

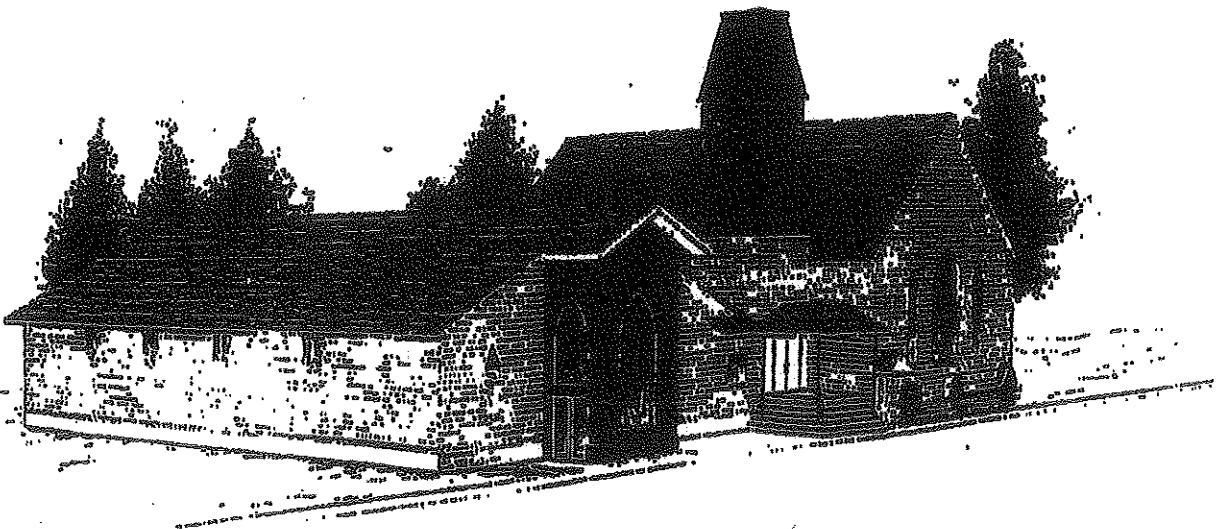
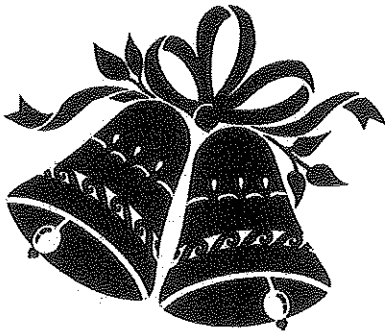
Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

Return Service Requested

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

*The
Chimes*

March Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

Lent: The Season of "Lengthening"

What is Lent, and why do we observe this season? Lent began after the Council of Nicea in AD 325, as stated in the 5th Canon (or law of faith) by that council. This was the first time in recorded history that there is mention of forty days for this time of preparation before Easter Sunday. Earlier, there were only two or three days set aside for this. This was considered a season of "Lengthening" because of the lengthening of days as spring approached. As the "sun" was considered the "lengthener" of days, so the "Son" of God can "lengthen" us spiritually and help us to grow spiritually during this time as we approach Easter Sunday when we celebrate His Resurrection.

Originally, on the day of fasting, people were only to eat one meal that was not to include meat, fish, eggs, or butter; and that was to be after three in the afternoon on Friday, and as they were able, to carry that over to Holy Saturday. However, that has changed several times over the years so that in today's world the practice is only fish on Fridays during Lent season for many people. This was to be a time of self-discipline or giving up certain things, hence the practice of fasting. Since for some people, due to health issues, giving up food is not feasible, then the practice of abstaining from something that is important to us has evolved. This time, when we "fast" that particular thing, then, should be spent in reading God's Word, prayer, and deepening our relationship with God so that we can become more like Him. People have flippantly said they would give up something relatively easy, but this misses the whole point of the season. This is not a time of making resolutions, as many do at the New Year. This is a time of self-examination spiritually to make sure that there is no hindrance in our relationship with our Savior. If you are going to abstain from something, be as faithful as you can to forego that thing and learn from God's Word how to be more like Him to deepen that relationship.

If you have a Bible application on your phone or other device, there are several devotional plans for Lent in the application that you could choose from. I would encourage you to try one of those to "lengthen" your walk with Jesus.

From the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on March 14, at 10 a.m. We will meet in fellowship hall with social distancing

DIACONATE: Will meet March 22 at 9 a.m.

AVENUE TRIO: March 11-13 Avenue Trio Friday & Saturday at 7:00 P.M. And Sunday at 10:30 A.M. Following the Sunday service, a Potluck dinner will be shared

LENTEN SERVICES: Ash Wednesday service will be on Wednesday March 2 at 6:30 p.m. Lenten services will be on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNION: Will be March 27, 2022

PECATONICA FOOD PANRY: day. Pick an item and deposit it in the box and then check off that day. Let's fill up the whole calendar.

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$6,932.75

	January
General Fund	Income \$4,920.00
	Expense \$ 6021.63

MARCH BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1—Matt Cowman
12-Cathy Hicke
14-Dwayne Zipse
16- Aurora Joanne Hilton
26- Maury Daubs

Anniversaries

7—Bryan & Bev Allen

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Lenten service Parks Hills Winnebago 6:30 p.m.	11 Avenue Trio 7 p.m.	12 Avenue Trio 7 p.m.
13 Avenue Trio 10:30a.m. Followed by potluck	14 Trustee's 10 a.m.	15 Women's Fellowship 9 a.m.	16	17 Lenten service Seward Church 6:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21	22 Diaconate 11 a.m.	23	24 Lenten service Winnebago Methodist 6:30 p.m.	25	26
27 Communion	28	29	30	31 Lenten service 1 st Presbyterian Winnebago 6:30 p.m		

MARCH BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1—Matt Cowman
 12-Cathy Hicke
 14-Dwayne Zipse
 16- Aurora Joanne Hilton
 26- Maury Daubs

Anniversaries

7—Bryan & Bev Allen

February 15, 2022 Diaconate Meeting

Chairman Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Pastor Joel led us in prayer.

Members present were Jackie Cunningham, Bev Weerda, Karleen Merchant, Shirley Myers, Jennifer Lloyd, Jean Mennenga, and Pastor Joel.

Election of Officers: Chairman- Karleen Merchant, Treasurer- Bev Weerda, Secretary- Jean Mennenga. Karleen made a motion to accept these officers: Shirley 2nd the motion. The motion was approved.

Jean read the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. Bev made the motion to accept the minutes. Jackie 2nd the motion. The motion was approved. Bev presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$906.88.

Pastor Joel's report included 5 home visits, 6 birthday cards sent, and 11 additional contacts.

Upcoming dates:

February 26 @10:00 A.M. Memorial Service for Terry Spielman

March 2 @ 6:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service at Seward

March 17 @ 6:30 P.M. Seward will host Lent Service (Lent services will be held on Thursday Night)

March 11-13 Avenue Trio Friday & Saturday at 7:00 P.M. And Sunday at 10:30 A.M. Following the Sunday service, a Potluck dinner will be shared. After a discussion Jennifer Lloyd made a motion to contribute \$400 for the Avenue Trio. Jackie 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

Pastor Joel has contacted 14 area churches regarding the Revival weekend.

May 1st Nicole (Merchant) will give a message

May 8th Ollis Family will give a message. There will be a free will offering.

Youth activity for March will be roller skating, but no date has been set.

New Business:

Invite someone to Sunday School, church, or Revival weekend.

Winnebago County Fair People Mover-we need someone to be in charge.

Communion will be February 27th and March 27th.

Karleen will be gone March 20th, however Pastor Joel will provide the music.

Pastor Joel will be having back surgery on April 20th.

The motion for adjournment was made at 10:15 A.M. By Jennifer, seconded by Bev.

Our next meeting will be March 22nd at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Mennenga

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 19, 2021

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

Absent: Maury Daubs

The meeting was called to order by Tari at 6:30pm and Tari led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes from the December meeting were approved. Motion by Effie, second by Brenda.

Financial Report was given and approved. Motion by Matt, second by Tari.

Pastor's report: see submitted report

Old Business:

Repairs—Downspouts are done

Internet-Switching the live service feed to YouTube instead of Facebook

Finances/Safety Review-Tabled in Maury's Absence

New Washer-new one broke again.

Furnace Maintenance-change filters, price for vent cleaning

New Business:

Budget Proposal-Approved budget for 2022

UV Bulbs-energy savings

Next meeting will be on February 16, 2022.

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt, and seconded by Dick. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman