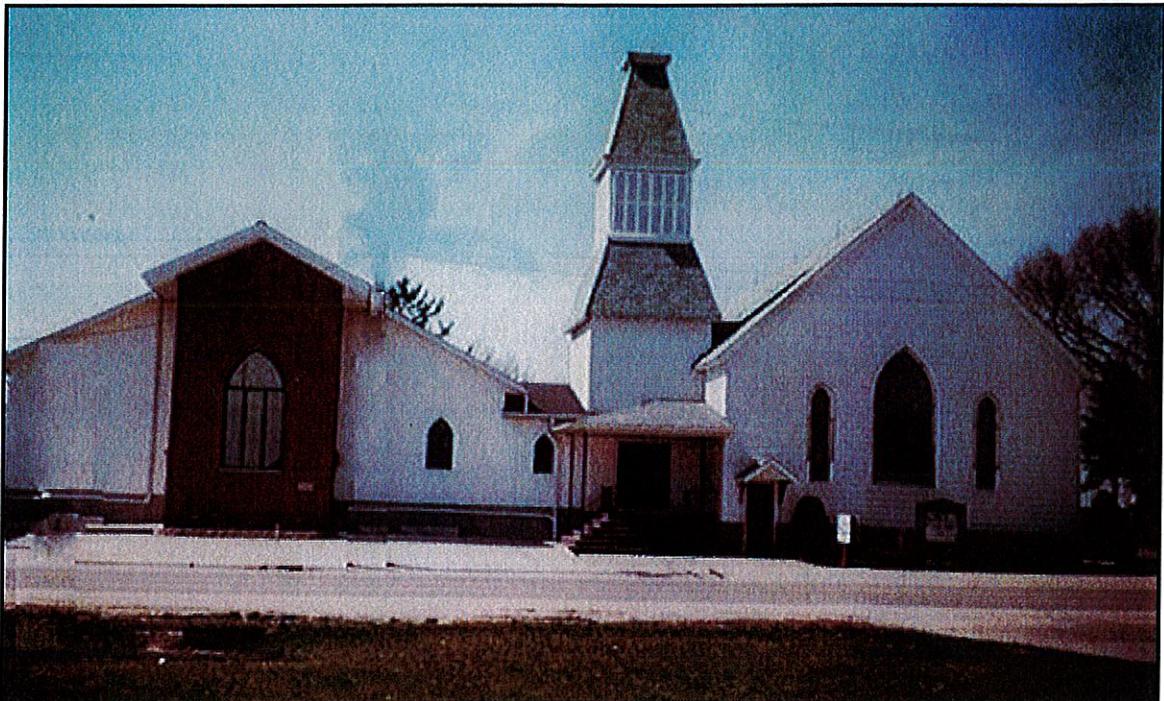


Seward Congregational Church
Box 104, 3029 S. Pecatonica Road
Seward, IL 61077-0104
(815)247-8612
<https://sewardcongregational.com>
Return Service Requested

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

*The
Chimes*

November 2025 Church News



Seward Congregational Church Chimes November Announcements

DIACONATE: Will meet on November 5, at 1:30 p.m.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on November 19, at 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: The Women's fellowship will meet on November 18, at 9 a.m. They will be making Thanksgiving care bags, please bring 2 dozen cookies.

PULPIT FILL: On Sunday November 2 we will welcome Jonathan Lewis to the pulpit. On Sunday November 9 Lee Eclov will join us.

BIBLE SUNDAY: November 16, will be bible Sunday and the Gideon's will be here for the pulpit fill.

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER RESOURCES: To cover the needs of the congregation during this time each person has been assigned a church council member as a contact for spiritual needs. If you are unable to reach you assigned council member, please try one of the other church council members listed.

Groups are determined by the first letter of your last name.

A-C Karleen Merchant 815-222-7744----D-K Tari Woods 815-222-3037----L-R Teresa Gobeli 608-214-2971
S-Z Char Remer 815-315-3455

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 3rd Friday of every month.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

September

January-September

General Fund	Income \$6,235.00
	Expense \$11,718.76

\$ 47,830.35
\$ 73,745.33

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARY

14- Mary Asche
Nash Cunningham
18-Ella Rose
22-Jill Viel
30- Robb Klinger

16-Pastor Joel & Cathy Hicke

Seward Congregational Church

Board of Trustees

September 17, 2025

Char called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm.

Present: Char Remer, Tari Woods, Pastor Joel, Matt Cowman, Brenda VanHauen and Nancy Kirby

Minutes of Meeting from the August 20th and September 7, 2025 Meetings were read. Tari motioned to approve and Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial reports were given by Brenda, Jeanne, Maury, and Tari. Matt motioned to approve. Brenda second. Motion carried.

Pastor Joel s report was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS: Rental Property Counter Offer was accepted. The Aurand House will be sold to Sharon Cowman for the negotiated price of \$169,000. 00 As Is. Price reduction was allowed due to Radon and sewer line. \$8,000 .00 in earnest money will be held in escrow. Maury has contacted Janet Fuenty. A Contract to Purchase has been forwarded to Sharon's Attorney. Access easement is being reviewed. A closing date has been set for December 2, 2025.

The Board is still looking for a CPA and someone to join Maury and help with the investments.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was made by Tari to pay \$200.00 for pulpit fill. Matt seconded. Motion carried.

Beginning October 26, 2025, the church will have visiting Pastors.

Discussion re: hiring new Pastor. Char will attend seminar at St. Paul Church of Epplyanna in Davis this Saturday. Hosted by Ray DeLaurier.

Next Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held October 15, 2025

Submitted by: Nancy Kirby

October 1st Diaconate Minutes

Meeting was called to order by chairman, Teresa Gobeli at 1:34pm. Others present were Delores Poppen, Bev Weerda and Karleen Merchant.

Karleen opened with prayer.

The minutes of the Sept. 4th meeting were read. Bev made motion to approve; Delores seconded. Minutes approved.

Bev reported that there was \$923.15 in Diaconate account. Karleen motion to approve. Delores seconded. Report approved.

Pastor Joels visits were reviewed.

We still need more volunteers to be greeters on Sunday morning.

The September community breakfast was successful.

The Sunday School staff is pleased with the new curriculum. The weekly Bible verse is being shared in the Sunday bulletin. Challenging all to memorize them.

Discussion was held about visiting shut-ins. The Diaconate will take on that responsibility while we are without a pastor.

Communion in October will be on Pastor Joel's last Sunday; October 19th. Our Fellowship Hour that day will be in honor of Pastor Joel's service to us. We will get someone to take a picture of him to put in our Pastors Pictures in the Fellowship Hall.

Karleen reported on the pulpit fill that is confirmed. So far, we have six Sundays covered.

Church decorating for Advent will be Sunday, Nov. 23rd, after worship. We need all who are able to help with this.

Teresa will check into children pages for the future Chimes.

With no other business, Bev motioned to adjourn. Second by Karleen. Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

Next meeting is November 5th, 2025 at 1:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant

Sunday school Christmas Program - December 14, 2025

We are very excited about this year's Christmas program! It's always a special time to come together and celebrate the season with our church family.

We need your help!

As part of the program, we're putting together a slideshow of children spending time with their parents or grandparents. These photos will help tell the story of love, family and the true meaning of Christmas.

Please send us your photos by 12/7/25, so that we may complete our Christmas program!

You can either text them to:

Jennifer Lloyd – 815-222-4147

Bev Hilton – 815-821-5930

Tari Woods – 815-222-3037

Or email them to Office@sewardcongregational.com

Thank you all so much for helping us make this year's program meaningful and memorable. We can't wait to see what your kids have been up to!

In addition, please mark your calendar as the children will be singing on November 16. Additionally, on that day we will be handing out Bibles to the children who haven't received their Bible as of yet.

Blessings,

Bev, Jennifer, Char, Karleen & Tari

Sunday School Lessons for November

The Life of Jesus

The Sunday School Teachers are very excited about what the children are learning each week with our new curriculum. The group comes together for a video each week about the lesson. Then we split up to our classrooms. We challenge everyone to take this opportunity to learn the memory verses along with the Sunday School classes each week!

November 2 Jesus is the Word

Memory Verse: John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

November 9 John the Baptist

Memory Verse: John 3:30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

November 16 The Baptism of Jesus

Memory Verse: Romans 6:4 And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father now we also may live new lives.

November 23 The Most Famous Sermon

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:3 God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

November 30 Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

Memory Verse John 2:11 And His disciples believed in him.

Other News from the Sunday School

The Sunday School Children will be singing at the service on November 16th which is Bible Sunday. Children will be receiving their first Bible and those that are to receive the next level Bible will be presented that day also.

Please come and hear them sing.

The Christmas program will be December 14th during the morning service. They have started practicing already! Also, a performance you do not want to miss.

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Jonathon Lewis Pulpit fill Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	3	4	5 Diaconate 1:30 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Lee Eclov pulpit fill Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Gideons/Sid Moate Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	17	18 Women's fellowship 9 a.m. bring 2 dozen cookies	19 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23 Church Decorating Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service						

79th Presentation of
Messiah
by George Frideric Handel



A Regional Christmas Season Tradition Since 1945!

**Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 3:00pm
& Sunday, November 30, 2025, at 3:00pm**

at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Avenue, Rockford, Illinois

presented by the

Rockford Choral Union

Featuring Professional Soloists, Large Regional Chorus,
Chamber Orchestra, Pipe Organ, and Harpsichord,
and Conductor Michael Beert

No Admission Charge Donations Welcome

<https://rockfordchoralunion.com>

For more info, scan:



Both performances will be livestreamed on our Facebook page:



www.facebook.com/rockfordchoralunion

THANKSGIVING FEAST

Unscramble the letters to find the Thanksgiving words.

EIP _ _ _ _

BIR _ _ _ _

MHA _ _ _ _

MJA _ _ _ _

UTN _ _ _ _

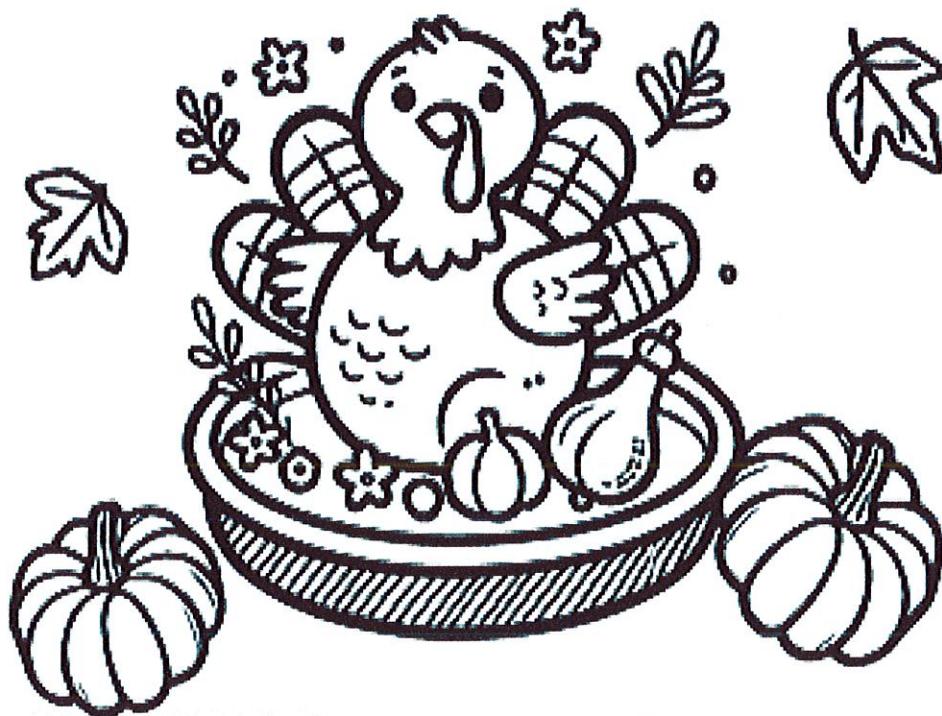
RNOC _ _ _ _

MYA _ _ _ _

RTAT _ _ _ _

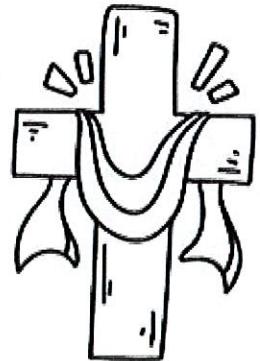
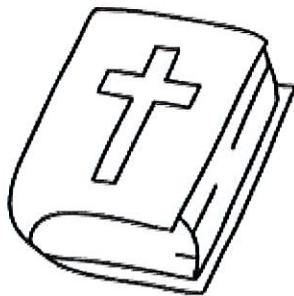
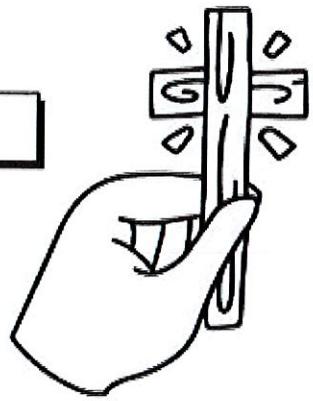
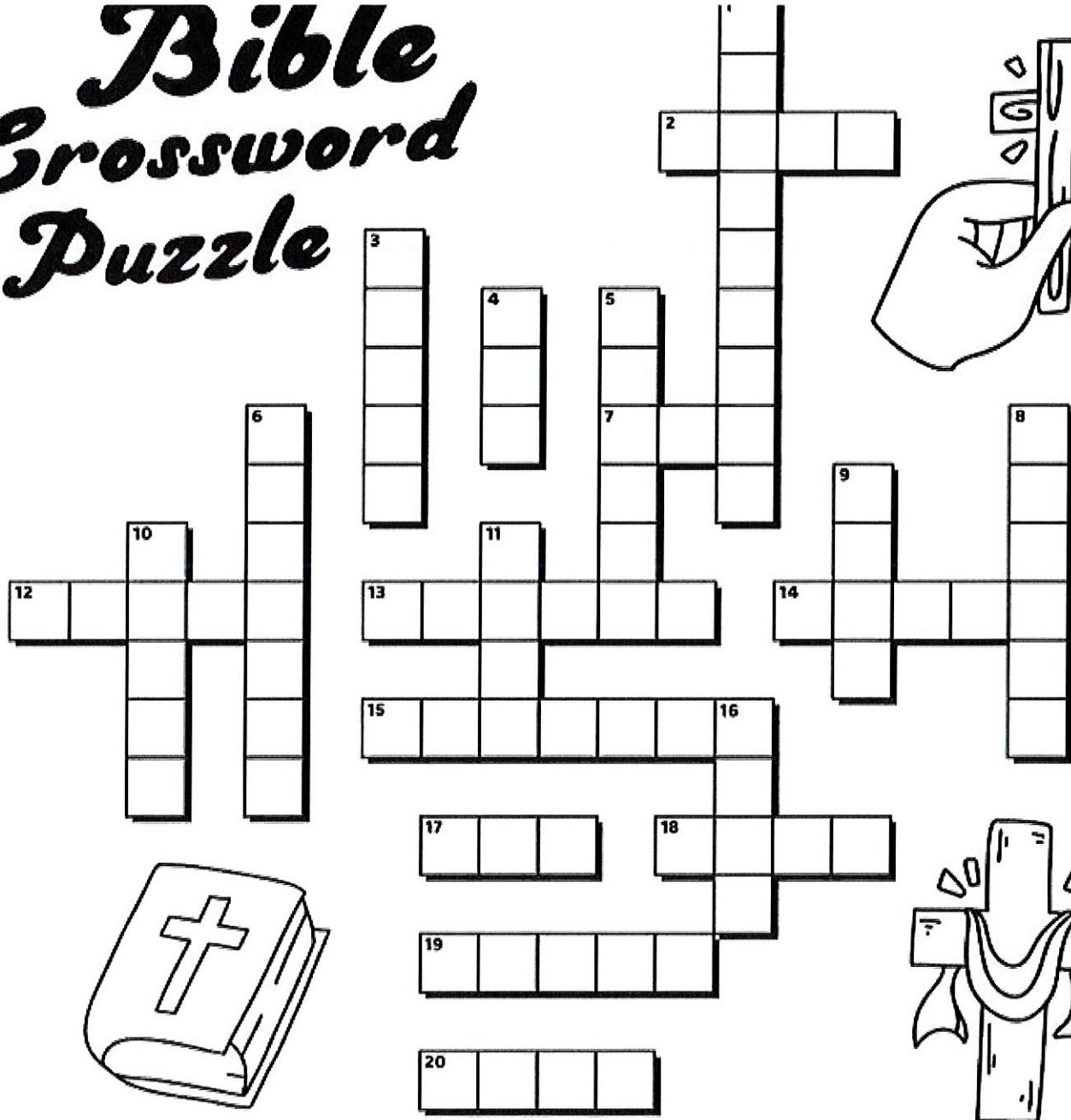
GGE _ _ _ _

OLRL _ _ _ _



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

Bible Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. This led the wise men to baby Jesus
7. The first woman
12. The queen of what country came to see Solomon
13. What is it called when we talk to God?
14. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?
15. Wisest man in the world
17. God created the world in how many days?
18. Two ladies argued about this
19. Who parted the Red Sea?
20. What kind of bird did Noah send out of the ark to see if the land was dry?

Down

1. The town Jesus was born in
3. Long sharp weapon
4. Who created everything?
5. How many disciples did Jesus have?
6. Who was the first Jew?
8. What Solomon asked God for
9. The first man
10. Who is a descendant of Abraham and King David, and is the Savior of the world?
11. The first king of Israel who died in battle with his son, Jonathon
16. He built the ark

Word Bank

Solomon	Baby	Sword	Sheba	Adam	Eve	Wisdom
Star	Saul	Bethlehem	Moses	Abraham	Jesus	Noah
Dove	God	David	Twelve	Prayer	Six	



