

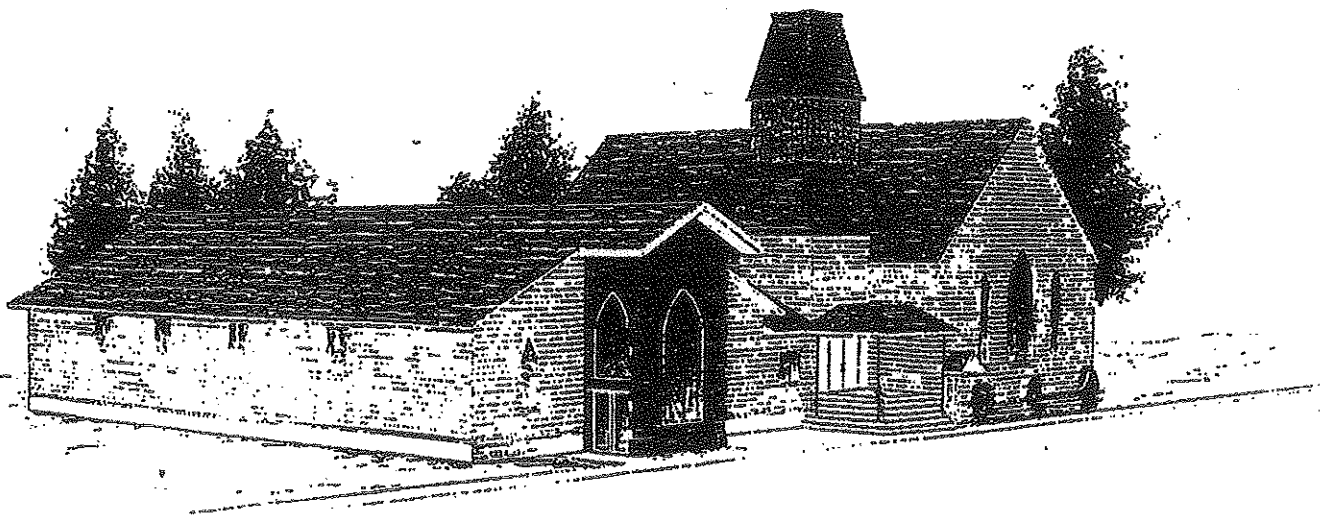
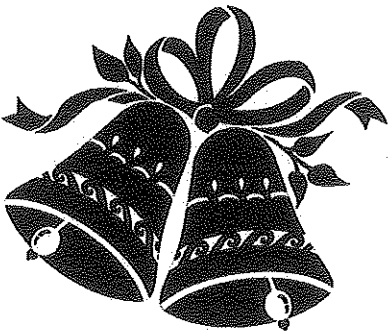
Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

Return Service Requested

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

*The
Chimes*

March Church News



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

Psalm 51 is the cry of David's heart after Nathan confronted him about his affair with Bathsheba, which resulted in a pregnancy and a plot to have Bathsheba's husband murdered –so presumably no one would ever know about the sin that King David committed against Uriah, but ultimately against God and His laws. Nathan came to King David and told him a story about a wealthy man who took the only lamb from a neighbor so that the wealthy man would not have to kill one of his many lambs to provide a meal for his visitor. King David was incensed at that man for taking the neighbor's only lamb, and in his anger said that that man should die for his sin. Nathan replied, "You are the man."

David, after that son was born, asked God to spare the life of the innocent child. God had already delivered the message that this son would not live. David put on sackcloth and ashes, mourning not the death of the child, but the magnitude of his own sin, asking God to let the child live. This is one reason for fasting: repentance for sin.

Fasting has been around for a long time, and the people of Israel were called to fast many times in Scripture. Daniel fasted for three weeks: no choice food, meat, or fine wine did he consume for those three weeks. He did this to concentrate on God and to receive a revelation about what his future held.

The people of Nineveh, after the king heard the message from Jonah, fasted by order of the king, seeking God to see if He would spare them the disaster that would befall them if they would turn from their wicked ways. He ordered the city to put on sackcloth and ashes and fast and repent. God saw their hearts, and granted them life instead of destruction.

Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights in the wilderness where He was tempted and tested by Satan. This time of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, is a time of fasting something in order to spend time with God so that we can learn more of Him, come into a closer relationship with Him, align ourselves more fully with Him. This is also a time that we should allow God to examine us so that, if there is something that we need to change in our lives, we listen to Him and move even closer to Him. This is the second reason for fasting.

What do we fast? In days gone by, people have given up meat, bread, sweets, caffeine, alcohol of any kind. In today's world, people have been known to give up social media, television, parties, to name a few. Many people will give something up just for the sake of being able to say that they gave that thing up for Lent because that is traditionally what they have been taught to do. They will also make a big deal of what they have decided not to do so others recognize what a good person they are.

If we are serious about fasting any of these things, then what do we do with that time? This is when God will know that we are really serious about the fast—we will spend time in His word and/or in prayer seeking His will for our lives.—From the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

DIACONATE: TBA.

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on March 15, 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 3rd Friday of every month.

THANK YOU: Thanks to everyone for your acts of love and kindness during my new journey in life. Whether you prayed, sent cards, visited, called, provided food, took me to an appointment, or did other errands for me, your generosity was greatly appreciated. Words can't really express my sincere gratitude. God Bless you all. Jean Mennenga

EASTER LILIES: Easter lilies can be purchased in memory of a loved one until 4/2. The price for a lily this year will be \$10.

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

Monthly Budget \$7,026.50

January

General Fund	Income	\$5,410.00
	Expense	\$ 7,941.64

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

Diaconate Meeting
February 26, 2023

Chairperson Jennifer Lloyd called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M. With a prayer.

Members present: Jennifer Lloyd, Jacki Cunningham, Karleen Merchant, Bev Weerda, Shirley Myers, Delores Poppen, and Jean Mennenga. Absent was Pastor Joel.

No January minutes available or Pastor report.

Bev gave the treasurer's report: there is \$528.30 in the Diaconate fund. Karleen made a motion and was second by Shirley, and it carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ash Wednesday service was cancelled because of the weather. Maundy Thursday service will be April 6th, 6:30 P.M. with communion

NEW BUSINESS:

Palm Sunday we will have the small palms. Jean will order the palms. Easter breakfast will be served at 8:00 A.M. And Church service will be at 9:00 A.M. A sign up sheet will be posted for casseroles, rolls, and muffins. Karleen will purchase lilies. The cost will be \$10: with sheets available to list in memory or in honor of.

March 9th Lenten service at Seward with soup supper at 5:30 (Delores and Shirley will be making soup) and service at 6:30.

Next communion will be March 19th.

We discussed if changes were needed in the morning worship per thoughts from the survey. The communion will stay the same with walking to the front and picking up the communion. Also the offering basket will stay the same with note in bulletin that an offering basket is available when leaving the service. Have more use of responsive readings and have three to four songs (max.) in the service. If the songs has many verses..only do select verses. We recite the Lords Prayer however the Apostles' Creed isn't done very often. The sermon title should be put in the bulletin. The outline is appreciated to guide us through the message.

Pastor Joel planned a youth skating event February 19th at the Pines with 8 or 9 youth participating.

They all enjoyed the outing. Karleen plans to have a game night in the future.

Beginning June the summer church service will be at 9:00A.M.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Confirmation class will start in fall. Lily has committed and Pastor Joel will contact other students.

One or two people need to be trained to change message on marquee sign.

The Diaconate board will be meeting on Sunday before Sunday School or before Church in the summer time.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10

Nexted meeting TBD

Respectfully submitted,

March 2023

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

Easter Lilies

On Easter Sunday, April 4 we will adorn the Sanctuary with a cross made of Easter Lilies.

Each plant is \$10.00

On Easter Sunday a list of Memorials/In Honor of, will be printed with the bulletin. Plants may be picked up immediately following the service.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Given in Honor/Memory
of: _____

By: _____

Please give to Theresa Ackerman by March 31