

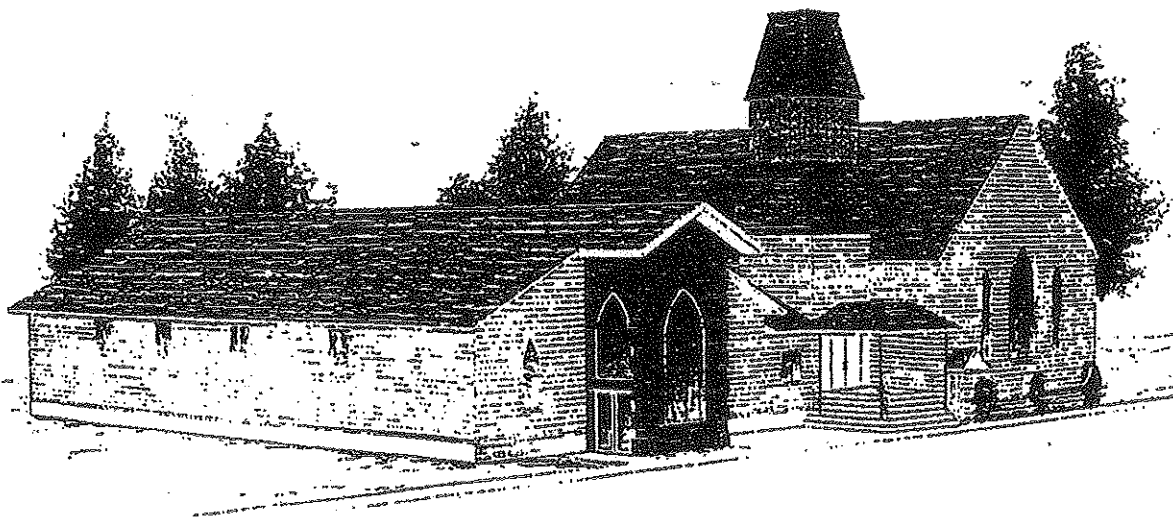
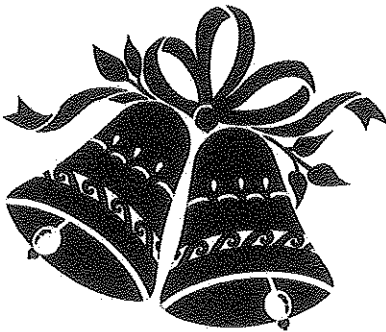
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*The  
Chimes*

*May Church News*



SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

*May is the month in which we honor our Mothers for all they have done for us over the years. This can take many different forms: taking her to her favorite place for dinner, sending her a beautiful card with flowers, fixing her favorite meal, having a special song sung on the radio when you know she will be listening, giving her a hug and telling her how much you love her, saying a special prayer for her. If your Mother is no longer living, remember her by telling some special memory of her to your family. Personally, I wish, sometimes, that I could pick up the phone and speak to her just one more time. However, I know that I will see her one day when we are reunited in heaven.*

*I remember how selfless my Mom was. After Cathy and I met, because of distance, we corresponded by mail and talking on the phone. I would make a trip to Wisconsin whenever I could to be able to see her. When she graduated from high school, she invited me to her graduation. My Dad would only allow me to drive his 1965 Lincoln Town Car if Mom would agree to go with me. She did go with me so that I could attend her graduation, and unbeknownst to me, was sick the whole time we were gone. She never complained. A couple of days after we got home, she had to go to the hospital for a few days!! I felt terrible that I did not realize she was sick, and at the same time, thankful for her selflessness so that I could spend time with Cathy.*

*Another emphasis in May is the National Day of Prayer, which is May 4 this year. This is the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual observance of the National Day of Prayer which began in 1952 by a joint act of Congress. In 1988 that law was amended, designating the first Thursday of May as the National Day of Prayer. The theme this year is "Pray Fervently in Righteousness" based on James 5:16b: "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." We need to pray for the healing of our nation. Just this morning I saw a video of a transgender person declaring war on anyone who would disagree with LGBTQ and the things they stand for. As Christians, we are called to love people as Jesus has loved us. The last time Rev. DeLaurier was with us, he asked us, "How did God love you?" Seven suggestions on things to pray for: 1) the transformation of families (Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 114); 2) the transformation of churches (Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 1:8; John 17); 3) the transformation of governmental leaders (Psalm 10-11; James 1:5) 4) the transformation of military communities (Isaiah 40:25-31; Ephesians 6:10-20); 5) the transformation of businesses (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 11:3; 2 Corinthians 9:8); 6) the transformation of education (Proverbs 2:1-11; Psalm 2:8) 7) the transformation of media, arts, and entertainment (Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 2 Timothy 2:15). This is from <https://news.americabible.org>. We need to be praying for our country; these are suggestions for us to follow. It was said at the Nehemiah Summit this last week that we need transformation not information.*

*From the desk of Pastor Joel*

## Announcements

**DIACONATE: TBA.**

**TRUSTEE'S:** Will meet on May 17, at 6:30 p.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.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** The Women's Fellowship May outing will be Tuesday, May 16th. We will meet for breakfast at Beltline Cafe in Freeport at 9:00 am. For those who would like to carpool, we will leave the church parking lot at 8:30am. After breakfast we will tour the Ridgeway Women's Clinic/Lifeline Coalition in Freeport.

**PROMOTION SUNDAY:** Will be on May 21, 2023

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

**Monthly Budget \$7,026.50**

#### January-March

#### March

General Fund	Income \$16,470.76
	Expense \$ 21,067.30

5,695.00
7,319.88

### MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

1-Carmel Hirschuber  
Sam Hirschuber  
9-Pat Neely  
10-Ricky Ascher  
11- Richard Beuth  
13-Esther Fry  
14-Sandy Freedlund  
19-Lucas Cowman  
23- Ken Hazzard  
25-Allen Long  
26-Jean Mennenga  
28-Carmen Shank

#### Anniversaries

1 Jeff & Jill Viel

## May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Church clean up with 4 H kids 5 p.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Women's Fellowship at Bellline café 9 a.m. Leave church at 8:30	17 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Promotion Sunday Last day for Sunday School	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Communion	29	30	31			