

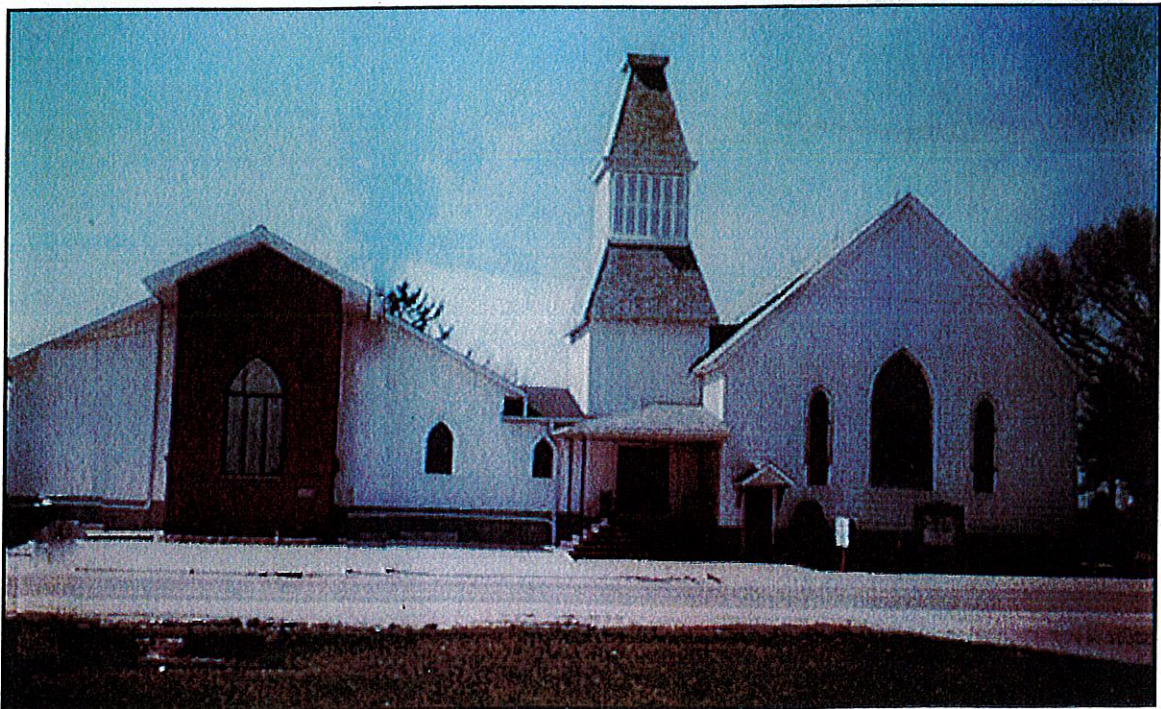
Seward Congregational Church  
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*The  
Chimes*

*May 2026 Church News*



**Seward Congregational Church Chimes  
May Announcements**

**DIACONATE:** Will meet on May 6, at 1:30 p.m. **We have an open seat on the Diaconate. If anyone is interested please see one of the Diaconate members. Please take a minute to prayerfully consider volunteering.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION:** on May 10 we will have our Sunday School promotion during the worship service. May Sunday school lessons are: How to Love ♥☐- Memory verse: Proverbs 10:12 - Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love makes up for all offenses. The Golden Rule - Memory verse: Matthew 7:12 - Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

**Sunday school's last day is Sunday, May 10. We will be providing breakfast pizza, fruit and juice for the children. They will also be singing during our church service The Saints Go Marching In and I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.**

Sunday school rally day is set for Sunday, September 13, 3026 @ 9:15.

**VBS:** VBS is set for June 1-4 at 9:30-11:00 with a performance at 10:45 on Thursday, June 4.

**SUMMER CAMP:** Camp dates are set for June 13-14 for Mother-daughter, Father-son weekend. The child can be no older than finishing second grade. We have funds for 10 full scholarships. Plus a few middle-elementary school. We also have teen leadership camps, available as well.

**WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE:** On May 17 we will switch to 9 a.m. Worship service.

**TRUSTEE'S:** The Trustee's will meet on May 20, at 6:30 p.m.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Women's Fellowship will have their outing on May 19<sup>th</sup> leaving the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

**PULPIT FILL:** On May 3, Amanda Rahn, May 10 Dr. Carroll Smith, May 17, Rob Bell, May 24 Dr. Carroll Smith, May 31, Jennifer Lloyd

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>March</b>	
General Fund	Income	\$7,476.00
	Expense	\$2,354.17

**Monthly Budget \$6,856.25**

<b>January -March</b>	
	\$18,659.00
	\$22,880.45

Birthdays

Anniversaries  
1-Carmel Hirschuber  
Sam Hirschuber  
11- Richard Beuth  
13-Esther Fry, Rosie Gasior  
19-Lucas Cowman  
23- Ken Hazzard  
25-Allen Long  
26-Jean Mennenga  
28-Carmen Shank

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Jeff & Jill Viel  
28 Julie & Tony Gasior

Seward Congregational Church Board of Trustees

March 18, 2026

Minutes of Meeting

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

Char called the meeting to order at 6:45 and opened with prayer.

Minutes of Meeting from January meeting were read. Tari motion to approve the minutes. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Old Business:

Parsonage repairs that are currently being done are close to completion. Matt suggested windows and screens need to be repaired or replaced. Smoke detectors need to be installed. Theresa is doing a spread sheet to show improvements and expenses to be kept in the parsonage.

Tari is checking with Brian McCray, Seward Sanitary District, to reduce the cost of sewer at the Parsonage since no one is living there

Next parsonage projects to include cleaning and moving all extra materials to garage.

The light bulb in the Sanctuary still need to be replace.

New Business:

Hudson Insko has hard wired the TV in the fellowship hall.

There is a request to purchase a microphone to capture congregation sound for (Approx.)

\$70. Tari motioned to approve this purchase. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sharon Cowman will no longer be mowing at the parsonage. The Board is actively seeking someone to assume this position.

Election Day Bake Sale profits=\$400.00 to Women's Fellowship

Pastoral Search Committee is working with 4C's & North Grove Church. Next Committee Meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The committee is working on rewriting the Job Description for the position of Pastor.

WCFA is offering the People Mover this year from August 19-August 23 (Wednesday-Saturday) 12-5 and 1-5 Payment to church=\$600.00

Matt suggested replace of plastic parking blocks with rub as some are falling apart. Tari Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Next meeting date April 15, 2026 at 6:30

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kirby, Secretary

## **April 8th, 2026 Diaconate minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Teresa Gobeli. In addition to Teresa, those present were Bev Hilton, Bev Weerda, Delores Poppen and Karleen Merchant.

Bev Hilton opened with prayer.

Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Karleen. Motion by Delores to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev W. Motion carried.

Bev Weerda reported that there is \$573.39 in checking account, which does not include the Maundy Thursday offering.

### **Old Business**

Greeters always needed!

Shut in logs/visits by the Chambers were reviewed. It was noted that they left a note about our Easter Breakfast on a friend's door and that the friend came to breakfast and church. Those receiving visits and communion are appreciative.

Except for June 14<sup>th</sup>, we have pulpit fill through June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Community Lenten Soup/Worship had 48 in attendance.

We will send a note with Sunday School children about Camp Emmaus and scholarships available.

Still looking for youth to volunteer for acolyte.

### **New Business**

We have some Mother's Day gifts to present that day. We will also order some carnations. Bev H. will take care of that. That Sunday is also promotion Sunday. Bev W. will get a gift for our high school graduate.

We tentatively set a date for VBS; Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>-Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11am. Will need to have volunteers for teaching, crafts, recess and kitchen.

Laura West submitted her resignation from Diaconate, as she is moving to Alabama. The bulletin will have an announcement asking for members to prayerfully consider the position.

**Next meeting Wed. May 6th at 1:30pm.**

With no further business, Bev W. made motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev H. Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karleen Merchant

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	4	5	<b>6</b> Diaconate 11:30 a.m.	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Promotion Sunday Fellowship following the service	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Fellowship following the service	18	<b>19</b> Women's Fellowship outing leave church at 8:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Fellowship following the service	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service Fellowship following the service						

Here comes

SPRING

a time to

grow...

thank you

God,

We love you so!



Mandy Grace '10

Ministry - to - children . com

# Fruit of the Spirit

## Word Search

p	d	f	g	s	t	h	k	k	i	o	p	w	e	r
e	e	f	g	y	s	w	s	d	f	r	o	k	d	f
a	h	y	k	w	e	e	j	u	m	p	o	l	s	d
c	d	r	g	i	w	d	n	m	e	o	y	o	s	f
e	q	s	d	r	n	e	r	e	a	e	d	v	d	s
l	o	i	y	v	f	d	e	q	l	m	j	e	r	s
y	g	f	d	z	e	a	n	e	t	t	h	j	t	e
r	g	b	n	h	s	s	d	e	f	g	n	h	h	n
o	i	t	e	w	s	a	s	e	s	r	y	e	j	d
f	a	i	t	h	f	u	l	n	e	s	s	d	g	o
s	r	i	g	h	f	f	g	o	o	e	f	g	o	o
j	f	o	e	c	n	e	i	t	a	p	d	l	i	g
r	o	g	h	k	g	h	j	f	h	j	l	o	u	y
f	v	y	j	j	h	t	e	q	w	e	r	t	y	u
p	o	l	k	s	e	l	f	c	o	n	t	r	o	l

love

patience

faithfulness

joy

kindness

gentleness

peace

goodness

self control