

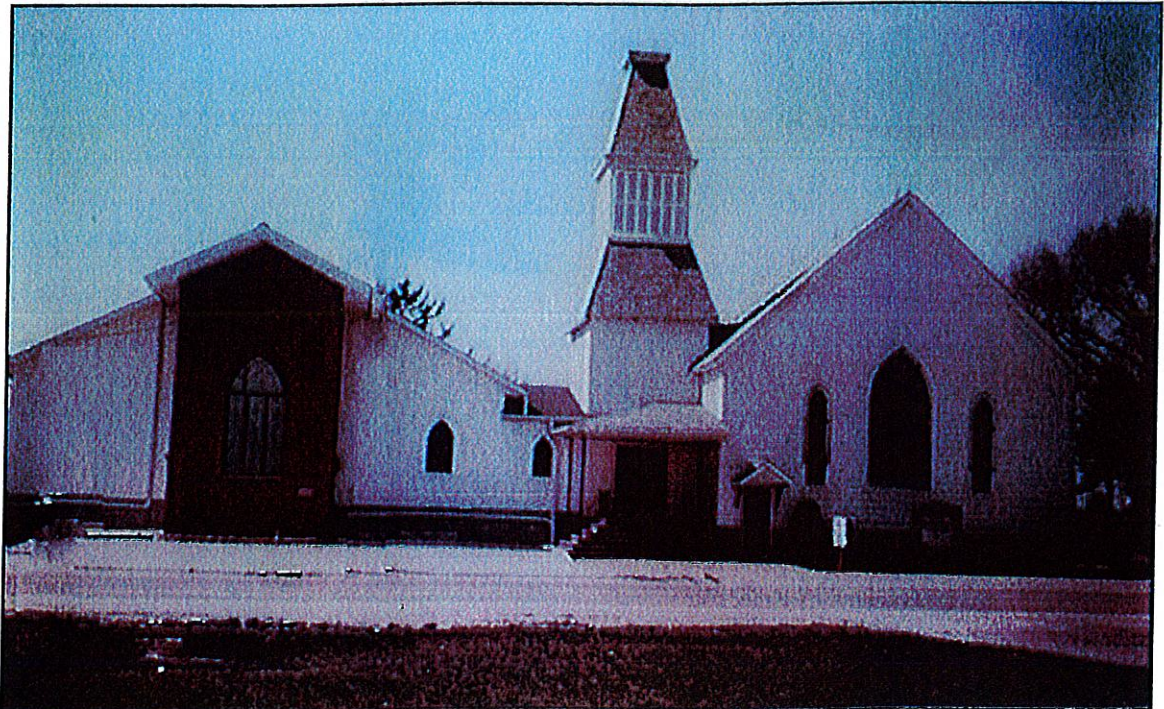
Seward Congregational Church
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*The
Chimes*

June 2026 Church News



Seward Congregational Church Chimes
June Announcements

DIACONATE: Will not meet in June. **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.**

VBS: VBS is set for June 1-4 at 9:30-11:00 with a performance at 10:45 on Thursday, June 4. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for teachers, helpers and cookies.

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.

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on June 17, at 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Women's Fellowship will have their outing on June 23 from 11:30-2 for dinner and bingo at River Bluff. Set up is at 11:30

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: The Pastoral Search Committee would like to provide an update to the congregation. We have received and carefully reviewed two resumes from individuals interested in serving as pastor of our church. After thorough consideration, including an interview with one of the candidates, the committee is in unanimous agreement that neither individual is the right fit for our church at this time. As we have now been without a pastor for several months, we are asking the congregation to complete an updated survey. This will help us better understand your current thoughts, needs, and expectations as we continue the search for the right pastoral leader for our church's future. Thank you for your continued support and participation. Please continue to pray for our church as we trust that God has a plan for us and will guide us in His timing

PULPIT FILL: On June 7, Angelo Perry, June 14, Bill Neely, June 21, Cecil Chambers, June 28, Jason Hoyt.

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

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 \$6,856.25

| | April | | January -April |
|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | Income | \$6,153.30 | \$25,236.90 |
| | Expense | \$6,237.90 | \$29,033.75 |

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| Birthdays | Anniversaries |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Mary Lou Speracino, Nancy Kirby | 5- Allen & Mary Asche |
| 8- Joshua Cowman | 19-Dick & Char Remer |
| 9-Norah Lloyd | 30- Maury & Barb Daubs |
| 12-Ryan Viel | |
| 16-Jessica Cowman | |
| 20- Jacob Hilton | |
| 26-Evelyn Merchant | |
| 27- Alena Asche | |
| 29- Aaron Ackerman | |

May 6th, 2026 Diaconate minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:25pm by Teresa Gobeli. In addition to Teresa, those present were Barb Daubs, Bev Hilton, Bev Weerda, Delores Poppen and Karleen Merchant.

Karleen opened with prayer

Minutes of April 8th meeting were read by Karleen. Motion by Barb to accept, 2nd by Delores. Motion carried.

Bev Weerda reported that there is \$589.64 in checking account.

Old Business

We have greeters through June 21st.

Reviewed the shut in/visit logs from the Chambers. We are thankful for their visits and serving of communion to those who choose to participate.

We are going to try using four speakers/pastors for pulpit fill. The same speaker will do the 1st Sunday, same speaker 2nd, 3rd Sunday, etc.

No youth signed up for camp yet, but we have one that has indicated wanting to go. We have 10 full scholarships still available.

The Sunday School Youth were gifted shirts from memorial money. They will be wearing them on Promotion Sunday, which is Mothers Day. They also will sing in church that day. During the Sunday School hour that day, the teachers are serving breakfast to the children and their family members. We have some gifts for Mothers to be given out that day too. Bev H. will get some carnations.

VBS is set for June 1st-June 4th from 9:30am-11am. The theme is UNLIKELY HEROES. We still need 2 teachers to do one lesson each. We will put out sign up sheet for cookies and punch donations.

We have the graduation gift for Lily. Bev H. will present it to her, as she is unable to be here on promotion Sunday.

Still looking for someone to fill the Diaconate vacancy. If interested, we would love to hear from you.

New Business

Tentative date for Outreach pancake breakfast is Saturday, Sept 12th, followed by Rally day Sept 13th.

Communion will be served on the 4th Sunday, until further notice. Pastor Carroll Smith will be doing pulpit fill on those Sundays.

On Father's Day we will have pie for Fellowship Hour.

Other Business

Lifeline Coalition is again having CHANGE FOR LIFE bottles. We will get the baby bottles from them to fill with change and will collect them on Father's Day.

Short discussion about sound/hearing speakers during service. Will advise sound booth to be aware that some speakers aren't being heard as well as others.

We will have a Black Cow Sunday during fellowship hour on June 28th.

Next meeting will be July 1st @10:00am. With no further business Bev W. motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Barb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant

Seward Congregational Church Board of Trustees

April 15, 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 6:40 and opened with prayer.

Nancy read minutes of March 18, 2026 meeting. Tari motion to approve the minutes. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Reports were given by Jean, Brenda, and Tari & Maury. Nancy motioned to approve. Tari seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tari will draft a letter for Sunday School children and Vacation Bible School children that there are funds available to be used for Summer Camp

Old Business:

Parsonage remodel project was discussed. Kudos to Todd Fryer, painter, for going above and beyond. Job well done. Awaiting cupboard & counter top. Smoke detectors, and possible shower replacement. New appliances will be replaced when parsonage is going to be lived in. Windows and screen repair or replacement is also still needed.

Microphone has not yet been purchased. Char will check with Hudson regarding this.

Parking blocks will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

Tari updated regarding Pastoral Search Committee. The committee has received two resumes of interested Pastors.

A new flag and rope has been purchased for the flagpole. Hudson is looking at the timer as currently the flagpole light does not work.

Thank you Dick & Char Remer for trimming shrubs, mowing and spraying weeds at the parsonage. Discussion regarding hiring Hudson to mow and maintain the Parsonage and church yards.

Thank you Seward Determination 4H club for cleaning the yard and flowerbeds.

Jay Pitney is still going to repair the bell tower.

Tari suggested not having a dumpster and just have garbage cans to save money.

Tari Motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting date May 20, 2026 at 6:30

Submitted by,

Nancy Kirby, Secretary

Church Congregation Survey

Purpose:

To help us prayerfully discern the qualities and leadership needed in our next pastor as we seek to strengthen and grow our church

Section 1: About Our Future Pastor

1. Do you have a preference for the gender of our next pastor?
 - Male
 - Female
 - No preference
2. How important is this preference to you?
 - Very important
 - Somewhat important
 - Not important

Section 2: Priorities for Our Church

3. What do you believe should be our church's top priorities over the next 2–3 years? (*Select up to 3*)
 - Growing attendance
 - Deepening spiritual life of members
 - Community outreach
 - Youth and family ministry
 - Worship experience
 - Serving those in need
 - Other: _____

Section 3: Qualities in a Pastor

4. Please rank the **top five qualities** you want in a pastor (1 = most important):
 - ___ Strong biblical teaching
 - ___ Ability to connect with people personally
 - ___ Leadership and vision for growth
 - ___ Experience in small churches
 - ___ Strong communication/preaching skills
 - ___ Community involvement and outreach
 - ___ Ability to attract and retain families
 - ___ Compassion and pastoral care
 - ___ Organizational/administrative skills
 - ___ Willingness to adapt and lead change

Section 4: Growth & Change

5. How open are you to changes in order to help the church grow?
 - Very open
 - Somewhat open
 - Prefer to keep things mostly the same
6. What types of changes would you support? *(Check all that apply)*
 - New worship styles/music
 - Different service times
 - Community events/outreach programs
 - Use of technology/social media
 - Partnerships with other churches
 - Other: _____

Section 5: Open Feedback

7. What do you think is currently holding our church back from growing?
8. What strengths does our church already have that we should build on?
9. Any additional thoughts or hopes for our next pastor?

Would you be open up to sharing a pastor with another church?

Would you consider merging with another church?

What concerns would you have about merging or sharing a pastor?

June 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service Worship | 1 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m | 2 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m | 3 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m | 4 VBS 9:30 - 11 a.m | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service | 15 | 16 | 17 <i>Trustee's</i> 6:30 p.m. | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Fellowship following the service | 29 | 30 | | | | |

God's Promises

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | O | D | S | W | O | R | D | A | S | B | P | I | U |
| R | C | O | V | E | R | I | N | G | I | L | V | J | S |
| S | F | A | T | H | E | R | S | S | C | E | E | T | O |
| L | D | E | S | E | R | T | A | S | C | S | O | H | O |
| P | R | O | V | I | S | I | O | N | U | S | D | E | C |
| W | I | G | P | E | A | C | E | S | J | I | E | A | I |
| V | C | A | T | G | U | I | F | I | S | N | I | L | S |
| V | F | I | N | A | N | C | E | S | N | G | R | I | T |
| F | A | I | T | H | F | U | L | N | E | S | S | N | C |
| S | S | H | O | L | I | N | E | S | S | E | M | G | A |
| O | S | V | V | H | A | P | P | I | N | E | S | S | P |
| S | I | L | A | G | A | P | E | L | O | V | E | I | S |
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| N | A | E | O | S | C | P | H | Y | S | I | C | A | L |

FAITHFULNESS
 PROMISES
 HAPPINESS
 BLESSINGS
 JESUS
 FATHER
 HOLINESS
 AGAPE LOVE
 PHYSICAL
 DESERT
 PEACE
 GODS WORD
 PACTS
 COVERING
 HEALING
 PROVISION
 FINANCES

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SUMMER BUCKET LIST!

