

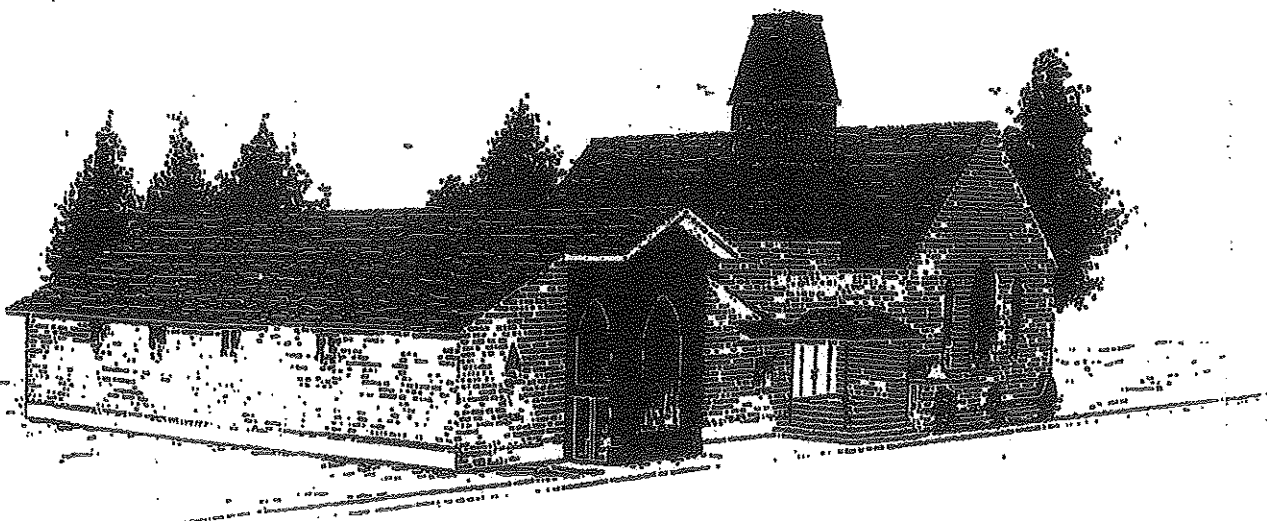
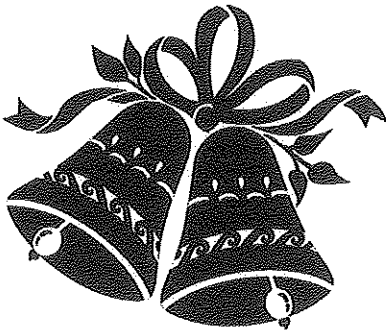
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*The  
Chimes*

*September Church News*



**SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
SEWARD, ILLINOIS

## The History of Sunday School

**Sunday school**, also called **church school**, or **Christian education**, originally schools for learning to read and write, became schools for religious education, usually for children and young people and usually a part of a church or parish. The children were taught to read using the Bible as their textbook. And they were taught to write by copying from God's Word. The movement has been important primarily in Protestantism. It has been the foremost vehicle for teaching the principles of the Christian religion and the Bible.

Although religious education of various types had been known earlier within Christianity, the beginning of the modern Sunday school can be traced to the work of Robert Raikes (1736–1811), a newspaper publisher in Gloucester, Eng., who was interested in prison reform. He decided that young children, many of whom were employed in factories every day except Sunday, could be deterred from a life of crime if they were given basic and religious education on Sundays. The first school was opened in 1780 with the cooperation of the Anglican parish minister, although lay people were in charge. Classes were held in the teachers' homes. After three years, Raikes's writing about the Sunday schools in Gloucester in his newspaper aroused interest, and the system was copied throughout the British Isles. Some church officials opposed the schools because they thought that teaching interfered with the proper observance of Sunday, and others did not believe in educating the poor because it might lead to revolution. Eventually, however, Sunday schools became closely associated with the churches. When Raikes died, 31 years after the first school was opened, it was reported that about 500,000 children in the British Isles were attending Sunday schools.

The movement spread to the European continent and to North America. In Europe, however, because religious instruction was usually given in the regular schools, the Sunday schools were not so important as they were in the United States, where the separation of church and state prohibited religious instruction in the public schools.

In the United States each denomination generally established its own Christian education policy, although interdenominational cooperation was frequently an important factor. The Philadelphia Sunday School Union, the first interdenominational Sunday school association in the United States, was organized in 1791. The International Council of Religious Education, which was organized in 1922, became part of the National Council of Churches in 1950.

Today, Sunday School is an arm of the Church to teach children the stories of the Bible, about God's love (when many do not experience that love at home), and about following Jesus to find His will and direction for our lives. It is not just for children, however. This arm of the Church is essential for spiritual growth for adults as well, so that we can be good examples for the youngsters in our homes. The Sunday School teachers have a great influence on their students that reaches far into the future of the Church.

Just thought you'd like to know. . .from the desk of Pastor Joel

## Announcements

**DIACONATE:** TBA.

**TRUSTEE'S:** Will meet on September 20, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

**FALL SCHEDULE:** Beginning September 10 Sunday School will be at 9:15 a.m. followed by worship service at 10:30 a.m.

**SEMINAR:** A Culture Of Believing Prayer and intercession lead by Rev. Ray Delaurier, our Regional Pastor will be at Zion Church in Freeport on Saturday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m.

**Women's Fellowship:** Women's Fellowship will start the Fall season on Tuesday, Sept 19th at 9am in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to join us.

**PRIME TIME/GRANDPARENTS Day:** Olivet Nazarene University on October 9, 2023. If we have 9 registrations the 10<sup>th</sup> will be free. 11 am lunch (\$16) 1-4:30 program (\$16) 5:30-7 p.m. meal (\$16). For more information contact Office of Alumni Relations 815-939-5258

**VERNICE KLINGER BIRTHDAY:** Come help us celebrate Vernice's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on September 24, 2023 from 2-4 in the fellowship hall.

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

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

	January-July
General Fund	Income \$38,954.11
	Expense \$ 46,906.98

### Monthly Budget \$7,026.50

July
6,181.00
7,228.27

### 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 19, 2023

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

**The meeting** was called to order at 6:27 pm. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

**Minutes** from the June meeting were read, and a couple of misprints were corrected. Effie made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Brenda seconded the motion, and it carried.

**Financial** reports were given by Effie and Brenda. Maury made a motion to accept the reports; Dick seconded, and the motion carried. **Maury** gave an updated report on the investments. Peggy made a motion to accept the report, Dick seconded, and the motion carried.

**Old Business** We will not be making an application to put the church on the historical House of Worship listing.

We will be using courtesy golf carts, in place of the People Mover, at the Winnebago County Fair. The drivers must be 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and no violations for two years. The Lion's Club and the Rotary Club from Pecos will be working together at the Fair.

There was discussion about the deck at the parsonage being repaired. We will get bids from Brad Grant and Don Miller.

After discussion about the AED (defibrillator), the cost (\$599 to \$3000), and the people who would use it needing training, a motion was made, by Effie, to table this indefinitely. Brenda seconded the motion, and it carried. Maury will check into First Aid and CPR training for members of the church.

**New Business** There was discussion about the lamp in the secretary's office needing to be replaced, and the extra side chair needing to be replaced. Maury made a motion to replace the lamp (\$200 limit), Brenda seconded, and it carried. Effie said that they would donate a chair to replace the side chair.

There was some discussion of the safety of the people in the church, concealed carry, and a plan for protecting people. While there are some who have weapons in their vehicles, they do not bring them into the church. We do need to have a plan in place. There was no definite action taken on this topic.

Maury and Pastor Joel gave a report on some of the things that they learned while at the Annual Gathering.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Effie; seconded by Brenda; and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm. The next meeting will be August 23, 2023, due to the fair beginning on the day we normally would have had our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Hicke

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Church	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Women's Fellowship 9 a.m.	20 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Communion	25	26	27	28	29	30