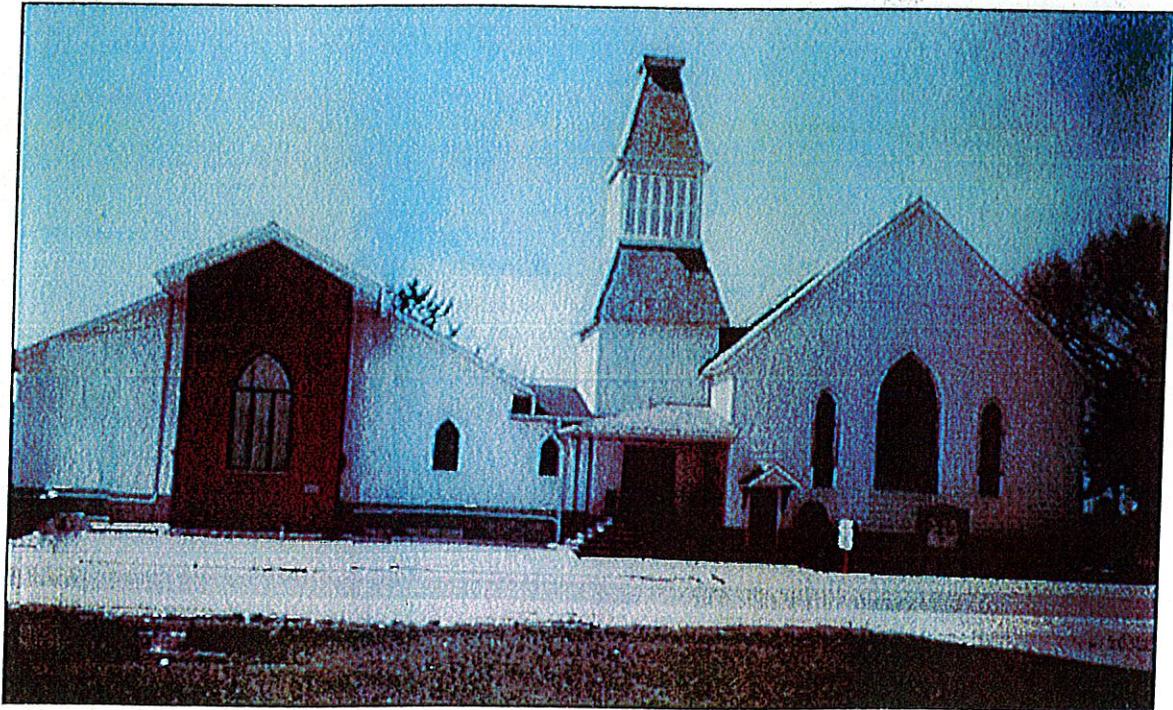


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*The  
Chimes*

*February 2026 Church News*



## Seward Congregational Church Chimes February Announcements

**DIACONATE:** Will meet on February 11, at 1:30 p.m.

**TRUSTEE'S:** The Trustee's will meet on February 18, at 6:30 p.m.

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

**PULPIT FILL:** On February 1 Pastor Randy Newton, with communion. February 8, Cecil Chambers, February 15, Jennifer Lloyd. February 22, Jonathon Lewis

**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 your 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

**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

#### December

General Fund	Income	\$5,862.00
	Expense	\$3,023.24

### Monthly Budget \$7,338.59

#### January-December

	\$ 57,546.35
	\$ 82,703.44

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

3-Kaitlin Asche, Roger Hilton  
8—Lois Ascher  
9—Betty Kendell  
15-Mary Jane Zipse, Bev Weerda  
17-Carrie Vaught (Remer)  
25- Stephanie Cannon

#### Anniversaries

13-Matt & Jessica Cowman  
14-Jim & Karleen Merchant  
15-Dennis & Sandy Freedlund  
22- Richard & Judy Beuth

# SEWARD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of Meeting December 17,2025

Present: Char Remer, Jean Mennenga, Brenda VanHauen, Tari Woods, Matt Cowman and Nancy Kirby

Char called the meeting to order at 6:28 and opened with Prayer.

Financial Reports were given by Jean, Brenda, Tari & Maury ( submitted by Char)

Matt motioned to approve, Tari second. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS::

Rental Property (Aurand House) Char will be attending the closing Mid January.

Lights in Fellowship hall need to be replaced.

2026 Budget was discussed.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Ross Kendall & Jennifer Woods for Christmas Eve Service music .

Pizza Party & movie night for high school students approved. Tari motioned. Brenda second.

Discussion regarding using remaining rental property funds to pay for cleaning and repairs of the Parsonage.

2026 projects include repair/replace courtyard deck.

Meeting adjourned . Matt motion. Tari second.

Next meeting: January 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kirby

## **January 2026 Diaconate Minutes 7<sup>th</sup>,**

Meeting called to order at 1:28pm by Teresa Gobeli. Present in person were, Teresa, Bev Hilton, Karleen Merchant, Delores Poppen and Bev Weerda. Barb Daubs was present via telephone.

Karleen opened with prayer. Then she read the Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. A correction was made to add Jennifer Lloyd as singing on Christmas Eve. Delores then motioned to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev. W. Minutes with correction were approved.

Bev W. gave treasurers report. \$744.39 balance in checking account. Karleen made motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Delores. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

We have greeters signed up through January. Teresa and Karleen both reported on visits they had made to members. We will be including a list of shut-ins, in the bulletin once a month. We will check with the Trustees about a stipend for nonmembers to visit shut-ins. Karleen reported that pulpit fill is covered through February. Positive responses were given for all those who have been speakers since October. We will be looking for pulpit fill to give messages that prepare us for Easter, during Lent. This coming Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> is 'Undeck the Halls.' The courtyard has already been changed, along with some other decorations. The Christmas trees will need to be taken down. Other than one Diaconate opening, (we have a candidate and waiting for reply), the Slate of Officers for 2026 is ready for the Annual meeting, which will be Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion about having potluck after the Annual meeting was tabled until next year, as it was already voted on and is printed in the Chimes.

### **New Business**

We are starting a two (2) day a week food train for Ken Hazzard. Signup sheet will be in narthex. There was discussion on asking one of the pulpit fill pastors to serve communion. Karleen will check with Pastor Randy Newton for Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Also we are checking with the Winnebago churches to see if there will be midweek Community Lenten services.

Randy Gobeli has volunteered to learn the digital sign.

### **Other Business**

Bev H. thanked the Diaconate for the Christmas gift but said she would rather have some volunteers to help with Sunday School, when her and the other teachers are not available. There being no further business, Karleen motioned to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev W. Meeting adjourned at 2:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant  
secretary

# February 2026

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

## **Sunday School News**

On February 15<sup>th</sup> the children are singing for us.

The songs are two favorites:

**He's got the whole world in his hands**

**&**

**Everybody ought to Know**

Please join us to share in their excitement to sing for you.

## **FEBUARY Sunday School Lessons**

2/1 - Genesis 50:20- Memory Verse "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for all good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people".

Key Question - Why does God always get his way

2/8- Deuteronomy 8:3 - Memory verse "...People do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord".

Key Question - How does the Bible help us?

2/15 - Matthew 4:19 - Memory verse "Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people".

Key Question- How can we help to change the world?

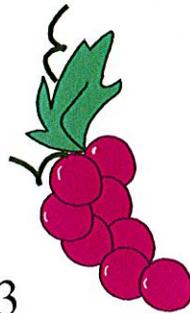
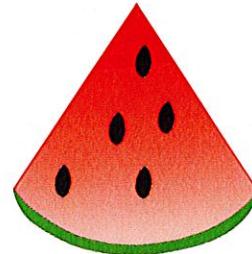
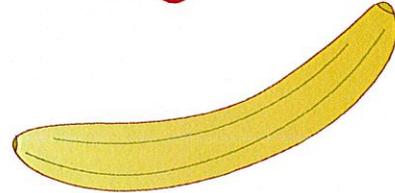
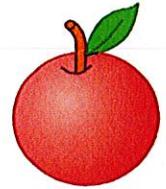
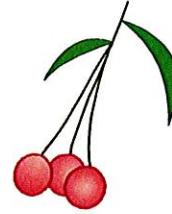
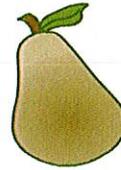
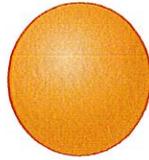
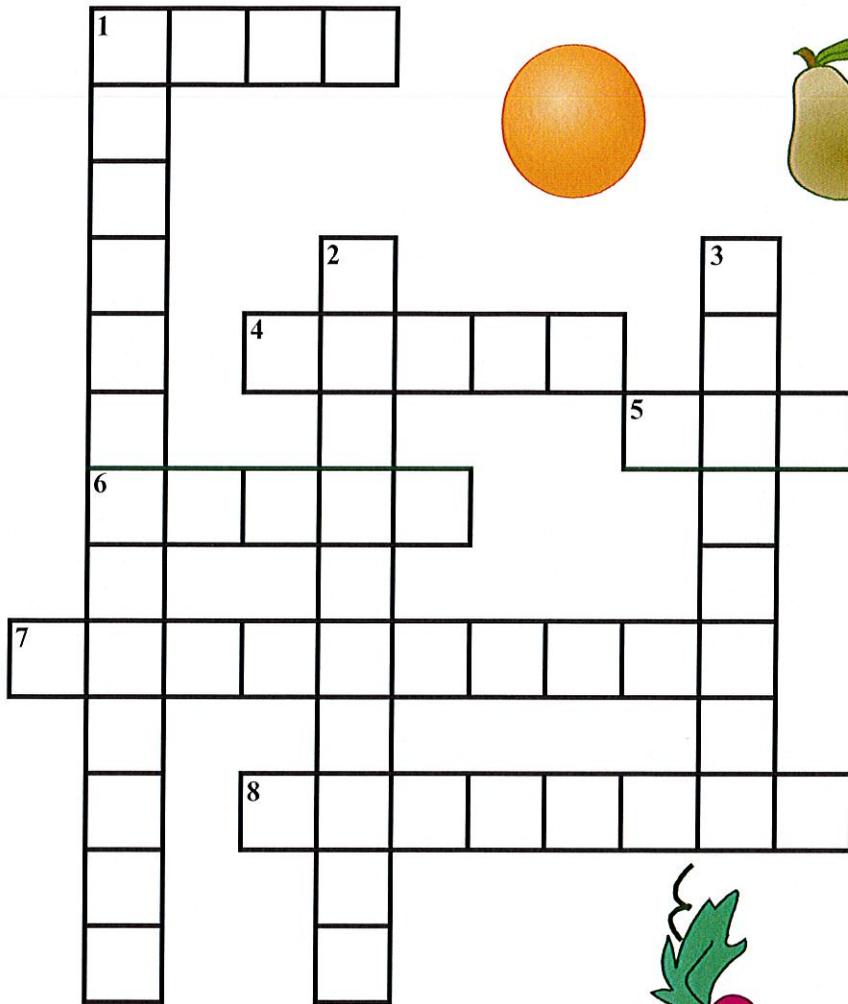
2/22 - Psalm 23:1 - Memory verse "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need."

Key Question- How does Jesus know what we need?

We challenge everyone to learn the memory verses along with the children!

# Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9



## ACROSS

- 1 Defined in I Corinthians 13
- 4 Rest, quietness
- 5 Delight, cheerfulness
- 6 The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.  
~Heb 11:1
- 7 Self control
- 8 Humility

## DOWN

- 1 Patient
- 2 Moral excellence of character; kindness
- 3 The quality of being beneficial; kindness

# Fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

~ Galatians 5:22-23

