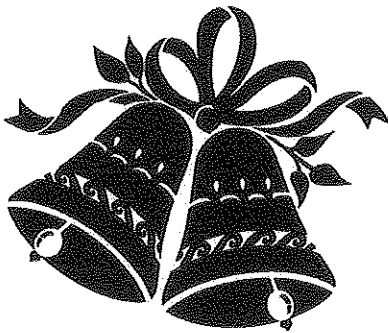
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*The
Chimes*

July Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

Something to think about. This is not original, but very thought-provoking. Pastor Joel

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my spouse because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Jacob Waldron

Announcements

DIACONATE: Will not meet in July.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on July 28^h at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing.

COMMUNION: Will be August 1 since Pastor Joel will be gone on June 25, 2021

PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY: We are collecting red, white and blue items for the Pecatonica Food Pantry, during June. Be creative! In addition to food, they take personal hygiene items.

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

	May	January-May
General Fund	Income \$ 4,690.00	25,554.00
	Expense \$ 4,304.78	29,634.54

July

BIRTHDAYS

9 Whitney Shank
14-Bryan Allen,
16-Bev Allen
20- Mark Klinger
21-Jennifer Lloyd (Woods)
23-Adam Hazzard
25-Duane Lovett, Scott Whitney,
Ashton Kendall
26-Jim Merchant
27-Bette Angell
30- Alma Myers

ANNIVERSARIES

26- Mike & Bev Weerda
27-Jerry & Brenda VanHauen

June 8, 2021 Diaconate Meeting Minutes

Chairman Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 1:06 P.M. Members present were Char Remer, Jackie Cunningham, Jean Mennenga, Karleen Merchant, Bev Weerda, and Pastor Joel Hicke. Karleen led the group in prayer.

Jean read the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting. Char made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jackie. The motion was approved. Bev gave the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$715.88.

Pastor Joel's report included a number of visits and many contacts including text, calls or email. He also got in contact with Rodney at Pinecrest Nursing Home about being able to visit more than one person on a visit. He would like to start an evening Adult Bible Study this fall. Interested people should contact him as to the best night to have.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pastor has to contact the Kemp family about a concert. More packaged cookie donations are needed for fellowship time. (Hostesses are welcome to sign up.) The diaconate members will furnish pies for Fathers' Day fellowship.

NEW BUSINESS:

The digital sign will have a new message or saying periodically. Pastor Joel will be changing the sign. The church phone currently has no announcement because of Verizon doing update for Facebook transmission. That will be taken care of by Pastor Joel. Char will prepare Communion on June 27th. Since Pastor Joel will be on vacation on July 25th, we will have Communion on August 1st. Karleen will obtain pulpit fill for July 25th. After some discussion, we tentatively decided to have a Church Picnic on August 8th at the Seward Park District. Service will be at 10:00 A.M. With a Pot Luck dinner to follow. Rally Sunday will be September 12th.

The motion for adjournment was made by Bev at 1:52 P.M., seconded by Jean. Our next meeting will be on August 10, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Mennenga

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 19, 2021

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

ABSENT: None

Call to Order/Prayer at 6:31 PM by Tari and she led us in prayer.

Minutes: April'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 Dick, second by Scott.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joel had 52 contacts for March and April and averaged 28.17 hours per week, partly due to having to quarantine. \$113 was collected in the baby bottles, and \$268 was collected for the Giddeons, \$427 for the Ollis Family.

Joel has requested the last Sunday in May off, and July 23-25 he will be out of town for a baby shower.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ken Hazzard will donate a plastic pipe for the downspouts.
2. Internet through Frontier, rewiring was approved for \$70, more updates to come to improve internet quality.
3. It was discussed to possibly set up a committee to learn about the mutual funds and other church investments, if anyone is interested.
4. Advanced Surfacing was approved to sealcoat and stripe the parking lot, should be done by mid-June, after further review, the parking blocks will be reused

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kick plates for the interior of the doors need replaced.
2. Get quote for A/C unit for the Aurand House.
3. Updating fire prevention and safety equipment needs to be done to save on insurance. Maury will work on it.
- 4.

Maintenance Report:


Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 16th, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM: Motion by Scott, second by Dick

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Joel Gone	24 Joel Gone
25 Joel Gone	26	27	28 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31