

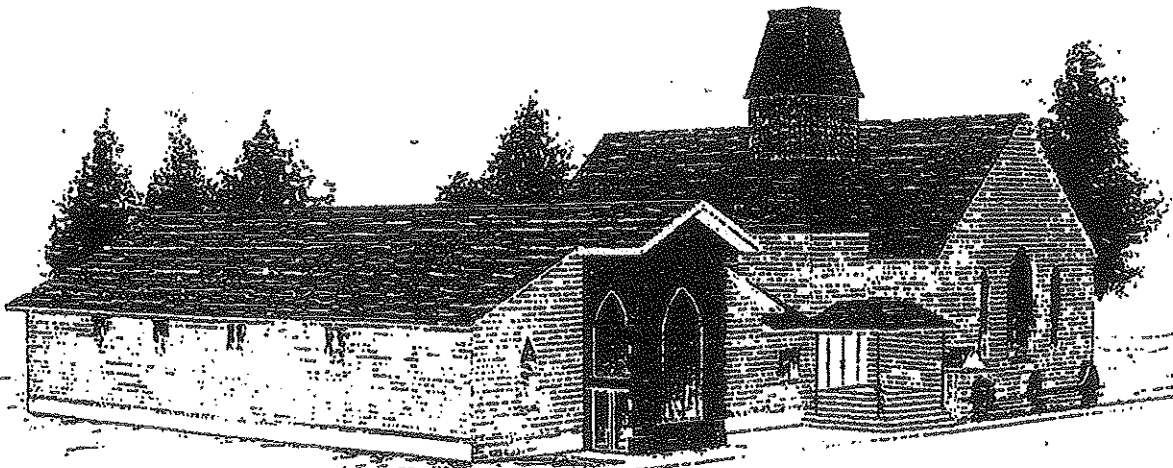
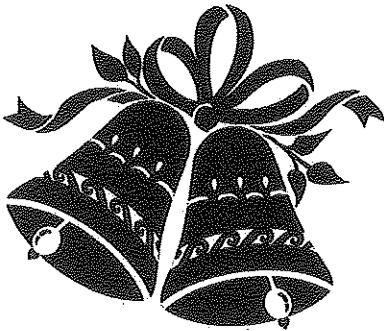
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*The
Chimes*

November Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

Now Thank We All Our God

Words: Martin Rinkart; Trans: Catherine Winkworth

Music: Johann Cruger; Arranged: Eldon Burkwall

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices
Who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God thru all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns with Them in highest heaven
The one eternal God whom earth and heav'n adore
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore

These words were penned during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) by Rev. Rinkart amid hardships and tragic experiences. He became pastor in his hometown of Eilenberg, Germany just when the bloodshed was starting. The plague of 1637 was very severe. At the height of the plague, with Rinkart as the only minister in town, he often conducted forty to fifty funeral services a day.

During the waning years of the war, Eilenberg was invaded on three different occasions: once by the Austrian Army and twice by the Swedish army. During one of the occupations by the Swedish army, a large tribute payment was demanded from the people who already had very little. Rinkart interceded with the leaders of the army, backed by the prayers of his people and the tribute demand was reduced to a smaller amount. This came about because, like Pharaoh in Egypt, the commander would not first consider lowering the tribute payment amount. However, Rinkart faced his parishioners and said, "Come, my children, we can find no mercy with man; let us take refuge with God." While on his knees in prayer, he led his people in the singing of a familiar hymn—and the commander was moved to lower the tribute payment.

What do you have to be thankful for this year?

From the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

DIACONATE: TBA

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: We will be making Cole Slaw for the Election Day lunch on Friday November 4 at 1 p.m. Will meet on November 15, at 9 a.m.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on November 16, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

COMMUNION: Will be on November 27

ELECTION DAY: Women's Fellowship is going to have a barbecue lunch on Election Day, Nov. 8th from 11-1pm with a free will donation.

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY September

General Fund	Income	\$3,552.00
	Expense	\$ 9,665.24

Monthly Budget \$6,932.75 January-August

\$44,575.44
\$63,066.33

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

14- Mary Asche
18-Ella Rose
19-Elaine Long
22-Jill Viel
30- Robb Klinger

ANNIVERSARY

7- Cletus & Effie Hoppe
16-Pastor Joel & Cathy Hicke

October 4, 2022 Diaconate Meeting

Chairperson Karleen Merchant called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Joel led us in prayer.

Members present: Jacki Cunningham, Karleen Merchant, Char Remer, Bev Weerda, Shirley Myers, Jean Mennenga, and Pastor Joel.

Jean read the minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting. Jacki made a motion to accept the minutes. Char seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Bev presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$579.30. Jean made a motion to accept the report. Seconded by Jacki. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Pastor Joel started a Bible Study/Prayer group in September. They meet on Thursday morning at 9:30 or Thursday evening at 6:30. They are studying the book of John.
- Pastor Joel will be meeting with Peggy to discuss our By-laws and legal information regarding By-laws.
- Pastor reviewed his contacts for the months of August and September. It was noted that he had made more contacts these months. The Diaconate will continue to make visits.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sunday School classes have several new attendees.
- Karleen reported about the Youth event in September. Jacki helped her with the Pizza and game night. Rosie Rust has volunteered to be in charge of events for the High School Youth.
- October 30th we will have a barbeque lunch (bring BBQ and it will be mixed in roaster). Chips will be furnished. Also needed are bars or cookies for dessert. Trick or Treat will follow the meal, so bring candy for the children.
- Prayer chain has been updated and can be found on the bulletin board.
- Discussed the changing of the messages on the marquee sign.

NEW BUSINESS:

- October 23rd will be Communion. We will try out oyster crackers and grape juice. (Karleen will be out of town.)
- December 11th will be the Sunday School Christmas program.
- November 20th we will decorate the church for the Advent season (following the service). November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent. We need families for the Advent readings.
- Thanks for welcoming visitors in church.
- Peggy, Char, Maury, and Pastor Joel are working on updating our constitution with a statement of faith and By-laws.
- We will be having a Christmas Eve Service and Christmas Day Service.

The motion for adjournment was made at 10:59 by Char. Seconded by Shirley.

Our next meeting will be announced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Mennenga

Seward Congregational Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 21, 2022

Present: Pastor Joel, Peggy Whitney, Matt Cowman, Brenda Van Hauen, and Dick Remer, Maury Daubs.

Absent: Effie Hoppe

The meeting was called to order by Peggy at 6:28pm and Joel also led us in prayer.

Minutes: The minutes from the August's meeting were read by Matt. Correction, July was misspelled. Motion to approve as amended made by Dick, seconded by Brenda.

Financial Report was given by Brenda. Motion to approve by Matt, seconded by Maury. Maury also read his investments report/updates, and Sept 19th updates.

Pastor's report: See August report submitted by Pastor Joel. He has Bible studies now, one morning and one evening. Looking to change them to the same day.

Old Business:

Light Pole-New light pole to be installed by John Bolen/Lender Electric as soon as he can get to it. Pole has been delivered.

Dryer-new dryer for parsonage is still needed. Pastor Joel is to pick out a new dryer and have it delivered.

Willwood-Plots, Joel spoke with Tanya at Willwood, they may need more information. Joel will follow up.

Windows-parsonage windows screens need replaced. Maury will help with this.

Insurance-need to get new quotes because the premiums increased significantly, still in progress.

New Business:

Water Heater-parsonage water heater may need to be replaced, plumber has already been out to look at it.

Basement-Maury is monitoring the leaking issue.

Sunday School-Need to have a budget put in place for Sunday School supplies.

Salt-Matt will get a pallet for the church and parsonage.

4 Cs-Establishing Bi-Laws for today's world

Other:

Walk-through-Need to do an annual walk-through at the parsonage. Date TBD. Peggy will follow up.

Budget-Need to be working on annual budget.

People Mover-\$720 was earned from the People Mover this year.

Lions Club-needed help at the fair and had to recruit people. They paid \$21/hr for help. Dick thought maybe getting volunteers from the church and donating that money to the church.

Next meeting will be on October 19, 2022 at 6:30pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt and seconded by Dick. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowman

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Making coleslaw 1 p.m.	5
6	7	8 Election Day Lunch 11-1	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Women's fellowship 9 a.m. bring 2 dozen cookies	16 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 Decorate for Advent	21 Seward Historical Society 7 p.m.	22	23 Thanksgiving Eve Sercive TBA	24	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Communion	28	29	30			

We all love our church and we want it to be here for decades and beyond as it has been here for our ancestors. However, as we look into the future of our church, we need to start now asking for everyone's thoughts on what steps we can do to grow our church.

One thought that we have is that we would like to have everyone's input and vision of what our church would look like in 5 and again in 10 years?

Eventually "will" we need to look at partnering in with another church?

We ask if you would want to, to please take a questionnaire home with you and then bring it back no later than November 20. We will have a box set up and labeled for the questionnaire to be returned to. We would love to have 100% participation. This questionnaire will be done anonymously and we will present all of the ideas back to the congregation at a later date.

Thank you for your sharing your ideas!
