

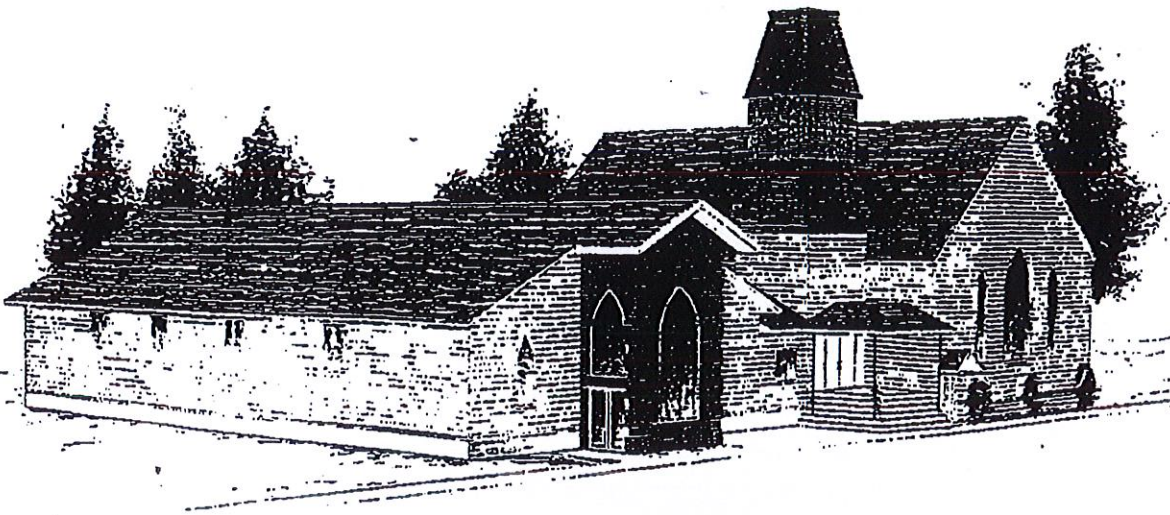
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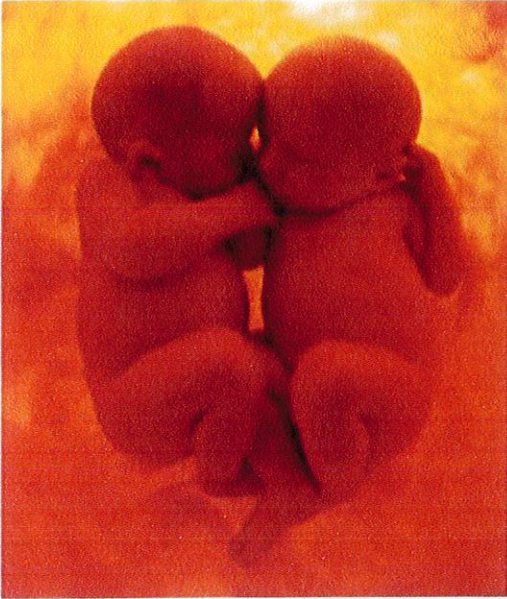
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*The  
Chimes*

*April Church News*



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SEWARD, ILLINOIS



While this is not an original (I wish I were that imaginative), I thought this was something that would make us think about, and maybe use, if we encounter someone who doesn't believe in our God or is unsure of what they believe. It started me thinking, and it is a great illustration. I copied this from a post on Facebook.

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Maybe this was one of the best explanations to the concept of GOD.

May God be more real to you than ever before as we are celebrating our Risen Lord this Easter season!

From the desk of Pastor Joel

## Announcements

**DIACONATE: TBA.**

**TRUSTEE'S:** Will meet on April 19, at 10 a.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

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

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** We will have a Maundy Thursday service with communion on Thursday April 6, at 6:30.

**EASTER BREAKFAST:** We will have our annual Easter breakfast this year on 4/9 at 8am with service to follow at 9am. Bring your families and your friends to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!"

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

	January-February	Monthly Budget \$7,026.50
General Fund	Income \$10,775.76	February 5,365.76
	Expense \$ 13,599.51	6,157.87

### April Birthdays

April 4- Richard Remer  
    Laura West (Remer)  
12-Julie Fry  
14-Keith Long  
17- Allen Asche  
19-Colton Asche

April 8 Richard & Tari Woods  
20-Mark & Barb Klinger

Seward Congregational Church  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 18, 2023

**Present:** Brenda Van Hauen, Effie Hoppe, Dick Remer, Peggy Whitney, Pastor Joel Hicke. **Absent:** Matt Cowman, Maury Daubs.

Meeting was called to order at 11:57 am; Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

The December minutes were read. Motion to accept the report was made by Brenda, seconded by Dick, and the motion carried.

A motion was made to amend the October minutes to include the omission of the motion and approval for \$50 bonuses for Effie and Brenda for the work they do as treasurer and financial secretary. Effie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Financial reports were given by Effie and Brenda. Dick made a motion to accept these reports, it was seconded by Peggy, and the motion carried.

### **Old Business**

The budget was discussed and a few changes were made in the budget for 2023 that will be presented to the church at the Annual Meeting.

The new bid for the flooring in the Aurand house is \$4,900.

The clock that was in the entrance by the west doors of the church is now in the teen Sunday School room in the basement.

There are some light bulbs on the floor in the Rose Room. It's ok if they stay there since there are still some lights that need to be replaced.

It was recommended that the church get a credit card, so this is being looked into at this time.

As of January, 2023, there is \$180 in the Sunday School account. There has been \$260.20 in donations in 2022. Since we have added Sunday School to the budget, the general consensus is that we should have a monthly report from the Sunday School for their expenses. Pastor Joel will talk to Tari about this. Pastor Joel brought up what we have budgeted for our contribution to the 4C's. After some discussion, Dick made a motion to increase our giving to \$1200 for the year, Effie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

### **Other Business**

The next meeting will be February 15 at 10:00 am.

Motion to adjourn was made by Effie, seconded by Dick, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Hicke

# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6 <b>MAUNDY</b>  <b>THURSDAY</b> Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 With communion	7	8
9 Easter Breakfast 8 a.m. Worship Service 9 a.m.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Women's Fellowship 9 a.m.	19 Trustees 10 a.m.	20	21	22
23	24 Joel Gone	25 Joel Gone	26 Joel Gone	27	28	29
30						