

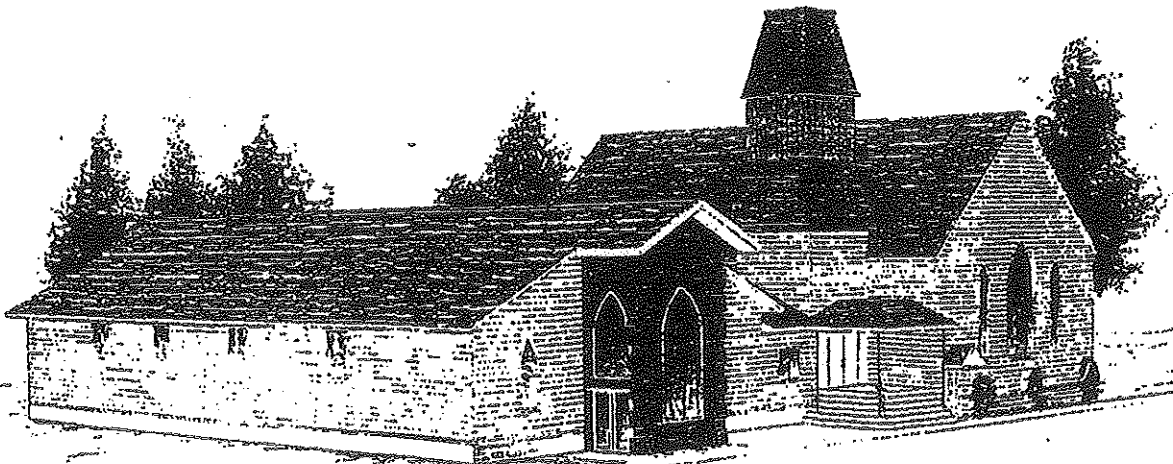
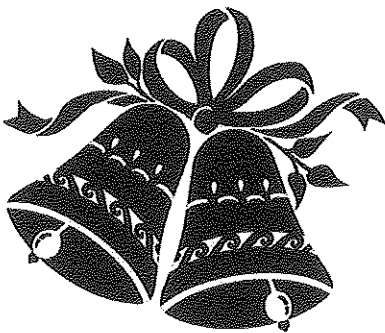
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*The
Chimes*

September Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

I have been reading, in my personal devotion time, from the Book of Exodus about God leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and out of slavery. In order to do this, God had to convince Pharaoh, through Moses and Aaron, to allow the Israelite slaves to be able to go into the wilderness to offer the sacrifices as worship to Him.

Pharaoh's heart was hardened, Scripture says, even in the face of the ten plagues that God sent on the land of Egypt—some that affected everyone in the land, and some that affected only the Egyptians. Those ten plagues were: making the water in the Nile River, all the reservoirs, and even the water they had stored in their jars and jugs, turn to blood; frogs everywhere (in their beds); dust turned to pesky gnats; flies; the plague on the livestock; boils that covered their bodies; hail that destroyed their crops; locusts that finished off what little crops were left; a period of darkness that was so dark they could not see their hand in front of their face; and, finally, death of the first-born males—both human and of their livestock.

When the Israelites were finally able to leave Egypt, and got as far as the Red Sea, they realized that Pharaoh's army was chasing them—and they panicked!! They began to yell at Moses, blaming him for their certain death when the Egyptians caught up to them.

“Why did you bring us out here? What good did it do since we are going to die anyway?”

Moses sought God, and reminded the people that God would take care of them—and a great miracle unfolded before them!! The waters of the Red Sea parted, the wind came and dried up the bottom of the sea, and the people crossed over on the dry ground!! When they were all safe, God had Moses once more stretch the staff in his hand over the sea, and the waters came rolling down on the Egyptian army. Scripture says that not one of the soldiers survived. To this very day, remains of the chariots have been found in the bottom of the Red Sea, verifying that this is not just a made-up story, but is factual.

I wonder; how many times do we ask God to do something for us and fail to see His hand at work in whatever situation that is? Do we really believe that God will do what He says? Or do we worry and fret about what the outcome might be? Why is it so hard to put our trust in the God of the Universe, the Creator of all that is? Instead, maybe we need a Moses in our lives to remind us to stay calm in the midst of the trial or struggle that we are facing so that we will really see God's hand at work in our lives. And once we realize just how much God has done for us, how often do we thank Him for His hand of mercy, His marvelous grace, in that situation?

The Israelites were instructed to set aside certain days of certain months in the springtime of the year to be reminded of, and to thank God for His wonderful provision for them. Shouldn't we do the same? What do you have to thank God for today?

Just some thoughts from the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY: Sunday school will begin on September 11 at 9:15. Followed by worship service at 10:30

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Will meet on September 20 at 9 a.m.

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

DIACONATE: Will not meet in September.

COMMUNION: Will be on September 25

BEAR/PACKER SUNDAY: Bear/Packer Sunday is September 25th. We will collect paper products (toilet paper, kleenex, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, paper cups, etc), Deposit them in your favorite teams bin and we'll see which team wins! The real winner will be the organizations that we donate these items to. Wear your favorite team's shirt/colors that day which can be any

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

July

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| General Fund | Income | \$4,275.00 |
| | Expense | \$ 5,562.64 |

Monthly Budget \$6,932.75

January-July

| |
|-------------|
| \$35,493.55 |
| 47,843.87 |

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)

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 20, 2022

Present: Peggy Whitney, Effie Hoppe, Matt Cowman, Brenda VanHauen, and Dick Remer, Maury Daubs.

Absent: Pastor Joel

The meeting was called to order by Peggy at 6:39 pm and Dick also led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes from the June's meeting were read by Matt. Motion to approve made by Brenda, seconded by Dick.

Financial Report was given by Effie and Brenda. Motion to approve by Dick, seconded by Matt. Maury also read his investments report, with possible updates.

Pastor's report: Tabled in Pastor Joel's absence.

Old Business:

Maintenance-New water heater in the Aurand house.

Light Pole-Using Memorial Fund to replace/repair. Maury has different suggestions on having the pole replaced, so he will take over for Matt since JP Electric hasn't responded since the quote.

Dryer-needs replaced, update tabled in Pastor Joel's absence.

New Business:

People Mover-all the slots have been filled. Fair starts August 17th.

Tree Trimming-partially done. The NW corner of the parsonage still needs some trimming.

Next meeting will be on August 17, 2022 at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt, and seconded by Brenda. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

August 11th, 2022 Diaconate Meeting

Chairperson Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led us in prayer.

Members present: Jacki Cunningham, Jennifer Lloyd, Karleen Merchant, Char Remer, Bev Weerda and Pastor Joel.

In Jean's absence Char read the minutes of the May 3, 2022 meeting. Bev made a motion to accept the minutes. Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Bev presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 522.30. Jacki made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Jennifer. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Joel gave a report from the 4C's 75th Annual Gathering in Rhode Island. He included an article from the President, Alvin Helms, recapping the event; suggested inclusions to our Statement of Faith and our By-laws; and legal information regarding By-laws.
- Pastor Joel will start a Bible Study/Prayer Group in September. Day and time are undecided at this time.
- Natural Church Development (NCD) is a program the 4 C churches are using to start new churches and to grow existing churches. This program will be presented on September 12 and 13 in Chicago. Pastor is interested in attending with church leader(s). He will present information to the Trustees.
- Pastor reviewed his contacts for the months of June and July. The Diaconate would like to see more in-person visits. Shut-ins and those in retirement homes enjoy his visits. Members of the Diaconate will continue to make visits.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mother's Day carnations were ordered and donated by Shirley.
- Comments were positive regarding the Ollis Family music program.
- Thanks to all who helped on the church workday and especially to the 4-H members who joined in. Many hands make light work.
- Thanks to Jennifer for the message on May 29th. The online sound not working was a problem and is a concern.
- Thanks to those who assisted with the Dorothy Spielman memorial. There was no lunch and the family provided cake so it was just a matter of hosting the event.
- The Fathers appreciated the pies served at coffee hour on Father's Day.
- Ray DeLauier, 4 C's Regional Pastor gave the sermon on Sunday, July 3. \$ 140.00 was taken in collection for him.
- Sid Moate from the Gideons gave the message on Sunday, July 24. \$ 135.00 was collected for the Gideons.
- Thanks to Bev Hilton and Jean Mennenga for organizing materials for the banners and to all who helped putting them together. Seven banners were completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There will not be a coffee hour on Sunday, August 21 because of the Winnebago County Fair.
- Karleen is working on a new prayer chain. It will be ready by the end of August.
- Church time will change on September 11th. Karleen reminded Pastor Joel to change the information on the sign and answering machine.
- Sunday School resumes on September 11. Tari and Bev will teach using FROG theme (Fully Relying on God). Char will teach the Adult class.
- Karleen and Jacki will plan a Youth event for September. It will be an evening of Pizza and games at the church. Volunteers were requested to choose a month and plan an event.
- Sunday, October 30, after the church service, we will have a lunch, games and candy for families. We are to bring bar-be-que and a bucket of candy. Char will get chips. Karleen will set up the games.

- August 28th is our next communion Sunday.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The bank donated six chairs and a Nativity Scene to the church.
- It was requested that when a message is deleted on the sign out front, another message be posted.

The motion for adjournment was made at 10:11 by Bev. Seconded by Jacki.

Our next meeting will be in October. Day and Date to be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Char Remer, substituting for Jean Mennenga

Greetings from Nigeria,

I am a little over half-way through my four weeks in Nigeria. I took some time this past Sunday to think about my reason for being here. It is very easy to get caught up in the mechanics of what we are doing. We study a verse and we decide what it means and then we decide how it can best be translated into the Glavda language. And it can all become very mechanical. God caused me to take a step back. He reminded me that the reason for doing this work is more important than the work itself. We believe that God's Word is powerful and that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is able to transform the lives of the people who read and study it. We do not do Bible translation in order to produce a Bible, but in order to transform lives.

2 Cor 3:16-18 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

I am very happy that God has chosen me to be a part His ministry of Bible translation and that you are a part of that ministry also. I apologize for not writing sooner. There is always so much to do while I am here and the time goes very quickly. I had a good trip here including the 5 hour road trip from Abuja to Jos. Thank you for your prayers. While I am here I work with a Nigerian Bible translation organization called Luke Initiative for Scripture Translations which is known as LIST. They make all the arrangements for me and the Glavda team for our time here, like finding a place for us to meet and arranging for the equipment we use while we are here including a projector so all of us can see the same image of the verse we are working on. All of that was in place when we got here. We have made good progress although we have had times when the equipment did not work well and that slows things down. Our team consists of three Glavda translators, Dauda, Zakariya and Kyaghwala, and myself. We are presently working on the consultant check for the book of Mark which we hope to finish by the end of this visit. We hope to print some trial copies to distribute to readers for testing before we actually print Mark.

God has given us some breakthroughs. One example is that the team has talked about the Jewish temple before but had not grasped the idea of the temple courtyard in relation to the temple building itself. When we were working on the story about Jesus driving the buyers and sellers out of the temple courtyard in Mark 11, we talked again about the temple complex and this time they understood and we were able to express well what was happening.

I am always encouraged to find idioms they have used in their language. Idioms are usually language specific so when you see one you know it is probably a good expression in their language. In Mark 12:1-12 Jesus tells the parable of the tenants. A man built a vineyard and rented it out to tenants and then left for a far country. After harvest time he sent a servant back to collect the rent.

Mark 12:3 says, "But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed." The Glavda translated the last part "with his hand five". The servant went away with just the 5 fingers of his hand. For the Glavda, this is an idiomatic way to say, 'empty-handed'.

Pray that God will use the translation to transform lives. Please pray for wisdom for the three translators of the Glavda team and me. We want the translation to communicate God's truth. Please pray also for the health of the team. We have been having some health issues that have slowed down our work.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Him,

Larry

This is from Larry Roettger with Wycliffe

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Church | 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 Bear/Packers Sunday | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |