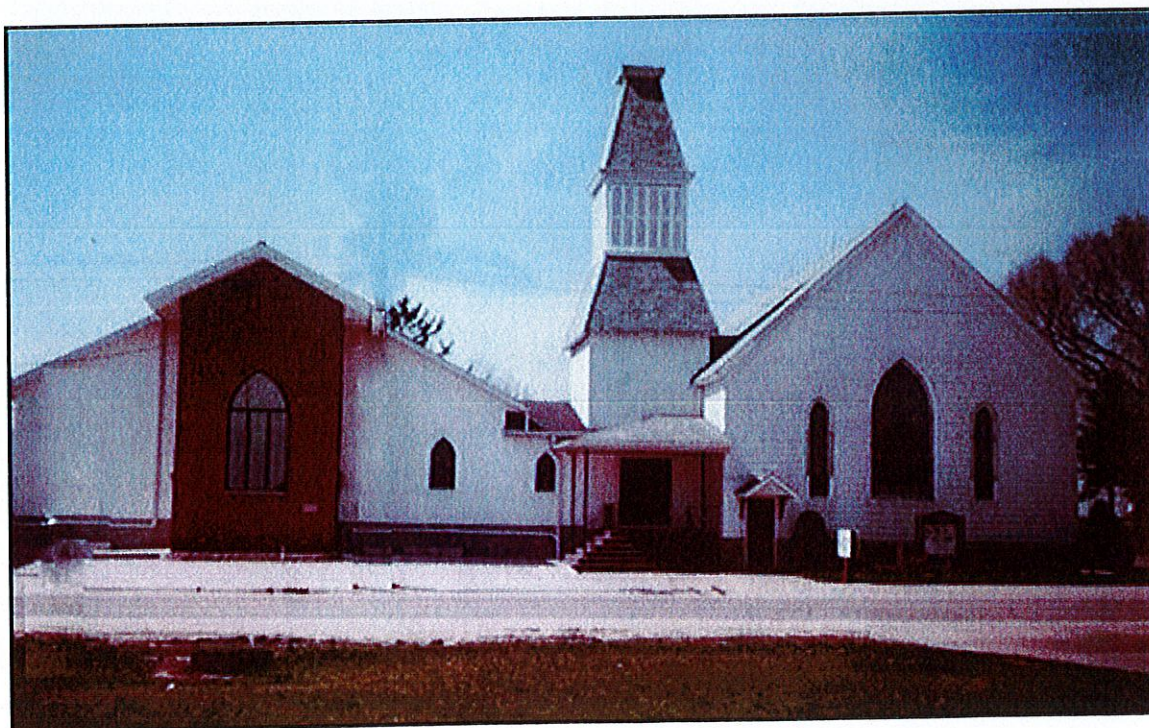


Seward Congregational Church
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The Chimes

September 2026 Church News



Seward Congregational Church Chimes
September Announcements

DIACONATE: Will meet on September 16 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.**

TRUSTEE'S: The Trustee's will meet on September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: The Pastoral Search Committee would like to provide a brief update to the congregation. Thus far, we have conducted two interviews, but we have not yet found the pastor who is the right fit for our congregation. We remain confident that, in His perfect timing, God will provide exactly the pastor our church needs. We appreciate your continued prayers, patience, and encouragement as we faithfully continue this important process. Please reach out to Teresa or Tari with any questions or suggestions. We would love to hear your thoughts. Thank you for keeping the committee and our future pastor in your prayers.

PULPIT FILL: On September 6, Tim Coffman, September 13, Jason Hoyt, September 20, Cecil Chambers, September 27

OUT REACH BREAKFAST: Free outreach breakfast on Saturday, September 12 from 7-10 a.m. Serving pancakes and Eickman's Sausage.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: You're Invited! Join us on **Sunday, September 13, 2026**, as we kick off a new year of Sunday School at Seward Congregational Church! We would love to welcome you and your children for a morning of faith, fellowship, and learning. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. We also offer Adult Sunday School, where you can enjoy coffee, fellowship, meaningful conversation, and a deeper study of God's Word while the children are in their classes. Whether you're new to the area, looking for a church home, or simply seeking to grow in your faith, there's a place for you here. Come as you are, bring your family, and join us for a wonderful morning together. We can't wait to meet you! Sunday school rally day is set for Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 9:15.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: 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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: 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.

THANK YOU: Thank you for the camp scholarship! I had a wonderful time there, and I hope to go back next year!. Thank you again. Sincerely, Evelyn Merchant

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

	July	January -July
General Fund	Income \$8,582.00	\$47,291.40
	Expense 4,624.50	\$44,970.74

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

2- Emily Hilton , Teresa Gobeli

6- Char Remer

18- Theresa Ackerman

22- Dillon Shank

25 - Jackson Klinger

26- Vernice Klinger

27- Patti Klinger (Craven)

August 10th, 2026 Diaconate Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by chairman Teresa Gobeli. In addition to Teresa, those present were Barb Daubs, Bev Weerda and Karleen Merchant.

Karleen led a prayer to open the meeting.

The minutes of the July meeting were read. Barb motioned to approve, 2nd by Bev. Motion carried.

Bev gave the Treasurers report. There is \$516.70 in the account. Karleen made motion to approve, 2nd by Barb. Report approved.

Old Business

We can always use greeters. It was suggested that the greeters stand just inside the doorway of the narthex, so they can greet those who may use the front door. If any first-time visitors, we would like them to sign the guest book, as we are sending cards out to invite them to return. Barb will take over sending notes, until she leaves for the winter.

Pulpit fill is still going very well. Still looking for a speaker for Sept 6th and 27th.

The Sept. 12th pancake and sausage breakfast, has a signup sheet for set up and kitchen help that day. Poppen's will make applesauce. We do not need any other donations, at this time.

Still looking for a volunteer to join the Diaconate.

The Great Awakening Movie matinee, that was held yesterday, was a big success. We had 25 in attendance and everyone brought popcorn to share. We provided drinks.

It was reported that Abby and Evelyn both had an awesome time at Camp Emmaus.

New Business

Sunday, Oct. 11th will be our Bear/Packer/favorite team paper product drive. We will collect these items to donate to the local Food pantries.

A short discussion was held about summer start time. It was suggested to bring that up at the annual meeting and see if more attendees would like it changed to 9:30.

With there being no further business, Barb made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bev. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Next Meeting Sept. 16th, 2026 @ 1:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant

Seward congregational church
- Trustee meeting minutes from July 15, 2026

Char called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and opened with prayer.

Present: Char Remer, Maury daubs, Jean Mennenga, Brenda, Van Hauen, Matt, Coleman and Tari Woods.

Tari Read the minutes of the meeting from June. Brenda made a motion to approve. Char second. Motion passed.

Financial reports were provided by Jean, Brenda and Maury. Tari did not have any financial reports due to summer break and there is no Sunday school. Matt motion to accept the reports Tari second motion passed.

Old business:

- The parsonage updates are almost completed. We are finalizing the safety of the railing.
 - The microphone concern has been resolved.
 - Parking blocks- Matt is working on Price check for the parking blocks and also solidifying the number that we will be needing to get replaced. There was a motion on spending approximately \$90 for two parking blocks and Tari made a motion to accept this price and Brenda second it.
 - Bell - This is still in progress with no immediate danger of any concerns.
 - Courtyard- We Are discussing all of the issues with the Courtyard and how the water is leaking into the basement. This is ongoing and we don't have a resolution yet. We are working on getting contractors to come and review this in person. More to come.
 - Search committee update- The update that was provided was informing everyone that we have our third posting up on a website looking for potential candidates to be our new Pastor.
 - The Fair/golf cart volunteering for the Winnebago county fair was Verified that we will not be doing it in 2026. The fair has a bank in Freeport that will be taking this over.
- New business- There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Matt. Second by Brenda. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 12. (Due to the Winnebago county fair)

Respectfully submitted, Tari Woods, on behalf of Nancy Kirby secretary.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 9 a.m. Fellowship following the service	7	8	9	10	11	12 Pancake Breakfast 7:00-10 a.m.
13 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	14	15	16 Diaconate 1:30 p.m. Trustees 6:30 p.m	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	21	22	23 Bible Study 7 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	28	29	30			

Bible Puzzle

Adam and Eve Crossword

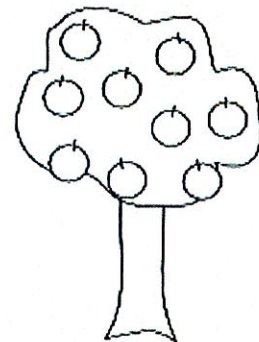
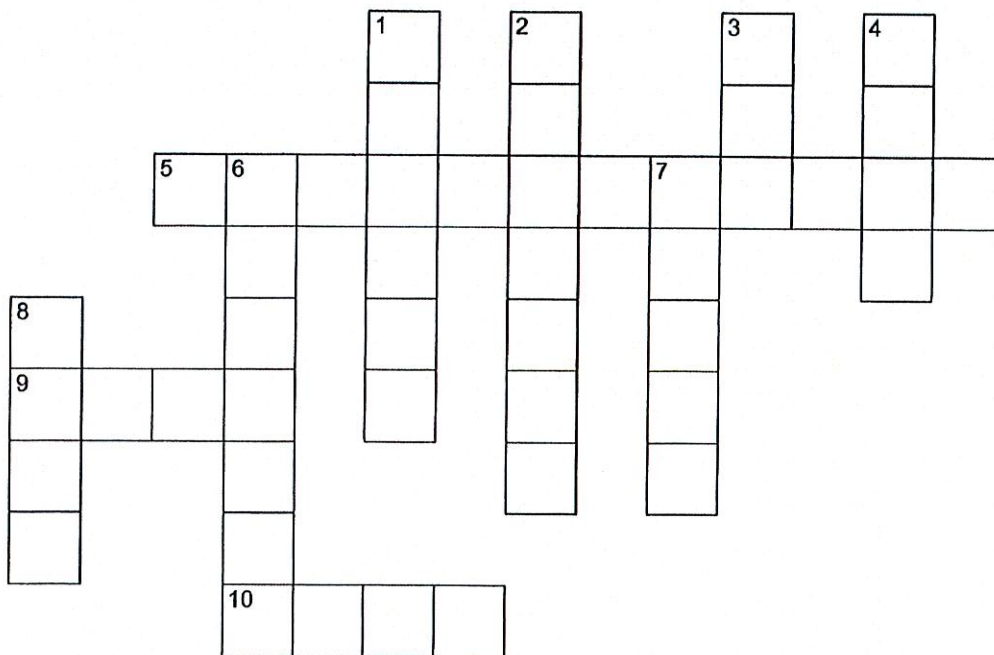
Work the puzzle to review what you know about Adam and Eve and their sons.
Look up the verses to be sure of your answers.

Across

5. At first Adam and Eve lived in the _____. (3 words). (Genesis 2:8)
9. The first man was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
10. Adam and Eve's third son was _____. (Genesis 4:25)

Down

1. God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree in the _____ of the garden. (Genesis 3:2-3)
2. After Adam and Eve sinned, they were _____ (2 words) of the garden. (Genesis 3:23)
3. The first woman was _____. (Genesis 3:20)
4. God was pleased with _____. (Genesis 4:4)
6. Adam named all the _____. (Genesis 2:20)
7. Adam and Eve sinned by eating the _____. (Genesis 3:6)
8. _____ was jealous of his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8)



Adam, Eve, and Cain all sinned against God. What should you do when you sin?

Adam and Eve disobey God.

Genesis 3:1-21



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