

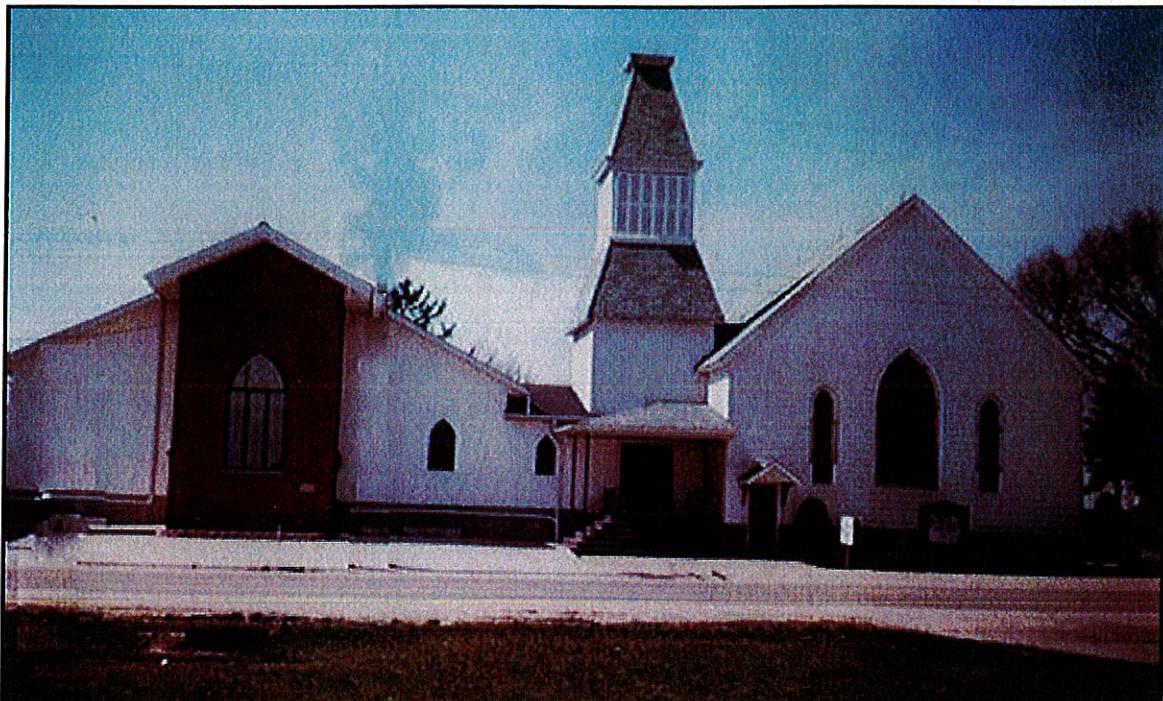
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*The  
Chimes*

*October 2025 Church News*



## From the desk of Pastor Joel

### Holy Spirit, Rain down

By Russell Fragar (1997)

Holy Spirit, Rain Down, rain down  
O Comforter and Friend  
How we need Your touch again  
Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down  
Let Your Spirit fall, let Your voice be heard  
Come and change our hearts  
As we stand on Your Word  
Holy Spirit, rain down.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard  
No mind can know what God has in store  
So open up heaven, open it wide  
Over Your church and over our lives

This song has resonated with me for a while now, and I would like to share the scriptures this song refers to and a little of the story behind the song.

#### Acts 2:1-4

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (languages) as the Spirit enabled them.*

#### Isaiah 45:8

*You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it.*

In an interview with Russell Fragar, he said, "I remember feeling like I needed something more, something deeper in my relationship with God. I needed the Holy Spirit to rain down on me, to fill me up and empower me to live for Him."

Russell Fragar, formerly a worship leader at Hillsong in Australia, now a worship pastor in Haymarket, VA, USA, speaks for many who desire a closer relationship with God.

This song, inspired by the scriptures mentioned above, speaks to the heart of the worshiper needing a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The reference to the promise of the Holy Spirit descending on those in the Upper Room after the ascension of Jesus is the heart's desire of those who follow Christ today and is the very heart cry of Christians in our country.

What a timely expression of how we need the Holy Spirit to move in our world in the aftermath of the evil events in our country in the last few weeks. We are in a spiritual battle that seeks to obliterate our faith. When I think of those around the world who have suffered so much more than we can imagine, I wonder where our own country is headed. At the same time, I marvel at the faith of those who have suffered persecution simply because they continue to serve the God who sets us free!

Holy Spirit, Rain Down. Set our hearts afire for You! Work in our lives so that we will be bold enough to tell others of Your wondrous love and mercy and grace. More than ever, we need You! Holy Spirit, Rain Down, Rain Down!!

# Board of Trustees Meeting

August 20, 2025

## Seward Congregational Church

Char called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

Present: Char Remer, Jean Mennenga, Brenda Van Hauen, Tari Woods, Matt Cowman, Pastor Joel Hicke, Maury Daubs and Nancy Kirby.

Pastor Joel read the minutes of the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Corrections noted and approved. Matt motioned to approve. Tari seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial reports were given by Jean, Maury, Brenda and Tari. Tari motioned to approve the Financial reports. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Joel's report was reviewed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Aurand Property: Brenda made a motion to counteroffer for purchase of the rental property. Maury seconded. Motion passed. Maury will present counteroffer to Sharon for purchase of the property.

Windows in the Courtyard will be installed the first week of September.

Discussion regarding water in the basement.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Courtesy Rides @ Fair, compliments on drivers. \$1,050 income and \$105 in tips.

Investment Management Team is looking for an individual to join Maury in helping with Church investment funds. Announcement will be in Bulletin and in the Chimes.

Discussed hiring a CPA to handle financial duties of the Church. A job description will be placed in the Chimes and the Bulletin by Maury to see if anyone in the Congregation is interested.

Next Meeting will be September 17, 2025.

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tari seconded. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned @ 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Nancy Kirby

## **September 4, 2025 Diaconate meeting minutes**

Meeting called to order by chairman Teresa Gobeli. Others present were Bev Weerda, Barb Daubs, Delores Poppen, Bev Hilton, Karleen Merchant and Pastor Joel Hicke. Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

Karleen read the minutes from the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Correction was made that 5 children/youth and 2 adults attended church camp. After correction motion to approve was made by Barb, second by Delores. Minutes approved.

Bev W. gave treasurers report. There is \$893.15 in account. Karleen motioned to approve, second by Bev H. Report approved.

Pastor Joel gave an account of his visits/contacts in July and August. A suggestion was made to make more visits within the community to nonmembers.

### **Old Business**

There is now a September signup sheet for greeters. Everyone is encouraged to take a Sunday. It was decided that we will not participate in Pecatonica Trunk or Treat this year. We discussed the possibility of having a fall weekday lunch. A decision will be made at our October meeting. Our Sunday School Curriculum and our teachers are all set for this coming Sunday. At this time we will not be having a confirmation class, but will have a Sunday School class for that age group.

### **New Business**

We will continue with meetings at 1:30 with the next meeting being Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Joel will take care of activity pages in the Chimes.

### **Other Business**

Discussion about members currently not attending church. It was agreed that we need to reach out to our members and neighbors. Everyone should always be mindful of other's feelings and needs, in an effort to make our church a joyful place others want to be part of.

Karleen reported that she will be gone on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will still have coffee hour those Sundays and Pastor Joel will play the piano.

Pastor Joel led us in a prayer for our congregation.

With no other business, Bev W made motion to adjourn, seconded by Bev H. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 2:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karleen Merchant

**Seward Congregational Church Chimes  
October Announcements**

**DIACONATE:** Will meet on October 1 at 1:30 p.m.

**TRUSTEE'S:** The Trustee's will meet on October 15, at 6:30 p.m.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** The Women's fellowship will meet on October 21 at 9 a.m.

**Please join us for fellowship following Pastor Joel's last service on October 19th to wish him well. Pastor Joel has accepted a position with the Church of the Nazarene in Macomb, Illinois.**

**PULPIT FILL:** On Sunday October 26th, we will welcome Jonathan Lewis to the pulpit. He is a recent graduate of Moody Theological Seminary and teaches Bible at Rockford Christian High School.

**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.**

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

**MONTHLY SUMMARY**

	<b>August</b>	<b>Monthly Budget \$7,338.59</b>
General Fund	Income \$4,595.00	\$ 41,595.35
	Expense \$7,876.98	\$ 62,174.85

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**Birthdays**

1—Dennis Freedlund  
2—Karleen Merchant  
5—Judy Beuth  
6--Brody Hilton  
11- Effie Hoppe  
13-Randy Gobeli  
17-Barb Daubs;  
23-Colin Viel  
25- Peggy Whitney  
31-Alvie Myers

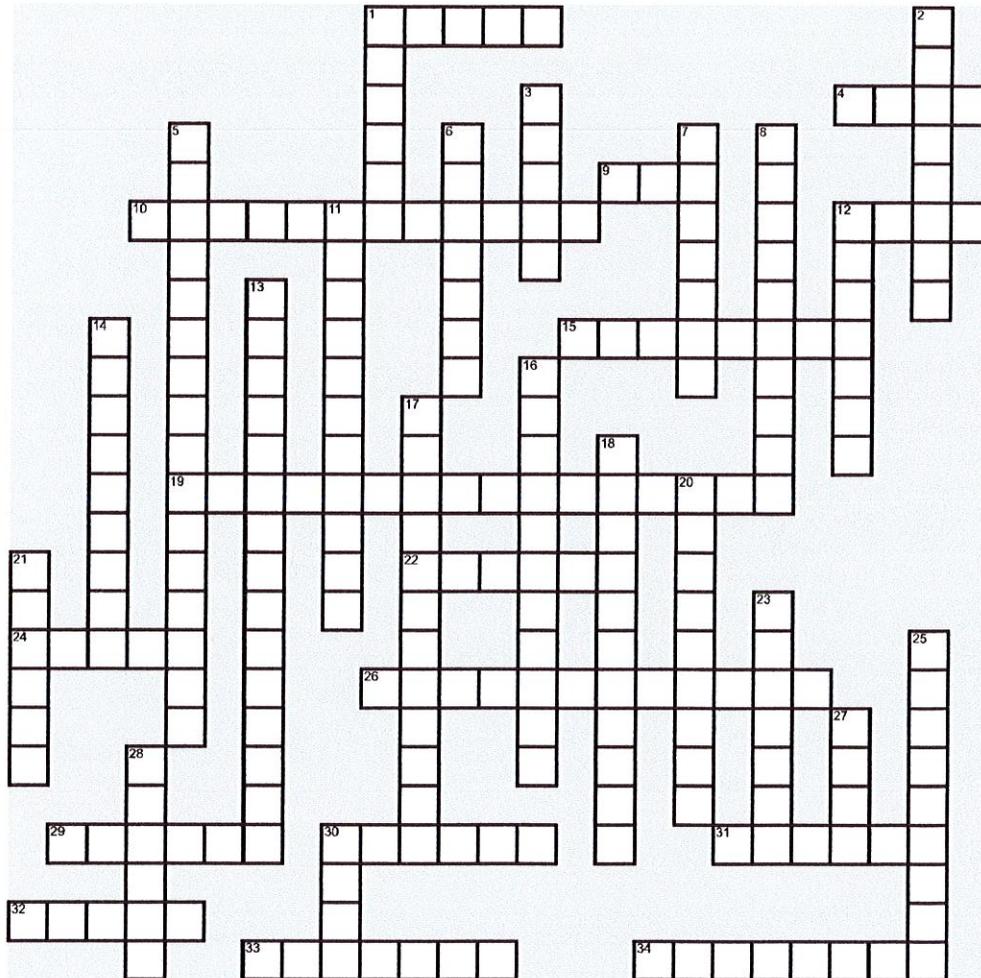
**Anniversaries**

6-Chuck & Theresa Ackerman

# October 2025

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

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE (OLD TESTAMENT)



## Across

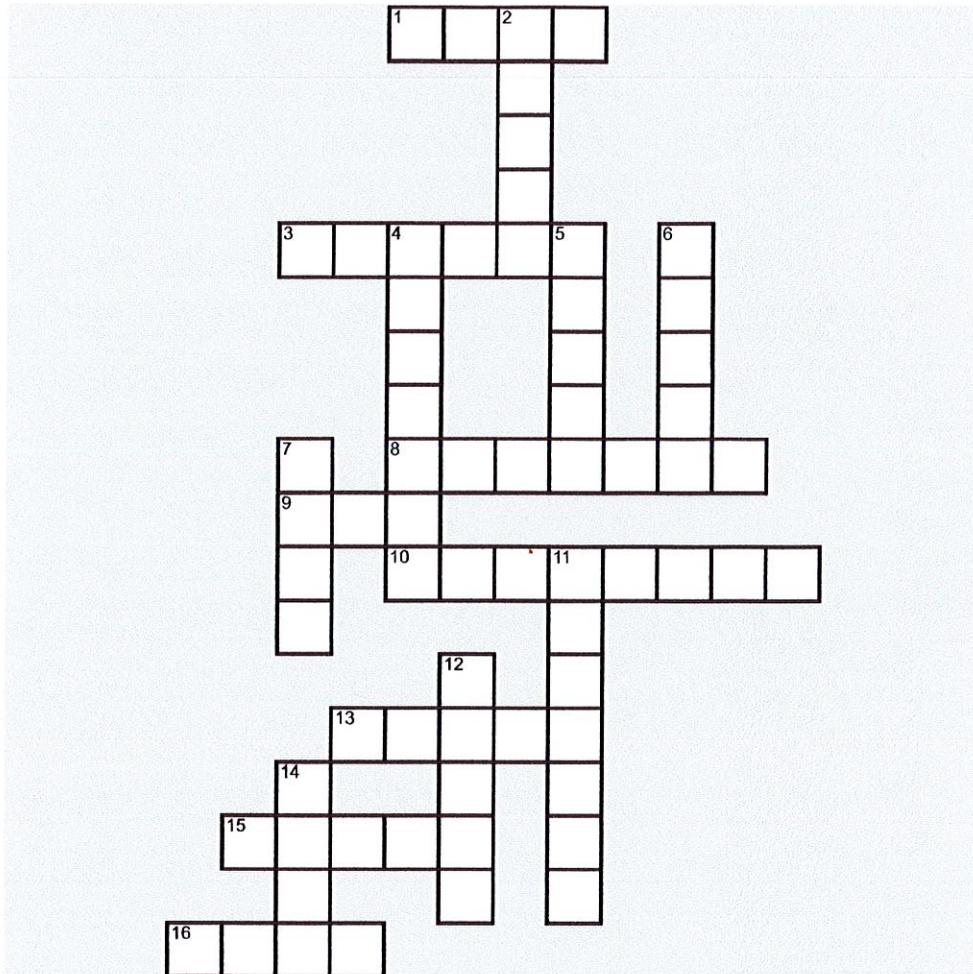
- 1 THIRTY-SECOND BOOK
- 4 THIRTIETH BOOK
- 9 EIGHTEENTH BOOK
- 10 TENTH BOOK
- 12 FIFTEENTH BOOK
- 15 THIRTY-FIFTH BOOK
- 19 FOURTEENTH BOOK
- 22 SECOND BOOK
- 24 THIRTY-FOURTH BOOK
- 26 TWENTY-FIFTH BOOK
- 29 NINETEENTH BOOK
- 30 SIXTH BOOK
- 31 SEVENTEENTH BOOK
- 32 THIRTY-THIRD BOOK
- 33 THIRTY-NINTH BOOK
- 34 TWENTY-FOURTH BOOK

## Down

- 1 SEVENTH BOOK
- 2 TWENTIETH BOOK
- 3 TWENTY-EIGHTH BOOK
- 5 TWENTY-SECOND BOOK
- 6 FOURTH BOOK
- 7 THIRTY-FIRST BOOK
- 8 ELEVENTH BOOK
- 11 FIFTH BOOK
- 12 TWENTY-SIXTH BOOK
- 13 THIRTEENTH BOOK
- 14 THIRTY-SIXTH BOOK
- 16 TWELVETH BOOK
- 17 TWENTY-FIRST BOOK
- 18 NINTH BOOK
- 20 THIRD BOOK
- 21 TWENTY-SEVENTH BOOK
- 23 FIRST BOOK
- 25 THIRTY-EIGHTH BOOK
- 27 EIGHTH BOOK
- 28 TWENTY-THIRD BOOK
- 30 TWENTY-NINTH BOOK

# Animals of the Bible

Author: Peg Gifford



## Across

- 1 Jesus fed 5000 with 2 \_\_\_\_ and 5 loaves of bread
- 3 Beware those in sheep's clothing as they are ravenous \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Eden tempter
- 9 Insect of Proverbs
- 10 You are of more value than many \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Jesus' parable of the sheep and \_\_\_\_
- 15 White animal in Revelation
- 16 As the \_\_\_\_ pants for streams of water....

## Down

- 2 ....nor cast your pearls before \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Food of John the Baptist
- 5 Most frequently mentioned animal in the Bible
- 6 First bird released by Noah
- 7 \_\_\_\_ of God who takes away the sins of the world
- 11 Before the \_\_\_\_ crows you will disown me 3 times
- 12 Easier for a \_\_\_\_ to go through the eye of a needle
- 14 The Holy Spirit appeared at Jesus' baptism as this animal

