

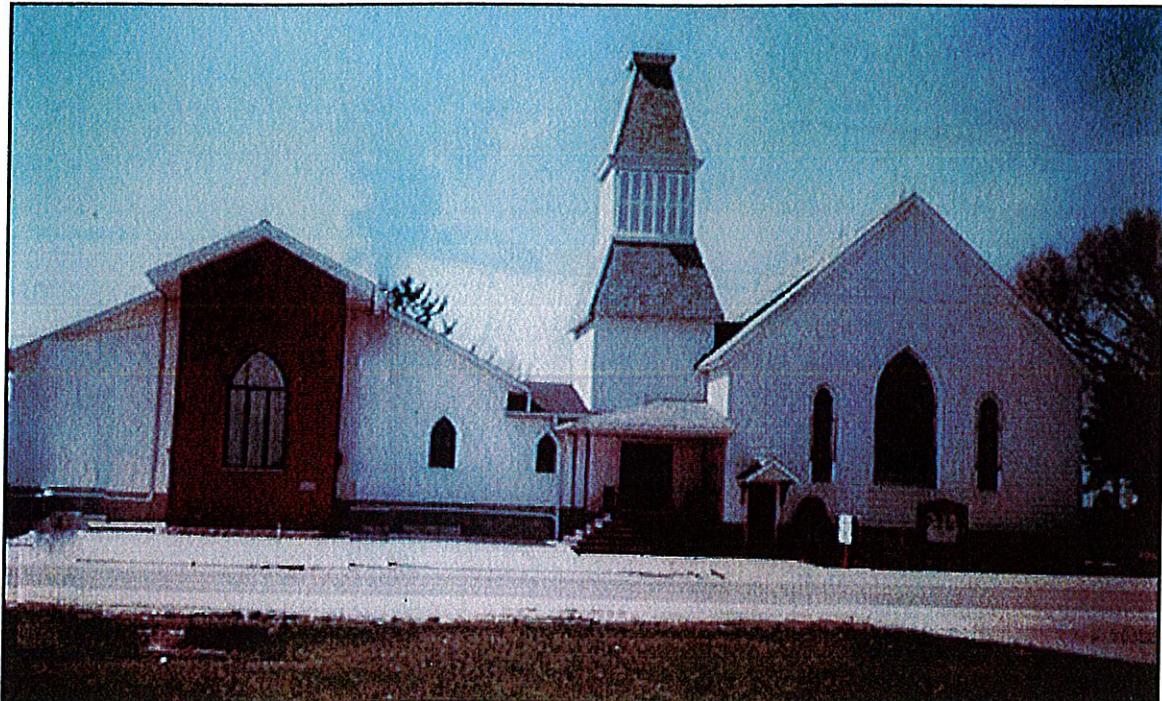
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*The  
Chimes*

*January 2026 Church News*



# Seward Congregational Church Chimes

## January Announcements

**DIACONATE:** Will meet on January 7, at 1:30 p.m.

**TRUSTEE'S:** The Trustee's will meet on January 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Will not meet in January

**PULPIT FILL:** On Sunday January 4, Ron Fry. January 11, Scott Rehfeldt. January 18 Tom Roderick. January 25, Bob Freedlund.

**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 608-214-8971  
S-Z Char Remer 815-315-3455

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Our Annual meeting will be on January 25, following the worship service, with a potluck followed by the meeting. **Reports are due to Theresa by January 16, 2026**

**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.**

**We are looking for a volunteer to learn how to program our outdoor digital sign. Contact a board member if you are willing to do that task.**

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

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

**Monthly Budget \$7,338.59**

#### November

#### January-November

General Fund	Income	\$5,862.00				
	Expense	\$3,023.24				
						\$ 57,546.35
						\$ 82,703.44

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6—Don King  
7- Brenda VanHauen  
8—Ken Asche  
11- Delores Poppen  
12-Mike Weerda  
27-Wendell Poppen  
28-Ron Craven

### **Dec. 3, 2025 Diaconate meeting minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Barb Daubs, in place of Teresa Gobeli. Those present in addition to Barb were, Bev Weerda, Delores Poppen and Karleen Merchant. Teresa was present via phone.

Barb opened with prayer

Karleen read the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. Delores made motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev. Motion carried.

Bev reported that there is \$753.15 in the checking account.

#### **Old Business**

Greeters are still needed. No one has yet signed up for December. The Poppens and Daubs reported shut in visits they have made or will be making. Those in attendance each took a note card and we will each send a note to one of our shut ins.

Pulpit fill was discussed and everyone has been satisfied with those who have joined us so far. Karleen reported that she has Sundays filled through January 4<sup>th</sup>. She will be contacting those on her list who were interested but not available for the dates that were open and will also reach out to those we've had previously. As of now, we will continue with pulpit fill.

We have been blessed to have volunteers for the four Advent Sunday readings and candlelighting. Char Remer has volunteered to be the Worship leader for our Christmas Eve service. Ross Kendall will be sharing in that service with his musical talents.

Advent decorations will be taken down on Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, after church.

#### **New business**

Delores and Karleen's terms on the Diaconate are up in January. There is also 1 year left on an open term. Anyone interested in being part of the Diaconate, contact the church council. The annual meeting is set for January 25<sup>th</sup>, after worship. We will have a potluck before the meeting.

The annual Bears/Packer challenge to raise paper products for the Pecatonica and German Valley Food pantries is underway. We will collect items through Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. The pantry reported that they are in need of paper towels. Karleen will make arrangements to deliver our contributions after Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Other Business**

We are still looking for a volunteer to be in charge of our digital sign. If interested, let any Diaconate member know.

Since we are in the flu season, it was suggested that when preparing for coffee hour, we should be using the vinyl disposable gloves that we have in our kitchen storage room.

Next meeting will be January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 1:30pm. With no other business, Teresa made motion to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karleen. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant, Diaconate secretary

Trustee Meeting Minutes  
Date: November 19, 2025

1. Opening

Char lead us in prayer.

2. Minutes

- October meeting minutes were reviewed.

3. Financial Reports

Updates were provided as follows:

- Jean – Income/Expenses
- Brenda – Income
- Maury – Investments
- Tari – Sunday School

Motion to accept reports: Tari motioned, Matt seconded.

5. Old Business

- Rental Property Sale: Maury reported the closing is tentatively scheduled for mid-January 2026.
- Financial Personnel Transition: Replacement for Jean is in progress. Training will begin soon.
- Pastoral Transition: We have begun navigating this process.
  - . Parsonage - we are in the process of hiring a professional to clean the parsonage.

6. New Business

- We reviewed the Fire Chiefs report - Gary Larrow completed the safety check, which consisted of fire extinguishers, exit lights work properly and smoke detectors.
  - . We discussed the lights in fellowship hall needing replaced.
  - . Reviewed Snow Removal & salt on sidewalks.
  - . We discussed selling 50 folding chairs for \$5 a piece. - Tari motioned - Brenda seconded.

7. Adjournment - Matt motioned - Jean seconded.

Next meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tari Woods

## JANUARY

## Sunday School Lessons

January 4 Abrahams test

Memory Verse: **Hebrews 11:17** It was by faith that Abraham offered Issac as a sacrifice when God was testing him.

January 11 Isaacs Twin boys Jacob and Esau

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 25:28** A person without self-control is like a city with broken down walls.

January 18 Joseph's son Jacob

Memory Verse: **1 Corinthians 13:4** Love is patient love is kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud...

January 25 Jacob and Esau

Memory Verse: **Proverbs 18:21** The tongue can bring death or life.

Thank you to all the participated in any way making the Sunday School program a success! We really appreciate seeing the children and teens participation.

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	5	6	<b>7</b> Diaconate meeting 1:30	8	9	10
<b>11</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service Undeck the halls	12	13	14	15	<b>16</b> Report Due for Annual Meeting	17
<b>18</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	19	20	<b>21</b> Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
<b>25</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service Annual Meeting Potluck	26	27	28	29	30	31



# People of the Bible



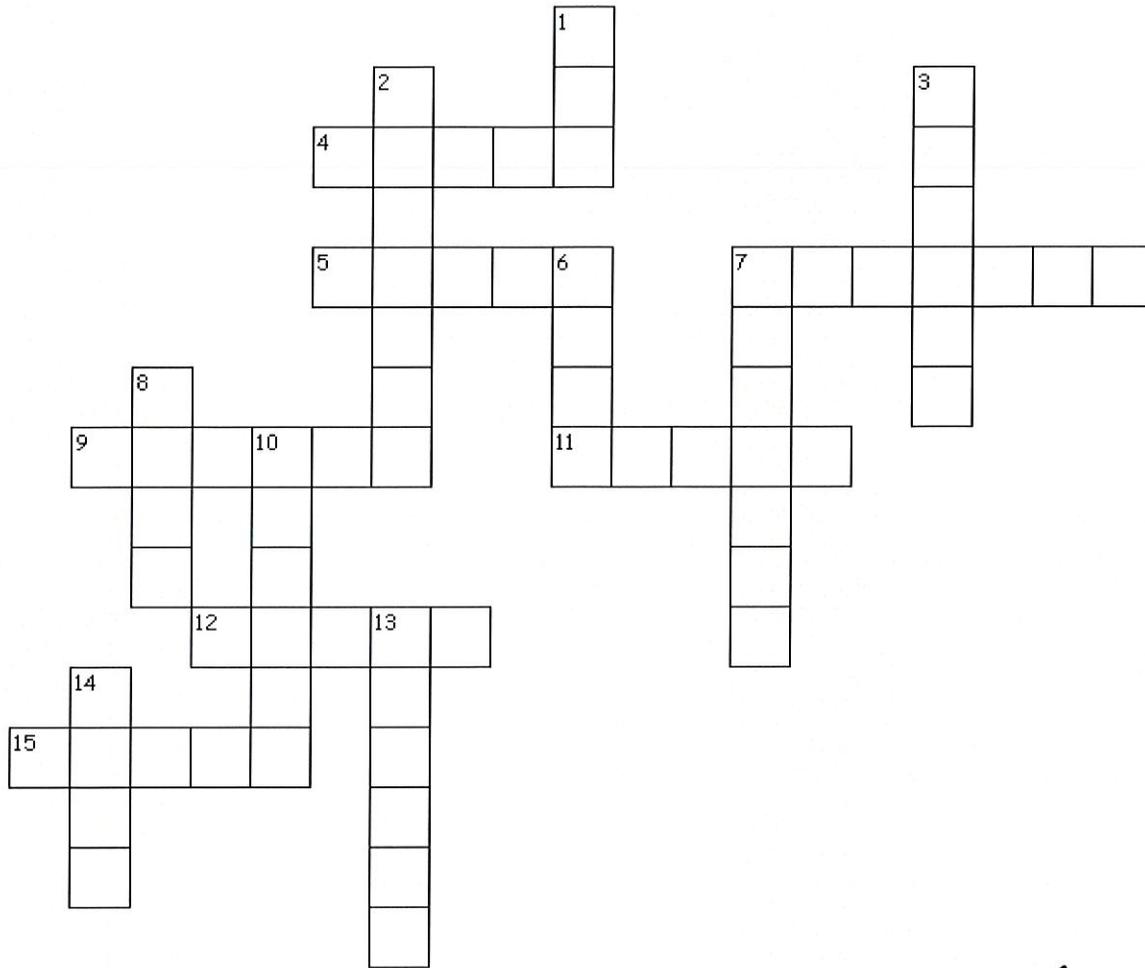
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P L A G W E D I D U Q B X N S  
Z W N J G N J Q L G J E Q M E

ABEL  
DAVID  
GOD  
JOHN  
JOSIAH  
MARY  
PETER

CAIN  
ELIJAH  
JESUS  
JONATHAN  
LUKE  
NOAH  
RUTH

DANIEL  
ELISHA  
JOB  
JOSEPH  
MARK  
PAUL  
SAMUEL

# Birds of the Bible



## Across

- 4. Exodus 16:13
- 5. Jeremiah 8:7
- 7. Psalm 84:3
- 9. Leviticus 11:19
- 11. Proverbs 23:5
- 12. Leviticus 11:19
- 15. Genesis 8:7

## Down

- 1. Psalm 102:6
- 2. Leviticus 11:13
- 3. Isaiah 38:14
- 6. Leviticus 11:14
- 7. Psalm 84:3
- 8. Genesis 8:8
- 10. Leviticus 12:6
- 13. Leviticus 11:18
- 14. Job 39:26



# Animals in the Bible

Unscramble the words. Take the letters in the squares and unscramble them to find the phrase.

LWSEAE

\_\_\_ □ □ \_\_\_ □

WISEN

□ □ \_\_\_ □

ERTADGRIP

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ □ □ □

SGRPSAOHREP

□ □ \_\_\_\_\_

NWSA

□ \_\_\_ □



They that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with these. ~Isaiah 40:31

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow the names of the animals through the maze to solve it.

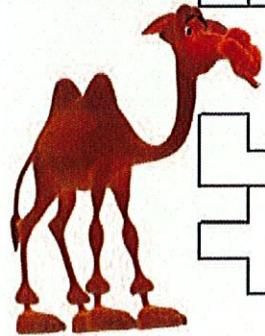
Start



CAMEL



DONKEY



DOG



FISH

BEAR

LION



Finish

