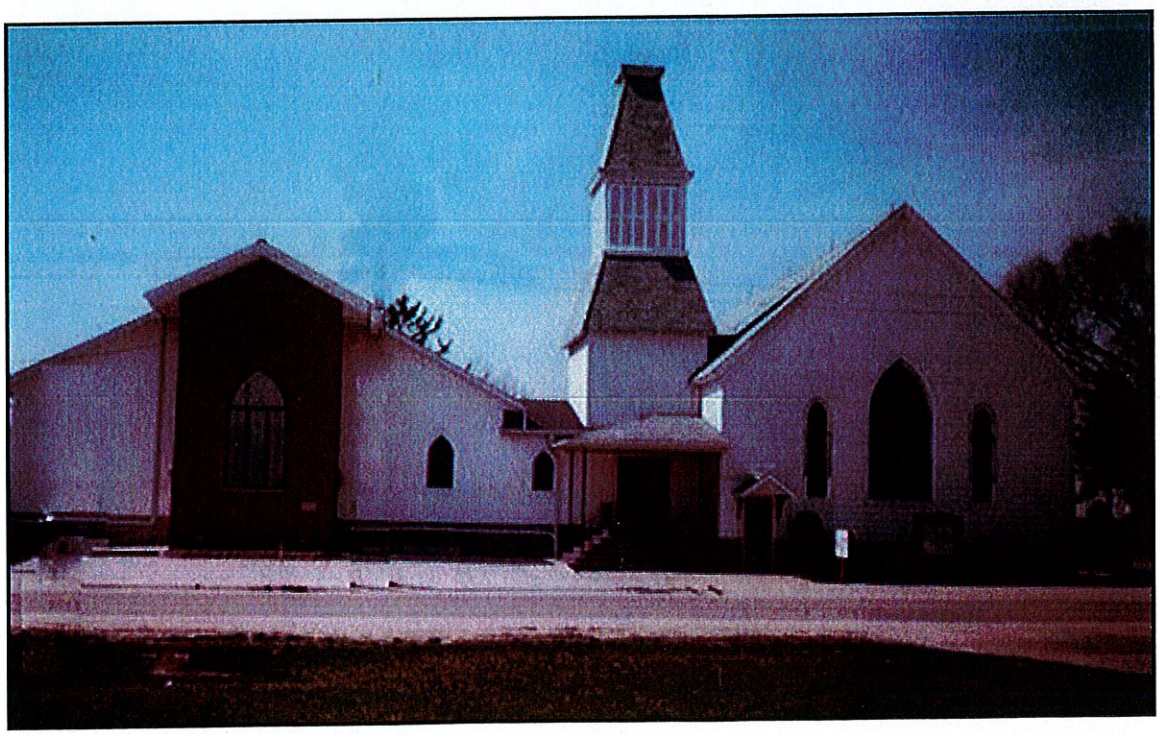
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The Chimes

November 2026 Church News



Seward Congregational Church Chimes
November Announcements

DIACONATE: Will meet on November 10, at 2 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 November 18, at 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: Will be having an Election Day Bake Sale on November 3rd at the Seward Park District

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE: The Pastoral Search Committee would like to provide a brief update to the congregation. Following our second interview with Pastor Ron Bruce, we are excited to announce that we have invited him to preach two sermons at Seward Congregational Church. This will give our congregation an opportunity to hear him preach and become familiar with his style of ministry. The sermons are scheduled for November 8 and December 6. We hope that all can attend to meet Pastor Bruce and his wife. We have also received an application from another candidate and have scheduled an interview for Thursday, October 29. We appreciate everyone's feedback and are grateful for your continued patience, prayers, and support throughout this process. We trust that God will guide us as we seek the right pastor to lead our church into the future. We are blessed, and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for Seward Congregational Church!

PULPIT FILL: On November 1, Hudson Insko, November 8 Pastor Ron Bruce (Pastor candidate) November 15, Ceil Chambers, October 22 Dr. Carroll Smith, November 29 Dr. Carroll Smith

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.

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**
	September	**January -September**
General Fund	Income $6,015.50	$59,803.90
	Expense 7,243.18	$57,001.30

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS
14- Mary Asche
Nash Cunningham
18-Ella Rose
22-Jill Viel
30- Robb Klinger

Seward Congregational Church
- Trustee meeting minutes from September 16, 2026

Char called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM and opened with prayer.

Present: Char Remer, Jean Mennenga, Brenda Van Hauen, Matt Cowman, Tari Woods, Maury Daubs and Nancy Kirby.

Financial reports were given by Jean, Brenda, Tari and Maury. Discussion regarding monthly transfer of $500.00 from investments to Church general account to cover expenses.
Matt motion to accept the reports Tari second motion passed.

Old Business:
Parsonage remodel was discussed. There is one screen that still needs to be replaced. It was decided that the shower in the downstairs bathroom should also be replaced. Tari made a motion to replace, Brenda second. Motion carried. Maury will get quotes to complete this project.

Landscaping: A work in progress. Thank you to all who have been workin on this.

Courtyard: Boards need to be replaced and drainage issues fixed. Tari will work on finding someone to complete this project.

Pastor Search Committee: A second interview is being arranged with a Pastoral Candidate.

Discussion regarding the Bell Tower and getting it repaired. Tari will check on this.

Matt motioned to adjourn.. Second by Tari. Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Next meeting October 21.

Nancy Kirby, Secretary

October 21st, 2026 Diaconate minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:26pm by Chairman Teresa Gobeli. All members were present; Teresa, Barb Daubs, Bev Weerda, Bev Hilton, Delores Poppen and Karleen Merchant.

Delores opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the Sept. 16th meeting were read. Motion by Bev W to approve, 2nd by Barb D. Motion carried.

Bev gave the Treasurers report. No change since last meeting. There is a balance of $528.70.

Old Business

We have greeters for all except one Sunday, through November.

There were no shut in logs to review, but we were advised of visits that had been made this week. Also some of the Diaconate made visits to shut ins.

We have pulpit fill through Dec. 6th.

Sunday School varies in numbers for the children. Last Sunday there were nine children and one in the confirmation class. The adult Sunday School class attendance is growing. There were 10 in attendance last Sunday.

Barb D. has been sending notes to visitors.

The Bear/Packer/Viking/other team challenge paper/hygiene drive was a huge success. Items were distributed equally to the Pecatonica and German Valley food pantries. They were very thankful for all donations.

We still have an opening on Diaconate.

New Business

We will have The Lord's Prayer every Sunday.

We will start asking for Advent readers. Dates are Nov. 29th, Dec. 7th and Dec. 20th. Bev Hilton volunteered for Dec. 13th.

Decorating the Halls for the Christmas/Advent season will be Nov. 22nd, after church.

Christmas Programs will be Dec. 20th, during the worship service.

Christmas Eve service will begin at 7pm. We will have The Christmas Story read by volunteers and will sing Christmas carols. Also we will contact Ross Kendall and Jennifer Lloyd about special music.

We will be hosting a community Lenten service on Wednesday, March 10th, 2027. More details to follow.

Next meeting will be Nov. 10th @ 2:00pm.

With there being no other business, Bev W. made motion to adjourn, 2nd by Barb. Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karleen Merchant

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	9	10 Diaconate 2:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	16	17 Women's fellowship 9 a.m. bring 2 dozen cookies	18 Trustee's 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship following the service	30					

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November Sunday School Lessons

We have an exciting month of learning ahead in Sunday School! Each week, the children will explore an important Bible lesson and learn a memory verse to help them grow in their faith.

Sunday, November 1 – Wisdom
Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:35
"The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!"

Sunday, November 8 – Jesus Is the Word of Life
Memory Verse: John 1:1
"In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God."

🎶 A Special Sunday – November 8
Our Sunday School children will be singing during the church service! We will also be presenting age-appropriate Bibles to some of our Sunday School students during the service. We look forward to celebrating these special moments with our children and their families!

Sunday, November 15 – John the Baptist
Memory Verse: John 3:30
"He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less."

Sunday, November 22 – The Baptism of Jesus
Memory Verse: Romans 6:4
"And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

Sunday, November 29 – The Most Famous Sermon of Jesus
Memory Verse: Matthew 5:3
"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."

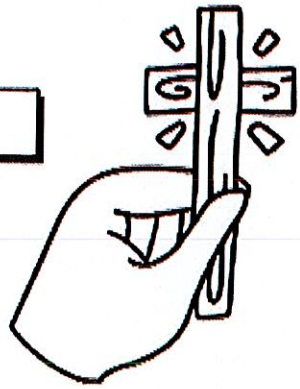
Save the Date! 🎄

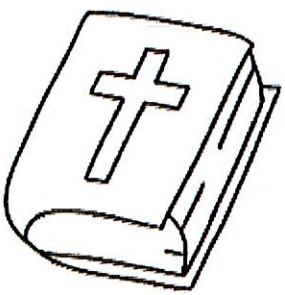
Our Christmas Program is Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. during our regular church service.

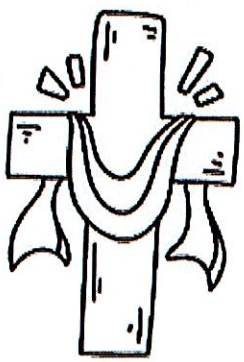
We hope you and your family can join us as we celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas together!

We look forward to another wonderful month of learning, singing, and growing in God's love!

Bible Crossword Puzzle







Across

2. This led the wise men to baby Jesus
7. The first woman
12. The queen of what country came to see Solomon
13. What is it called when we talk to God?
14. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?
15. Wisest man in the world
17. God created the world in how many days?
18. Two ladies argued about this
19. Who parted the Red Sea?
20. What kind of bird did Noah send out of the ark to see if the land was dry?

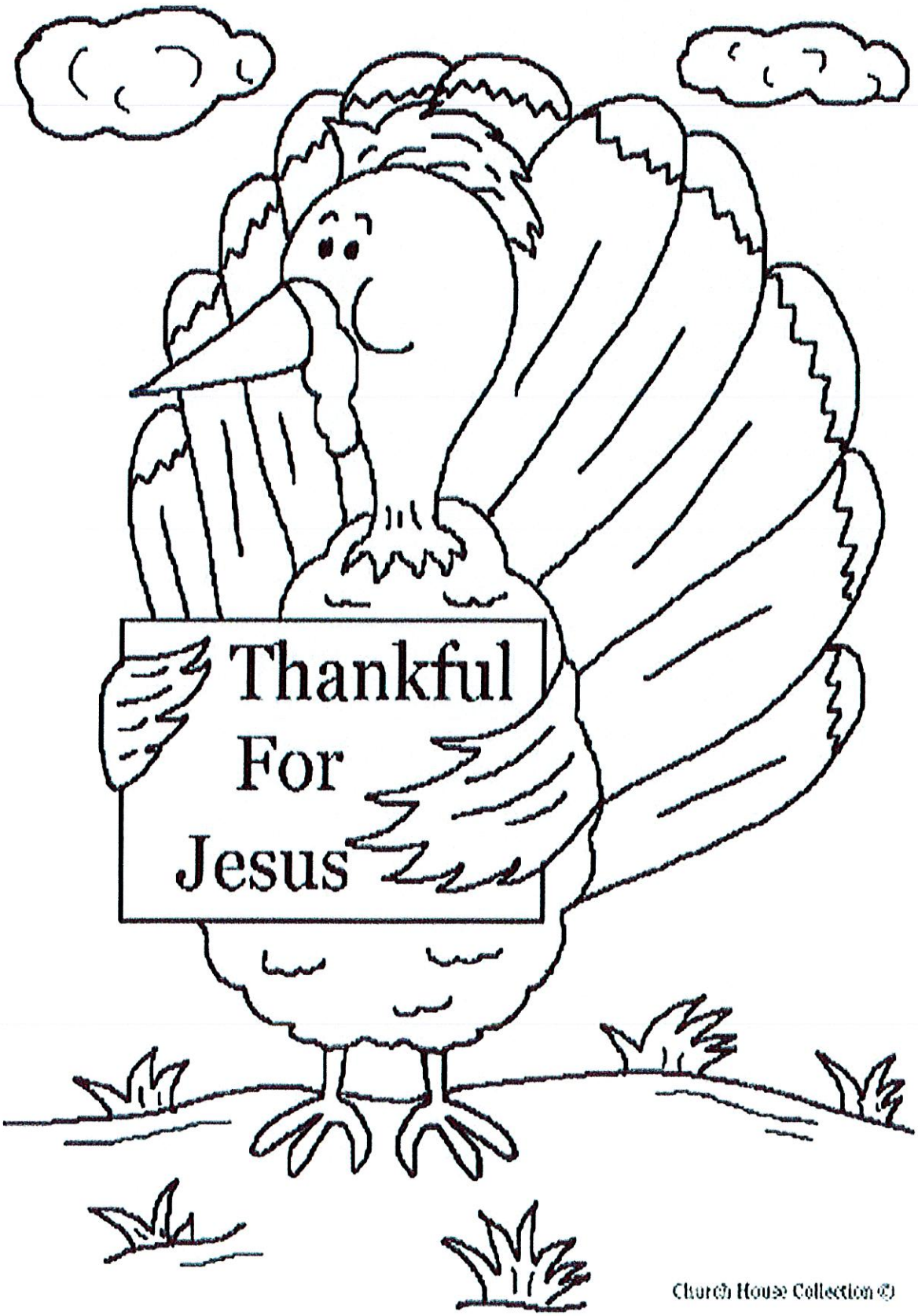
Down

1. The town Jesus was born in
3. Long sharp weapon
4. Who created everything?
5. How many disciples did Jesus have?
6. Who was the first Jew?
8. What Solomon asked God for
9. The first man
10. Who is a descendant of Abraham and King David, and is the Savior of the world?
11. The first king of Israel who died in battle with his son, Jonathon
16. He built the ark



Word Bank

Solomon	Baby	Sword	Sheba	Adam	Eve	Wisdom
Star	Saul	Bethlehem	Moses	Abraham	Jesus	Noah
Dove	God	David	Twelve	Prayer	Six	


Thankful
For
Jesus
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