

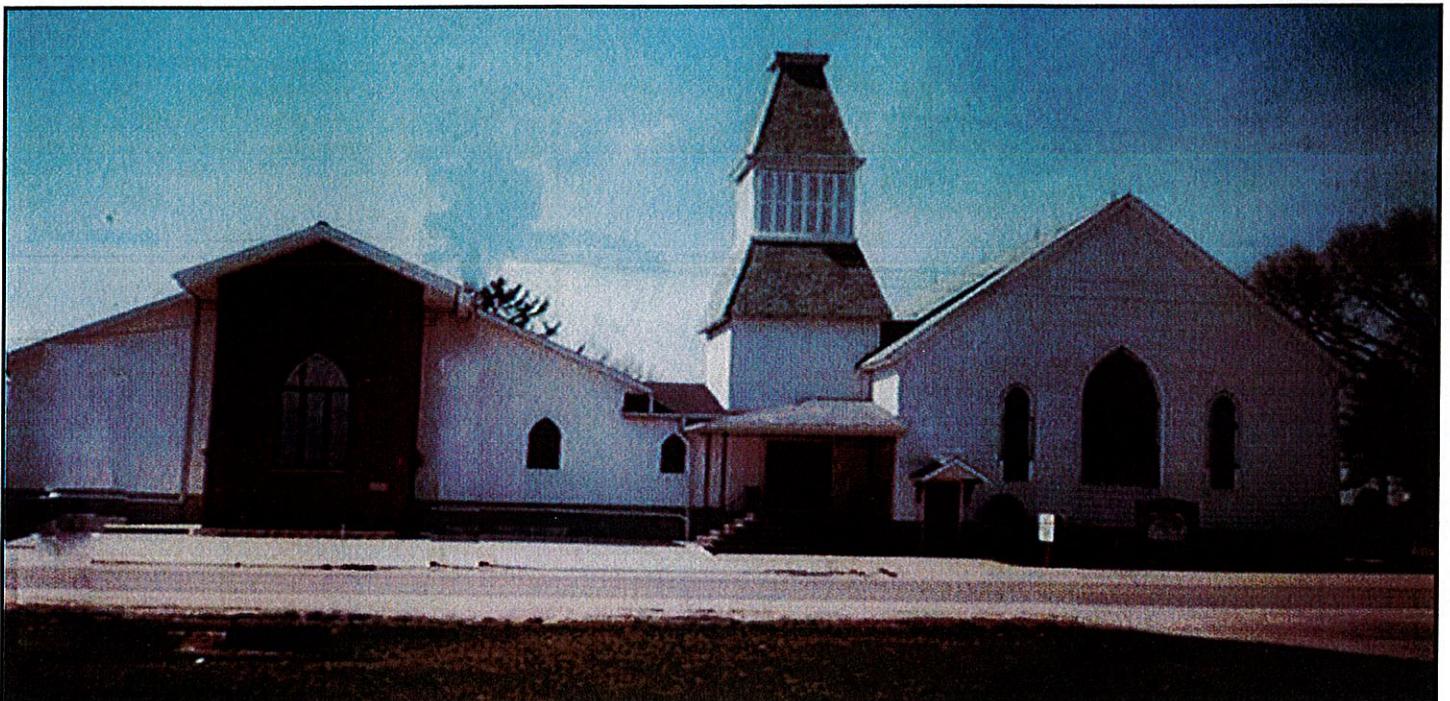
Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>

Return Service Requested

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

*The
Chimes*

June 2025 Church News



The Importance of Pentecost

from the desk of Pastor Joel

for the *June Chimes*

If you have read the 2nd Chapter of Acts, you will remember that Pentecost was the day that the 120 in Upper Room were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself by the “tongues of fire” that fell upon the people, sanctifying them for the work of spreading the Good News of the Gospel to Jerusalem, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4)

In the Old Testament God’s Presence was made known by fire to Moses when God told him that he was supposed to go to Egypt and bring the people out of the land of their slavery into the Promised Land—the land that would belong to them per the promise that God made to Abraham. (Exodus 3)

God led the Israelites through the wilderness by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. (Exodus 13:20-22)

When Isaiah was commissioned by God to be His spokesperson, the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah realized just how unworthy he was to be in the Presence of the Most High. One of the seraphim took a live coal from the altar and touched Isaiah’s lips and declared that his sins were atoned. (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Pentecost in the Old Testament followed, in fifty days, the observance of the Passover by the Israelites. Tradition says that it was fifty days from the time of the Exodus from Egypt to the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt Sinai. (Exodus 20)

Then Jesus came. He came to teach His disciples, to get them ready for the task of evangelizing the world. He spent His ministry of three years doing just that. After He died on the cross and then rose again on the third day, Jesus was on the earth for 40 more days and then ascended to be with His Father as the disciples watched. The last message He gave them was to go to Jerusalem and wait in the Upper Room until God sent the Holy Spirit to them. Since Jesus was not going to be with them in person anymore, the Holy Spirit would guide them and give them strength to carry out the mission. How did the third Person of the Trinity manifest Himself to them? Ten days later tongues, as it were, of fire that descended on each person empowering them to carry on the work of their Rabbi, Jesus.

While they were there in the Upper Room, they prayed and sang and prayed some more—all 120 of those who went there as Jesus instructed them. So, from a group of 120 the Good News of the Gospel spread in spite of, or maybe because of, persecution, ridicule, even death.

Sound familiar? Look around and see what is happening in our world today. In those places where persecution is the worst, the church is growing the fastest—just as it did back in the day.

Seward Congregational Church Chimes

June Announcements

THANK YOU-From the bottom of our hearts--we thank you all for joining us at The 2nd Annual Tea last Saturday--"Grounded in Grace"

BIBLE STUDY: Will meet on June, 4, 11 and June 25 at 6:30 p.m.

DIACONATE: The Diaconate will meet on June 4, at 11:30 a.m.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on June 18, at 6:30 p.m.

SUMMER SCHEDULE: We are on our summer worship schedule. Church will be at 9AM and there will be no Sunday School until Fall. .

VBS: Will be June 9-12 from 9:30 -11 a.m. for ages 3 years through 5th grade. There are sign up sheets on the table in the narthex for teachers, helpers, kitchen help, cookies and snacks

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP: The Women's Fellowship will be going to Timberlake Playhouse on June 25th for the 2 pm matinee. Rock of Ages is a musical production. Contact Karleen to reserve tickets. Should be a fun afternoon. Men are welcome to join us too.

GUEST SPEAKER: Looking forward, Pastor Brad Reardon will be our guest minister on June 8th. Pastor Joel will be out of town that weekend.

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

April

General Fund	Income	\$4,990.00
	Expense	\$6,607.29

Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

January-April

\$22,101.59
\$33,743.40

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

3-Mary Lou Speracino,
Nancy Kirby
8- Joshua Cowman
9-Norah Lloyd
12-Ryan Viel
16-Jessica Cowman
20- Jacob Hilton
26-Evelyn Merchant
27- Alena Asche
29- Aaron Ackerman

Anniversaries

19-Dick & Char Remer
30- Maury & Barb Daubs

Diaconate Meeting Sunday, April 20th

The Diaconate had an impromptu meeting after church on Easter, as we needed to decide if we were going to change church times in May, so it could get in the Chimes, that was going out this week.

A motion by Karleen, 2nd by Barb, to change church to 9am start for the summer beginning on May 25th, passed with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Karleen Merchant
secretary

Diaconate meeting minutes for May 7th, 2025

Meeting called to order by chairman Teresa Gobeli at 11:31am. Those present were Teresa, Julie Gasior, Pastor Joel Hicke, Delores Poppen, Bev Hilton, Barb Daubs and Karleen Merchant. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

Karleen read the minutes from the April 2nd meeting. Julie made motion to accept; 2nd by Delores. Minutes approved. Then the minutes from the special meeting called on April 20th were read. Julie motioned to accept; 2nd by Barb. Minutes approved

In the absence of Bev Weerda, Teresa reported that the balance in our checking account is \$913.03. Karleen motion to approve; 2nd by Delores. Motion carried.

Joel shared a spreadsheet with his April visits. He was asked about the marriage series that he will be doing sometime in May or June, and how that will be applicable to all.

He also requested pulpit fill for July 27th, as he will be taking part in a revival that is out of town that weekend. Bev H. will see if Don Knoup would be available that Sunday.

Also it was noted that Pastor Brad Reardon will be doing pulpit fill on June 8th.

VBS was discussed. The dates will be Monday, June 9th thru Thursday, June 12th. It will be for ages 3 years old thru 5th grade and from 9:30am-11:00am. We will get a sign up sheet out for teachers, (1 day lesson, so will need four teachers), and helpers in crafts, recess and refreshments. Day 1 will be the creation story; day 2, the story of Noah and the rainbow; day 3, the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors; and day 4, will be about Jesus.

Mother's Day is this Sunday. Karleen is the greeter and will pass out the gifts we have for mothers.

We set the date for a community sausage/pancake breakfast to be held on Saturday, Sept 6th from 7am-10am. Donations will benefit our youth fund. We will need volunteers to work that day.

We have two graduating high school seniors in our congregation. Karleen will get a gift and let them know that we will honor them on Promotion Sunday, May 18th.

Barb Daubs volunteered to be the Worship Leader on Sunday, June 8th, when Pastor Joel is gone.

For Father's Day, we will have pie during Coffee Hour, to celebrate fathers.

Bev H. discussed Sunday School curriculum. She was given the OK to check for other studies that would be better suited for both teachers and students.

Next meeting is June 4th at 11:30am.

With there being no further business, Barb made motion to adjourn, 2nd by Julie. Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karleen Merchant, secretary

SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
April 23, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Char Remer, Brenda VanHauen, Maury Daubs, Matt Cowman, Jean Mennenga, Pastor Joel Hicke and Nancy Kirby.

Pastor Joel opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Joel read the Minutes of March 18, 2025 Meeting.

Finance reports were given by Jean, Brenda and Maury. Jean will add the Quickbook checking account report monthly to the Treasurers report. Matt motioned to approve reports. Nancy second. Motion carried.

Pastor Joel gave his report. He will be gone Friday April 25- Saturday April 26.

Old Business:

The roof of the manger in the courtyard will be repaired by Matt soon now that the weather is clearing and days are longer.

Maury gave an update regarding the 501(c)3 and reestablishing compliance with the IRS and the State of Illinois. Maury will file the forms and submit.

Pastor Joel requested to attend 4C's conference in Orlando, FL, August 4-7, 2025. Matt motioned to approve up to \$3,200.00 in expenses for attendance. (this includes mileage, lodging and conference). Nancy second. Motion passed.

Doorlock lubricant is now available if needed.

The piano in the Fellowship Hall has been tuned by Glen Rittmeyer. He has graciously gifted his service. Thank you.

New Business:

Char was contacted by Seward Determination 4-H Club to help with spring flower bed clean up. Discussion whether or not mulch was needed. Char will review this.

Char requested help with Sunday Service available in basement while watching kids in the Nursery. Maury will check into this.

Discussion regarding request for Sunday School Funds to be deposited \$100.00 per month (up to \$1000.00 budget). Request was tabled until further information is available.

Julie Gasior requested funds for Summer Church Campers. Discussion regarding amount of funds to be given. Char suggested to fully fund campers. Maury motioned to approve fully fund campers for Summer of 2025. Camp Emmaus, Oregon, IL. Nancy seconded motion. Motion passed.

Campers are Julie & Rosie Gasior- overnight- \$100.00

Middle School: Jackie, Evelyn and Abbey-\$400.00 each

Total: \$1,300.00 (Funds to come from budgeted funds & Scott funds)

Discussion regarding Winnebago County Fair People Mover 2025. \$1,000.00 (increased from \$750.00) 2 6 passenger golf carts. Brenda motioned to approve. Matt second. Motion passed. Maury will work out the details.

Discussion regarding renters pool and liability & renters insurance.

Next meeting May 21, 2025, 6:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 pm. Matt motioned, Brenda seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kirby

Trustees Meeting
March 18, 2025
Seward Congregational Church

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Char Remer, Brenda Van Hauen, Nancy Kirby, Matt Cowman, Jean Mennenga, and Pastor Joel Hicke.

Pastor Joel opened the meeting with prayer.

Finance reports were given by Jean, Brenda, Maury, and Tari Woods (SS). Matt moved to accept the reports; Nancy seconded the motion, and it passed.

Pastor Joel gave his report. He asked about contacting CCLI (the licensing company that we use to be able to copy music) to upgrade to Song Select which would give us the license to print music from their website. He was given permission to contact them.

Old Business

The roof of the manger in the courtyard needs repaired. Matt said that he would do that; Scott Whitney and Dick Remer indicated that they would help.

501(C3) status was discussed and tabled until Maury returns.

The lubricant for the door locks was ordered.

New Business

We discussed a way that we could reach out, initially, to Pecatonica High School to congratulate the Girls Basketball Team for their victory of being the State Champs. It was decided to write a generic letter that could be given to any school for any such achievement. Char contacted the schools and coaches so that we could recognize them. The piano in the fellowship hall needs to be tuned. Pastor Joel was asked to contact Glen Rittmeyer or Randy's Music to ask about tuning the piano.

Our next meeting will be April 23rd at 6:30 pm.

Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brenda seconded, and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Hicke

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	2	3	4 Diaconate 11:30 a.m.	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	9 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m.	10 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m..	11 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m.	12 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m.	13	14
15 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	16	17	18 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	23	24	25 Women's fellowship to Timberlake.	26	27	28
29 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	30					

Join us at
Seward Congregational Church

Vacation Bible School

June 9 through June 12th

9:30 to 11 am

Open to all children

3 yrs old to 5th grade

We will have A great time filled with

Bible Lessons

Singing

Games & Activities

Crafts

And Snacks



SERENITY HOSPICE AND HOME FOUNDATION

1658 S. IL Route 2 • P.O. Box 462 • Oregon, IL 61061 • 815-732-2499 • www.serenityhospiceandhome.org

05/02/2025

Seward Congregational Church Women's Fellowship
PO Box 104
Seward, IL 61077

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Serenity Hospice and Home Foundation. As a not-for-profit hospice, we rely on the generosity of the communities we serve to ensure that we can continue to provide the highest possible quality of care to terminally ill patients and their families.

Serenity Hospice, in addition to providing end-of-life and palliative care, is a community resource for veterans, and, unlike most hospices, provides free, on-going bereavement services that are open to the public. Our innovative, one-of-a-kind bereavement center, The Shed, not only provides traditional services, such as support groups and grief counseling, but is also a hands-on, therapeutic workshop that benefits those experiencing loss as well as the community at large.

Our staff at Serenity Hospice always goes above and beyond to provide compassionate care and loving support to patients and their families during one of life's most difficult times. As a nonprofit organization, all of our income is reinvested in our impactful mission and no one is turned away from Serenity due to a lack of insurance or inability to pay.

We also have a Legacy Giving Society to honor donors who have chosen to put Serenity Hospice and Home into their wills. Legacy gifts to Serenity ensure that we will be able to continue to serve patients and their families with the utmost dignity and love for generations to come. If you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Giving Society, please email hospice@serenityhospiceandhome.org or call 815-732-2499.

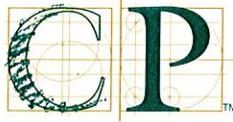
We thank you for your generosity and continued support of Serenity Hospice.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Ravlin
CEO

SR/cfn

\$200.00 was received by Serenity Hospice and Home Foundation, which is tax exempt under the U. S. Internal Revenue code. No direct, tangible benefit will accrue or was accrued to this donor as a result of this gift. Your contribution was received on 04/23/2025.



CARPENTER'S PLACE™
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

*How generous
to Bless us
with your offering!
Thank you!*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Vaiden
President

Frank Perrecone
Immediate Past President

Kathy Kwiat-Hess
Vice President

Danielle Burza-Smith
Secretary

Ryan Dickerson
Treasurer

Fr. Kenneth Anderson

Carandus Brown

Rev. William T. Dahlberg

Michelle Dittbenner

Melissa Dofflemyer

Wally Haas

Michael Hendryx

Tom Laughlin

Brandie Messer

Denise Sasse

Jenna Schachte

Tami Sterenberg

Katie Zimmerman

CARPENTER'S CIRCLE

Fr. David Beauvais
Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alberto Carrión

April 10, 2025

Beverly Weerda
Seward Congregational Church
P.O. Box 104
Seward, IL 61077-0104

Dear Church Family:

Similar to the unpredictable weather in the spring, those we serve often experience disruptive changes in their lives. One small incident can take them from sunshine to gloom. Misplacing a bus pass can make them late for work, resulting in them being fired, and a trail of more unfortunate circumstances.

Your generous **\$34.00** donation helps us provide the daily support our guests need during life's fluctuations and restore the sunshine! It's the kind of support most of us are fortunate to receive from family and friends. In most cases, *we are* that support system for our guests. Through your generosity, *you are part of that "we."* You are their family and friends!

We are truly grateful that you have chosen to be a part of our family that restores hope to the hopeless and brings the sunshine for the homeless individuals and families working to rebuild their lives.

With grateful hearts,

Alberto Carrión
Executive Director

Miranda Swanson
Director of Development and Outreach

COLORS OF THE RAINBOW

GODS PROMISES

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." Genesis 9:16 (NIV)

A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.Revelation 4:3b (NIV)

Did you know that a Rainbow is a Promise?

Did you know The Bible begins with a rainbow and ends with a rainbow:

- In the Book of Genesis it says: The Rainbow of God's Promise shines across the world.
- In the Book of Revelation it says: The Emerald Rainbow shines around the Throne of God in heaven.

A very long time ago, God could find only one honorable person, Noah. So God asked him to build a large boat and to load it with his family and pairs of every kind of bird and animal on earth. Then God sent rain for forty days and nights until the earth was covered with water in a great flood, and all the people and animals outside perished-even the birds.

After the water dried up, Noah build an altar and worshiped God, and God spoke to Noah and his sons. God promised that the earth and everything living on it would never again be destroyed by a flood.

We see this story as evidence one more time of the grace and goodness of a God who makes solemn promises. And God gave us something to remind us of that solemn promise.

A rainbow is an arch of light exhibiting a wide range of colors. It is caused by drops of water falling through the air. It is usually seen in the sky at the end of a rain shower. Because of this, God said every time we see a rainbow it would remind us of His promise never to flood the whole world again and remind us of His love for us.

Lets look at what each color in the rainbow could mean?

Here is an idea, you can make it your own!

Red represents the blood Jesus shed for us

Yellow is for God's perfect light, the sun so bright

Orange is coming from night into life with thru Jesus.

Green reminds us that God created the earth and trees. Like the grass in spring, it represents the new life we have in Jesus.

Blue represents the color of water. God created the oceans & seas, this reminds us of the baptism that identifies us with Jesus.

Purple is for Jesus' hours of sorrow, so we can gain the crown of life.

Pink is for our new tomorrows.

White like in the clouds represents God's purity and the cleansing of our sins thru God's grace.

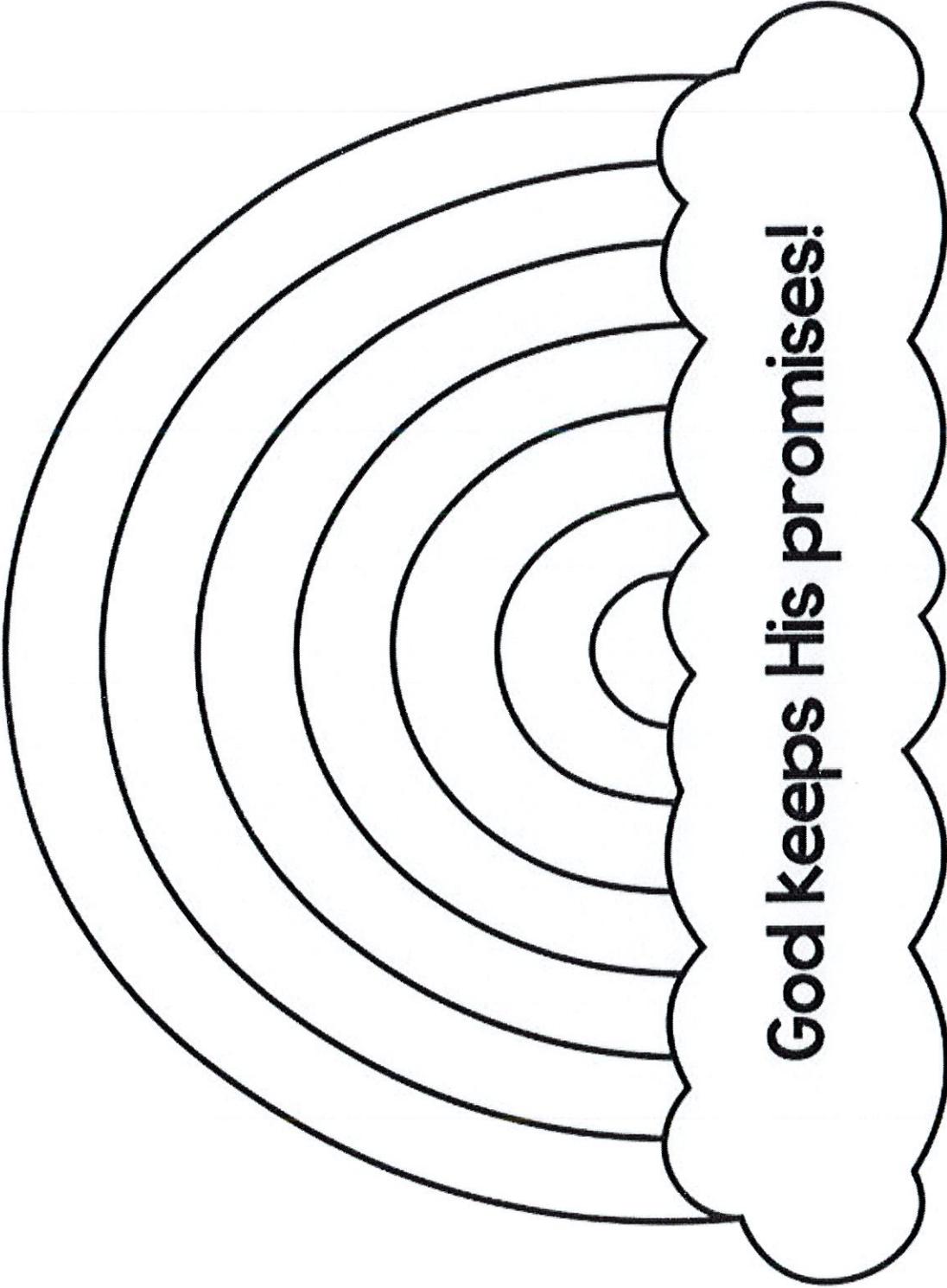
Rainbows appear after mighty storms, when things look their worst. Just when the sky is darkest, out of heaven a rainbow appears. God 1st sent the rainbow to Noah, as a sign that his word is true.

The rainbows message still speaks to me and you. The rainbow is a sign of God's promise, that he will guide us thru any storm. When you feel battered by life's storms and you are filled with doubt. Just remember God's rainbow is coming and He'll be there for you Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your rainbow and the promises you make with each color. Help us to remember that you love us and will see us thru each storm. Amen

Make a rainbow and pick what each color means to you as a family

Go on a rainbow hunt! Look around for colors in plants, flowers and maybe even "pick" a rainbow of colors.



God keeps His promises!

God Made a Promise to Abraham
Word Tiles

Cut the tiles along the dotted lines, shuffle the tiles, and have the student reassemble them to make the phrase.

I C A N B E

L I E V E G O

D W I L L D O

W H A T H E

P R O M I S E S

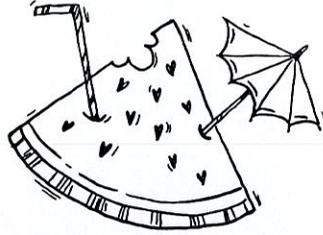
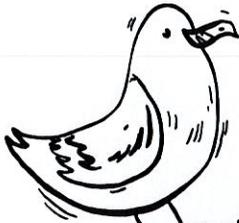
ANSWER: I CAN BELIEVE GOD WILL DO WHAT HE PROMISES

God's Promises

G	O	D	S	W	O	R	D	A	S	B	P	I	U
R	C	O	V	E	R	I	N	G	I	L	V	J	S
S	F	A	T	H	E	R	S	S	C	E	E	T	O
L	D	E	S	E	R	T	A	S	C	S	O	H	O
P	R	O	V	I	S	I	O	N	U	S	D	E	C
W	I	G	P	E	A	C	E	S	J	I	E	A	I
V	C	A	T	G	U	I	F	I	S	N	I	L	S
V	F	I	N	A	N	C	E	S	N	G	R	I	T
F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	N	E	S	S	N	C
S	S	H	O	L	I	N	E	S	S	E	M	G	A
O	S	V	V	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	P
S	I	L	A	G	A	P	E	L	O	V	E	I	S
S	O	C	D	L	T	S	E	S	I	M	O	R	P
N	A	E	O	S	C	P	H	Y	S	I	C	A	L

FAITHFULNESS
 PROMISES
 HAPPINESS
 BLESSINGS
 JESUS
 FATHER
 HOLINESS
 AGAPE LOVE
 PHYSICAL
 DESERT
 PEACE
 GODS WORD
 PACTS
 COVERING
 HEALING
 PROVISION
 FINANCES

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3557/>



SUMMER BUCKET LIST!

