

Seward Congregational Church  
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road  
Seward, IL 61077-0104  
(815)247-8612  
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Seward, IL 61077

*The  
Chimes*

*September Church News*



**SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
SEWARD, ILLINOIS



*This is one of my favorite pictures, and this little piece of prose is definitely food for thought. I believe that we should always strive to be the same at home as we are in church, or at work, or anywhere.*

*From the desk of Pastor Joel*

### ***If God Came to Visit You???***

What would you do if God came to your house to spend some time with you, If He came out of the blue, I wonder what you would do?

I know you would give your best room to such an honored guest, and all the food you would prepare for Him would be the finest. You would keep telling Him that you were glad to have Him there, that spending time with Him was joy beyond compare.

What would You do when you saw Him at the door, would you open it wide to welcome your Heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your garments before you let Him in?

Or run and hide some books and put the Bible where they had been?

Would you turn off the TV and hope that He hadn't heard, and wish you hadn't said that last, loud, ugly word?

What would you do if God came to visit you?

Would you have to hide your daily music and put Christian music on?

Would you let God walk right in, or would you have to rush about, hiding some things of which you are not so proud?

If God came to spend a day or two with you, would you go on doing the things you usually do?

Would you go right on saying the things you usually say? Or would you alter them in some small, little way?

Would your life continue on as it does from day to day? Or would you have to change it in some significant way?

Would Your daily conversation keep the same pace, and would you find it easy to say your mealtime grace?

Would You watch the movies you've always watched and read the books you have read?

For then God would know the thing on which your mind feeds.

Would you take God with you everywhere you wanted to go, or would you change your route just for a weaker soul?

Would you be proud to have Him meet your friends, or hope they stay away until God's visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever and forever, or give a sigh of relief when the visit was finally over?

Wouldn't it be amazing to know just what you would do if God in heaven, Himself, came to visit you?

By Flora Cousins © 1997

## August 10, 2021 Diaconate Meeting Minutes

Chairman Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. Members present were Char Remer, Jackie Cunningham, Bev Weerda, Karleen Merchant, Jean Mennenga, Barb Daubs, and Pastor Joel Hicke. Char led the group in prayer.

Barb read the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting. Char made the motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Bev. The motion was approved. Bev presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 755.88. Barb made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jean. The motion was approved.

Pastor Joel's report included 34 contacts, including visits to Dwyane Zipse and Dorothy Spielman at Pinecrest.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Joel has contacted the Kemp Family about scheduling a concert, but he has not heard back from them. The church picnic was a success with church members and Seward residents present, and kids' games following the meal. Karleen asked that Pastor Joel put additional information on the digital sign. There have been problems with the church answering machine messages which are being addressed. There was a discussion of Pinecrest visits and other pastoral visits, noting that each visit should include a prayer. Additional cookies are needed for coffee hours.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Communion will be offered on August 29, and Karleen volunteered to set it up. Rally Day will be on September 12. Students will go back to individual classrooms by age this year, and all children's and adult books have been ordered. Because one of the important jobs of the Diaconate members is to reach out to people who have visited recently or who haven't come recently, we discussed visits to or contacts we could make to the elderly or homebound members of our congregation. We shared visits or contacts each of us have made recently. A list of people in nursing homes, the homebound, or those in the military should be available and updated, perhaps, monthly, while those who are hospitalized should be listed in the bulletin.

The motion for adjournment was made at 11:46 A.M. by Jean, seconded by Bev. Our next meeting will be on September 14, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted, Barb Daubs

Seward Congregational Church  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
July 28, 2021

**Present:** Tari Woods, Effie Hoppe, Dick Remer, Scott Whitney, Matt Cowman, Brenda Van Hauen and Pastor Joel.

**Absent:** Maury Daubs

**The meeting** was called to order by Tari Woods at 6:36 pm and she led us in prayer.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the June meeting were read by Tari and were approved. Motion by Effie, second by Dick.

**Treasurer's report** was given and approved. Motion by Scott, second by Matt.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Joel ordered the lights for the bathroom.

**Old Business:**

**Advanced** did the parking lot, and the bill is paid.

**Downspouts**—Ken Hazzard will provide what we need; Scott will talk to him.

**Internet update**—Still waiting on update.

**Financial update**—Maury talked about a 5.5% gain plus dividends which equals a 7-9% yield on investments. Still no takers for the investment committee. Tabled until August in Maury's absence.

**Fire code update**—If we qualify in all categories of the check list, then we will be eligible for a 15% discount. Three fire extinguishers were purchased, and several smoke detectors/carbon monoxide detectors were purchased for the church and the parsonage, that need to be installed. The fire extinguishers were ABC units, Maury will check and make sure they are the correct size that we need. Background checks were discussed for some people, but this was tabled UFN. We also discussed having at least two people count the money for the safety of those who would be doing this. Also. Tabled until August in Maury's absence.

**Inside door plate**—tabled for cooler weather.

**Lightbulbs**—there are lightbulbs that need to be replaced in the hallway by the offices. Scott and Matt will take care of it. Some have been done.

**Weeds** around the church that need to be pulled.

**New Business:**

**Sound**—people are needed for Sunday service

**The Wycliffes**—The Osterloos have retired, so we would like to find a new mission to sponsor, possibly someone/somewhere more local

**Next meeting** will be on August 18, 2021.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Matt, and seconded by Brenda. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

## Announcements

**RALLY DAY:** Rally day will be on September 12 with Sunday School for all ages from 9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Worship service will be at 10:30 a.m.

**DIACONATE:** Will meet on September 14 at 9 a.m.

**TRUSTEE'S:** Will meet on September 15 at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Will meet on September 21 at 9 a.m.

**COMMUNION:** Will be September 26 2021

**PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY:** In August will be collecting ketchup, mustard, olives, pickles and canned pasta for the Pecatonica Food Pantry.

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

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

**Monthly Budget \$6,821.50**

	<b>July</b>	<b>January-July</b>
General Fund	Income \$ 3,141.05	34,905.05
	Expense \$ 5,046.57	43,563.14

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

- 2- Emily Hilton
- 3- Jeanie Spielman
- 6- Char Remer
- 13- Cletus Hoppe
- 18- Theresa Ackerman
- 22- Dillon Shank
- 25 - Jackson Klinger
- 26- Vernice Klinger
- 27- Patti Klinger (Craven)

# September 2021

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