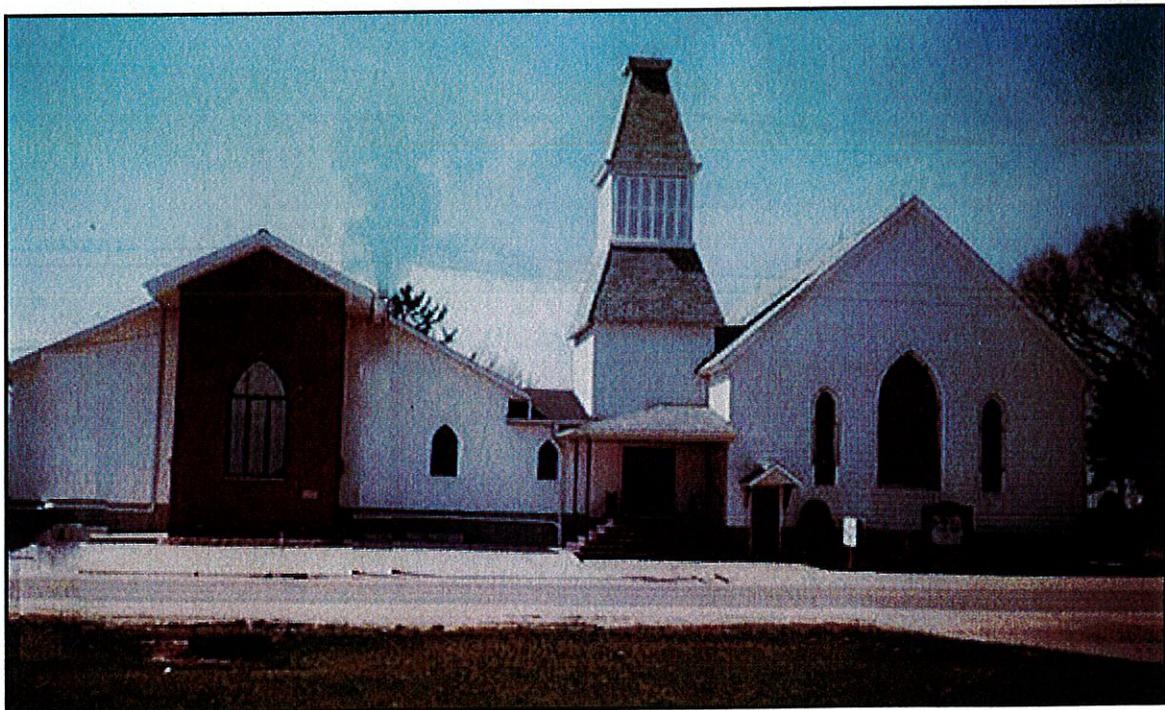


Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>
Return Service Requested

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

*The
Chimes*

September 2025 Church News



From the desk of Pastor Joel

The Goodness of God

Psalm 23:6—Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 34:8—Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.

Psalm 89:1—I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.

Psalm 136:1—Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.

Romans 5:8—But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Story of the Song

Jenn Johnson and her husband Brian, who already had three children, received God's prompting to adopt Ryder. They believed that they had the number of children God wanted them to have, yet He put in their hearts the desire to adopt this fourth child.

One day while driving on a dirt road, Jenn felt a strong spiritual connection to God's faithfulness during the adoption process, so she began singing into her phone what was on her heart and some of the lyrics to this song began to take shape. She felt that this was a way to testify to the goodness and consistency of God through times of difficulty and in times of joy.

for his son to return This is a declaration of our faith in God's unchanging character. If you remember the story of the Prodigal Son, recall how his father looked every day. Then, one day, when he looked down the

road and eventually recognized his son, he ran to him, hugged him, and welcomed him home.

Maybe you can identify with the prodigal son and God is waiting to welcome you home. His goodness is running after us all the time.

The Goodness of God Lyrics

Verse 1

I love You, Lord, For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire

In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend

And I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

With my life laid down, I surrendered now,
I give You everything

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

Chorus

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able

Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God
I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

**Seward Congregational Church Chimes
September Announcements**

DIACONATE: Will meet on September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on September 17, at 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees is looking for a person to assume the role of Treasurer. This job is a paid position responsible for paying church invoices, managing payroll distribution, and handling required legal filings. Please get in touch with Char Remer (815-315-3455) if interested.

The Board of Trustees is looking for a church member to assist with the Financial Investment team. This person is responsible for reviewing church investments with Investment Agents and promoting financial stability for our members. Please get in touch with Maury Daubs at 815 262 8307 if interested.

Outreach Pancake Breakfast: September 6-Free Outreach Pancake Breakfast 7-10 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Rally day will be on Sunday September 7 at 9:15 a.m, followed by Worship service at 10:30 a.m..

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

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

	July	January-July
General Fund	Income \$5,704.74	\$37,000.35
	Expense \$5,309.10	\$54,302.52

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 2- Emily Hilton , Teresa Gobeli
- 3- Jeanie Spielman
- 6- Char Remer
- 18- Theresa Ackerman
- 22- Dillon Shank
- 25 - Jackson Klinger
- 26- Vernice Klinger
- 27- Patti Klinger (Craven)

Board of Trustees Meeting
July 16, 2025
Seward Congregational Church

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.

Present were Char Remer, Jean Mennenga, Brenda Van Hauen, Maury Daubs, and Pastor Joel Hicke.

The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Joel.

The minutes from the June Meeting were emailed to the church office.

Finance reports were given by Jean, Brenda, and Maury. Maury made a motion to accept those reports as read. Char seconded the motion, and the reports were approved.

Pastor Joel gave his report. He had nine in-person contacts for the month of June.

Old Business

The 501(c)3 status is compliant with Illinois; not yet with the IRS.

All things are set for the Hicke's to attend the 4C's conference in Orlando Florida in August.

The speaker in the nursery works so if anyone is in the room with little children, they will be able to hear the service.

The courtyard windows will be measured by Window World on July 22. They will be here sometime in September to install the new windows.

Rental property—Maury made a motion for Char to contact Sharon with a selling price of \$190,000 for the house and property, with \$3000 to be designated as earnest money. This motion was seconded by Brenda, and the motion was approved. There were no votes to oppose this motion.

Brenda made a motion to appoint Maury as designated signer to make the transfer of property. The motion was seconded by Jean and was approved. No one opposed this motion.

New Business

Maury has requested, and really needs, another person to form a church investment management team to work with him on the investments for the church.

The next meeting will be on August 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Jean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brenda seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. The meeting ended at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Hicke

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3 Bible Study 7 p.m.	4 Diaconate 1:30 p.m.	5	6 Pancake Breakfast 7:00-10 a.m.
7 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	8	9	10 Bible Study 7 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	15	16	17 Trustees 6:30 p.m	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	22	23	24 Bible Study 7 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	29	30				

Bible Puzzle

Adam and Eve Crossword

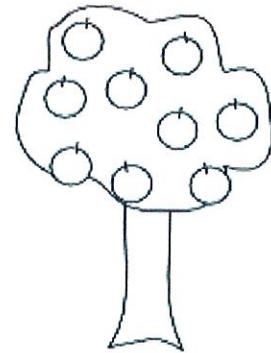
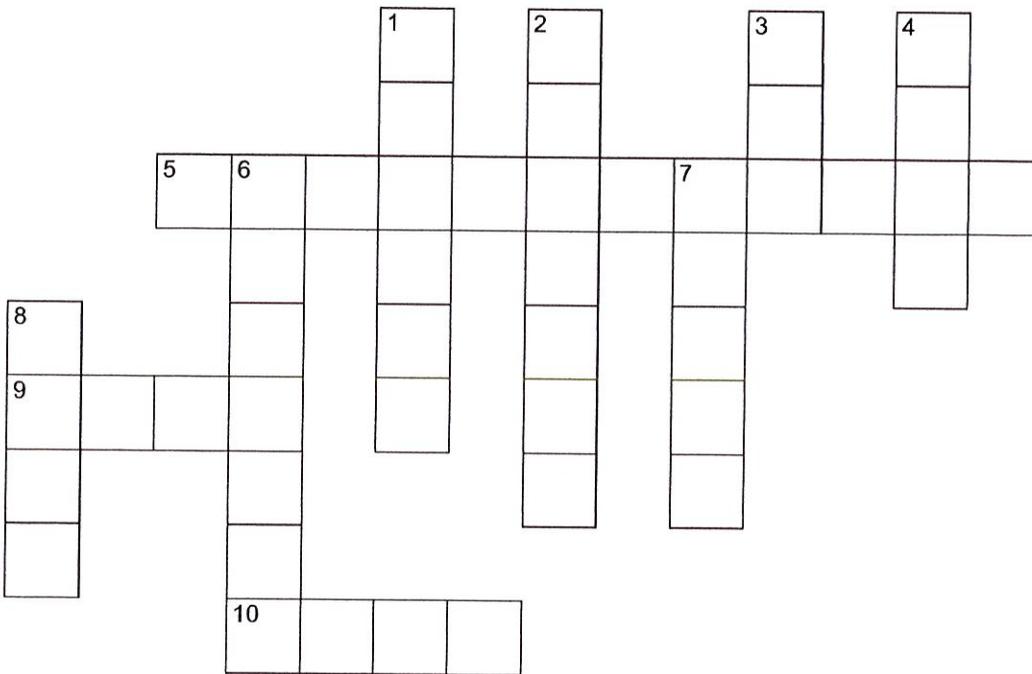
Work the puzzle to review what you know about Adam and Eve and their sons. Look up the verses to be sure of your answers.

Across

5. At first Adam and Eve lived in the _____ (3 words). (Genesis 2:8)
9. The first man was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
10. Adam and Eve's third son was _____. (Genesis 4:25)

Down

1. God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree in the _____ of the garden. (Genesis 3:2-3)
2. After Adam and Eve sinned, they were _____ (2 words) of the garden. (Genesis 3:23)
3. The first woman was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
4. God was pleased with _____. (Genesis 4:4)
6. Adam named all the _____. (Genesis 2:20)
7. Adam and Eve sinned by eating the _____. (Genesis 3:6)
8. _____ was jealous of his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8)



Adam, Eve, and Cain all sinned against God. What should you do when you sin?

Adam and Eve disobey God.

Genesis 3:1-21

