

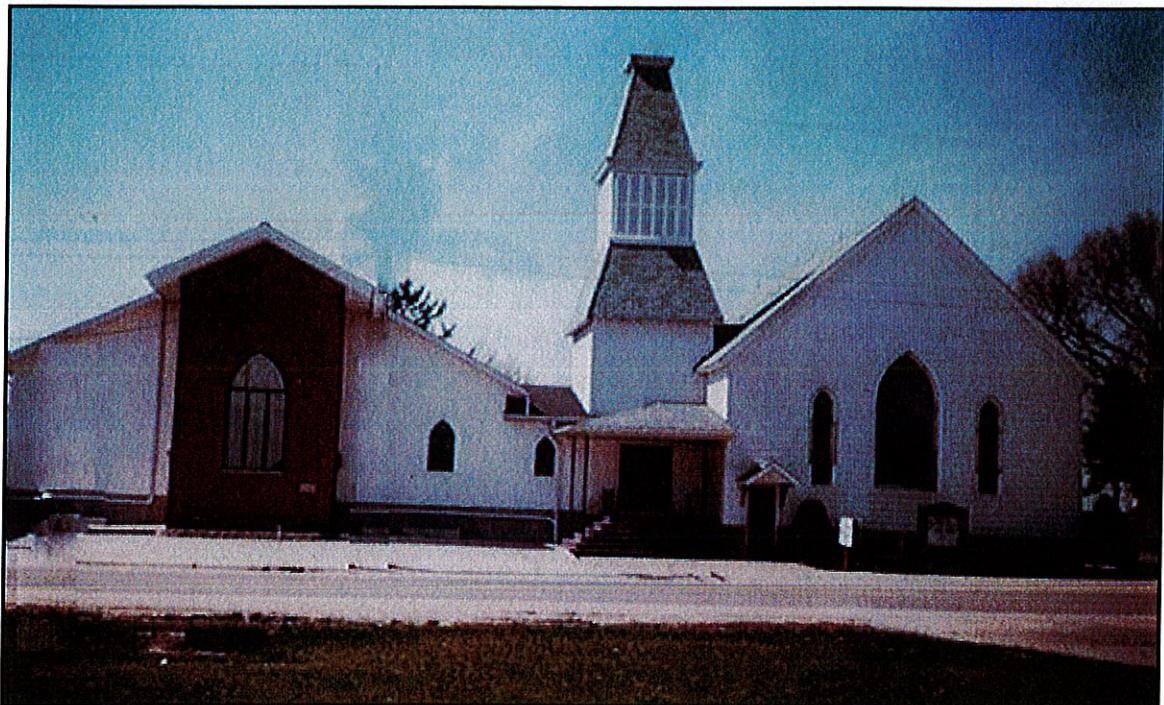
Seward Congregational Church
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*The
Chimes*

August 2025 Church News



From the Desk of Pastor Joel

Psalm 8

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

This month I wanted to share my very favorite passage of scripture. When we sing "How Great Thou Art," this Psalm always comes to mind. When I think of Father God

and the beautiful world that He has created for people, I am amazed at the power of His spoken Word.

Genesis tells us that God spoke the Word and all creation was made—and what a beautiful place this is!!

When we were going to Bible College, I had fellow students that absolutely hated the Rocky Mountains. They thought that it was the most God-forsaken place in the world. I never understood

their feelings about those mountains because I loved seeing all that God had created for us, and the wonder of it all overwhelmed me at times. I loved going up on Cheyenne Mountain and just sitting in the Presence of the our Holy Lord and let Him speak to me of His love and peace!

Actually, the Seward Bluffs reminds me of where I used to go on Cheyenne Mountain. I have gone there on occasion to take in the beauty of God's creation right here in our community.

May we be mindful of the beauty that surrounds us wherever we are, because I believe that every place I have been shows the handiwork of our Lord God!

Seward Congregational Church Chimes August Announcements

DIACONATE: Will not meet in August.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on August 20, at 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are in need of Sunday school teachers and substitutes. Please See Tari Woods or Bev Hilton.

GUEST SPEAKER: Looking forward, Don Knoup will be our guest speaker on August 3rd. Pastor Joel will be at the 4 C's conference in Orlando all week. Gary Brown will be on call for all emergencies.

OUTDOOR CONCERT: The Winnebago UMC is sponsoring an outdoor concert at the Freedom Ranch 8019 McGregor Road on August 9 at 6 p.m. Featuring Alleluia Quartet from Beth Eden Methodist Church in Rockford. Bring your lawn chairs

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

	June	
General Fund	Income	\$5,343.02
	Expense	\$6,686.99

Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

January-June
\$31,295.61
\$49,002.15

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

8- Bev Hilton
15- Jackie Cunningham
16-Tim Hilton,
17-Tari Woods
18- Lily Jean Ernst
25-Pam Keast, Cora Sue Hirschuber
31- Austin Kendell

ANNIVERSARIES

15-Scott & Peggy Whitney
21- Ron & Alice Craven

July 23, 2025 Diaconate meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 11:30am by chairman Teresa Gobeli. In addition to Teresa, those present were Barb Daubs, Delores Poppen, Bev Weerda, Bev Hilton, Karleen Merchant and Pastor Joel Hicke, who opened with prayer.

Karleen read the minutes of the June 4th meeting. Barb D. motioned to approve, seconded by Bev W. Minutes approved.

Bev W. gave the treasurers report. There is \$898.15 in the account. Karleen made motion to approve, seconded by Delores. Report approved.

Pastor Joel shared a list of his visits and contacts. He visited some Seward residents that are not members. Also he discussed the CCCC reason to change conference name. The name being voted on is Centerpoint Biblical Congregational Conference. Barb and Maury Daubs will represent our church as voting members. Pastor Joel and Cathy will also attend. You can read the reasoning behind the name change at www.centerpointconference.org.

Old Business

VBS was successful. We had 37 youth attending.

Pastor Lee Eclov will be pulpit fill on July 27th and Pastor Don Knoup on August 3rd. We will need a worship leader on August 3rd.

With pulpit fill, we will not have communion in July.

The Community Pancake breakfast will be Sat. Sept 6th from 7-10am. Pancakes, sausage, applesauce and drinks will be served. A freewill offering will be taken to support the Church Youth Camp Fund. It was noted that 6 children/youth have attended Camp Emmaus this year and it was all paid with these funds. Karleen volunteered to get the syrup, juice, milk and mini chocolate chips. Delores will check on applesauce. It was suggested that all of us invite at least 5 other people to come to the breakfast and to pass out cards to those riding the people mover at the fair.

New Business

On August 31st at 6pm there will be a Hymn Sing at Water of New Life Church in New Milford. The hymn sing in June at First Presbyterian in Winnebago had a good turnout.

Bev H. reported that Tari is still looking at new Sunday School material. We are looking for volunteers to teach, so we can have one more class, as the preschool through 1st grade is a large group.

Karleen made a motion to send \$30.00 to Daily Bread for the devotionals they send us. Second by Bev W. Motion approved.

Discussion regarding our meeting times was held. Our next meeting will be Thursday, Sept 4th at 6:30pm. With no further business Karleen made motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb. Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant
Secretary

Announcements

Morning Worship in the Park



You're Invited! Come as you are for a gentle morning of music, hope, and healing.



A Time for Devotion & Encouragement

Uplifting Music



Light Morning Treats



A Short Message from Pastor Karen

Surrounded by God's Creation God will meet us there. This service is especially for those who are

hurting, for early risers, and for anyone who loves God and mornings.



Winnebago Library Park -- **Wednesday, August 6**  8:00 AM. Bring your lawn chair and your morning spirit. Let's share a sacred space under the open sky. You are welcome here.

August 9, 2025—Concert hosted by Winnebago UMC at 8019 McGregor Rd, Rockford IL. Alleluia Quarter from Beth Eden UMC in Rockford will be presenting the concert. Bring a lawn chair.

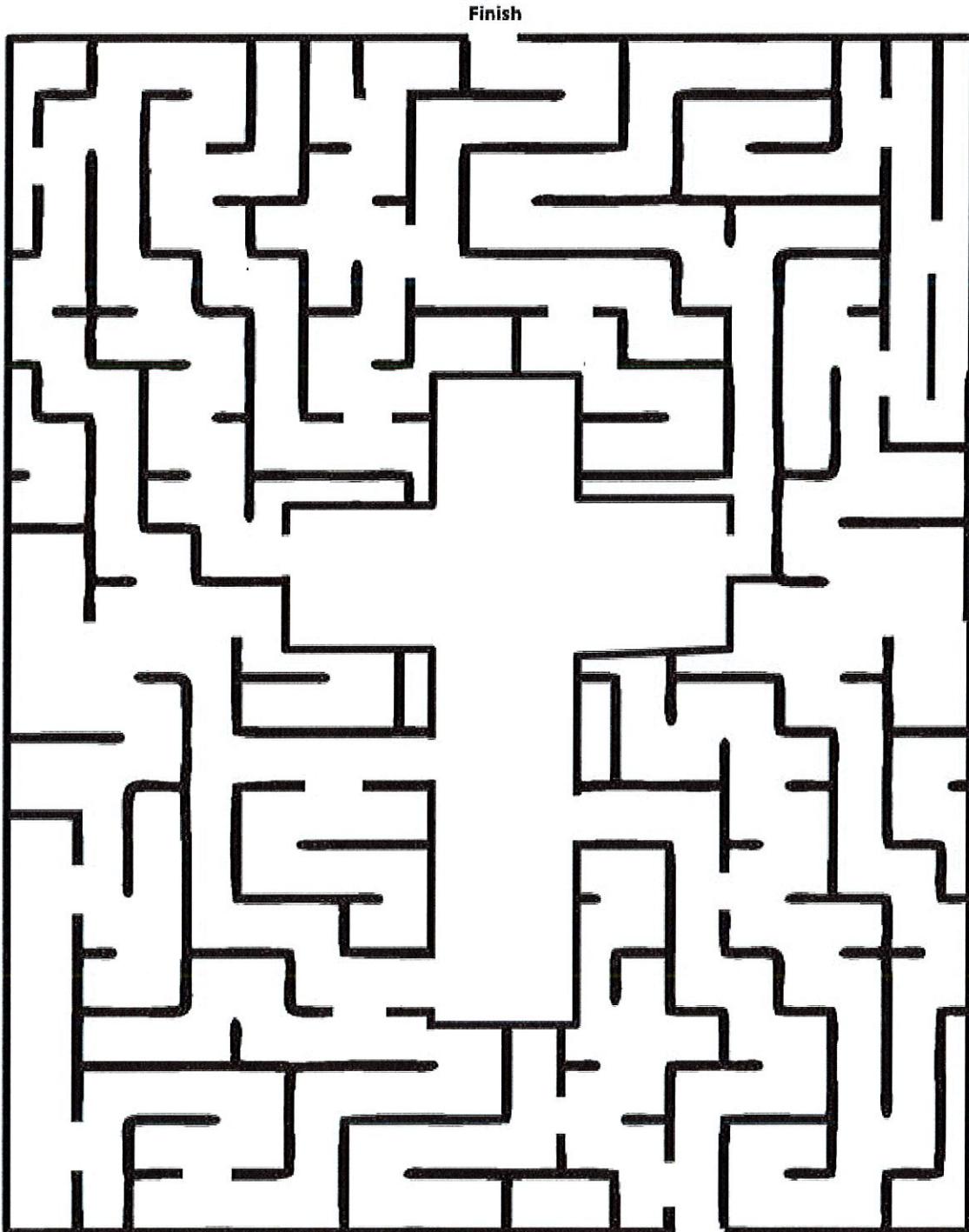
August 31, 2025—Hymn Sing (Singspiration) at Water of Life Ministries Church, 2420 New Milford Church Rd, New Milford, IL, at 6:00 pm.

October 4, 2025—Chonda Pierce, Christian comedian, will be at the Egyptian Theater in Dekalb IL. Check out their website for more information.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Guest speaker Don Knoup Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	18	19	20 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service						

Cross Maze Activity Page

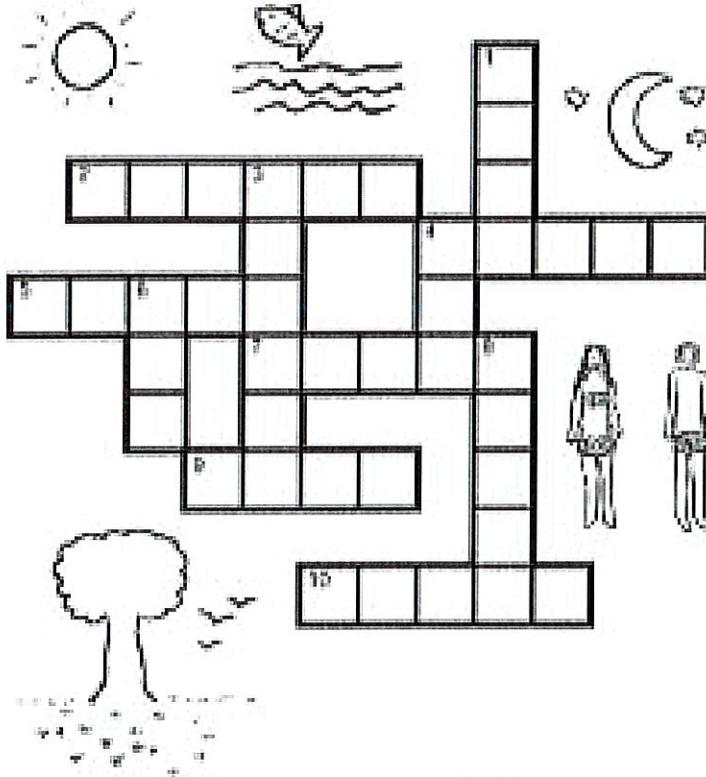


© Crafting The Word Of God

Start

Creation Activity Worksheet

by [SundaySchoolFlashcards.co.uk](http://www.SundaySchoolFlashcards.co.uk)



Across

- 2 God created the moon on this day (5)
- 4 The earth was finished on the creation (5)
- 5 God created these on the 5th day (5)
- 7 God created these on the 3rd day (5)
- 9 The name of the Garden the man and woman lived in (4)
- 10 God created this on the 1st day (5)

Down

- 1 The name of the man that God created (4)
- 3 God did this on the 7th day (8)
- 4 The name of the woman that God created (3)
- 6 God created the woman by taking this from the man (3)
- 8 God created land creatures on this day (5)

- ANIMALS
- BEGINNING
- CREATION
- EARTH
- GARDEN
- GOD
- HEAVENS
- LIGHT
- MAN
- PLANTS
- SEA
- STARS
- WOMAN

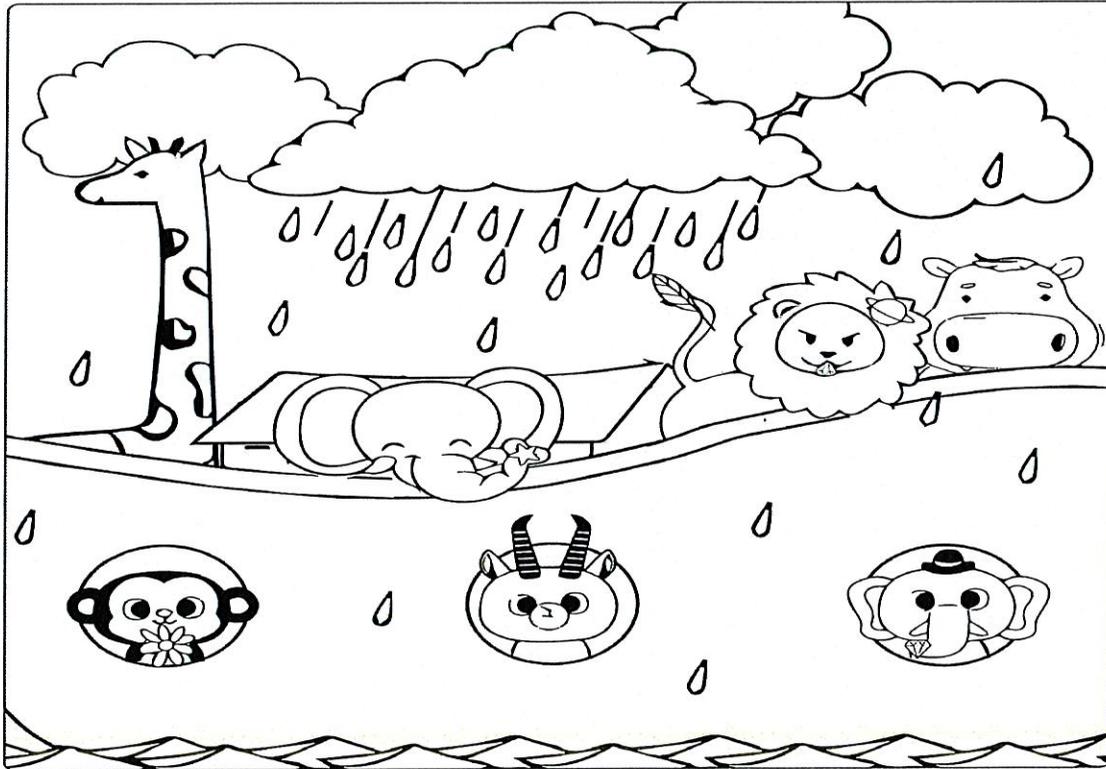
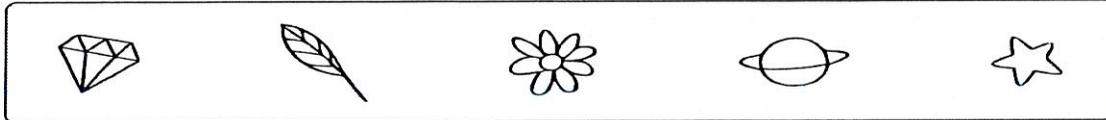


Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE HIDDEN PICTURES

Find and color the hidden objects.



Camp Emmaus news:

I really enjoyed camp this year and I'm so grateful I got to go. I made many new friends and connections. We did so many fun activities, and I'm so happy I got to go again this year.

Abigail Cowman

I really enjoyed camp. It was a really fun experience! This was my first year going and at first, I was scared to be away from home with unfamiliar people, but I made so many friends and the counselors were super fun and made everyone feel welcome. I enjoyed the many activities we got to do; my favorite being making friendship bracelets! There was all kinds of good food and I was surrounded by good people the whole time!

Jackie Fisher

I had a fun time at camp this year. My favorite activity was swimming and I also enjoyed the campfires each night. I'm hoping to go again next year too!

Evelyn Merchant

All three girls thank the church for the camp scholarships, that enabled them to attend.

We had such a special time at the Parent-Child Overnight Camp at Camp Emmaus! From splashing in water activities and singing camp songs to enjoying a cozy bonfire and swimming under the sun, the weekend was filled with fun and connection. The food was delicious, the weather was hot, but that didn't stop the kids from soaking up every minute. We also learned new prayers before meals, practiced our manners, and built friendships—both new and old. By Sunday morning, no one wanted to leave! We'd highly recommend joining next year for a truly meaningful and joy-filled experience.

Thank you

Jennifer & Norah

Julie & Rosie