

# The Methodist Mailbox

A Publication of The Seward United Methodist Church

1400 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street • Seward, NE • 68434

May 2012 • Vol. 8, Issue 5

## Confirmation Sunday

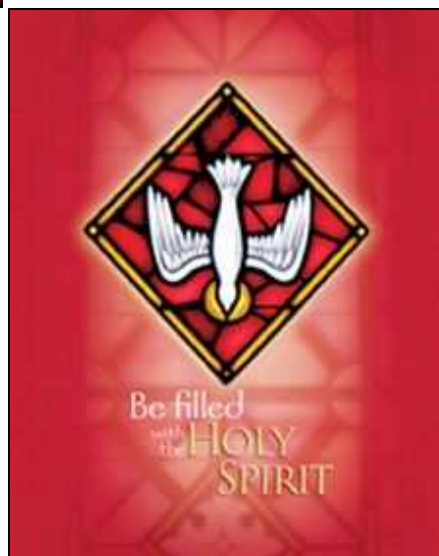
Zoie Benedict  
 Jasmine Dubs  
 Dakota Fernau  
 Evan Fletcher  
 Alec Hanson  
 Brady Fitzke  
 Sam Gaskins  
 Ben Galusha



Join us  
 on May 6, 2012  
 at the  
 10:30 service

Nathan Kether  
 Grace Landon  
 Kyle Rojewski  
 Megan Runyan  
 Anna Schulz  
 Taron Wissing  
 Cara Wolverton  
 Scott Wolverton

We will welcome  
 sixteen students  
 into the  
 full fellowship  
 of our family of faith!





It's May—how appropriate that the month begins with MAYDAY! I read one facebook post the other day on my wife's page that said another family was booked solid every night from May 2 until the 13th. As I write this, my own family is celebrating "Music Week" with a violin recital, two band concerts, and one vocal concert. The month of May also brings us graduation, confirmation, and let us not forget Mother's Day! It seems that May can easily become a sprint to the finish line of June. I would encourage all of us to try to take some time each day, to take a deep breath, focus our hearts and minds upon what God has blessed us with, and consider how we might live our lives as a blessing to God. It will be very easy over these coming emotionally-charged weeks for us to get tired, stressed, and potentially frustrated. If we take the time to rely upon the grace of God, we will be able to enjoy instead of just survive the many activities of the month of May. See you in church!

**Philippians 4:6-7** *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please remember those with on-going health concerns through the month of May: **Connie Atkinson, Cletus Bender, Leroy Higgins, Dick Hagemoser and Harlan Gahm.**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Merle Ebers** who passed away Friday, March 30, 2012.

We pray for the family of **Virginia Ann Hanson**, the mother of Tom Hanson, who passed away April 4, 2012.

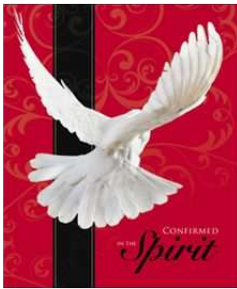
Our loving concern and prayers are with the family of Jim and Cindy Lee at the sudden death of Cindy's brother.

We express our sympathy and prayers for the family and friends of **Alvin Herrold, Jr.** who was called to be with his Lord Friday, April 23, 2012.

Congratulations and welcome to our new members: Gary Sain, Macy Perdue, Brad and Jill Perdue, Cliff Lowell, Dave and Jen Rood, Shelby Rood and Jesse Rood.

Our congregation was blessed by the baptism of **Delano John Lavicky** Sunday, April 29, 2012. Parents are Chris and Resa Lavicky.

# Heartwarming Worship



May 6, 2012, 10:30 a.m.  
Please join us as we welcome sixteen students into the full fellowship of our family of faith! Communion is served at both services.



Thank 's to the master minds of Shannon and Wess Robotham, the 'church plants' Carrie Fitzkie's plants and a plant from Jeannie Gee we had a beautiful waterfall for Praise Sunday and even kept it up an additional week! Thank you for getting involved!



May 13, 2012, 10:30 a.m.  
Please come and help the senior class celebrate on Graduation Sunday at 10:30. Mother's Day will be celebrated at both services!



**Praise Worship Service**  
**May 20, 2012**  
at the 10:30 service.

Please join us as we focus on the importance of prayer in our daily lives. Enjoy a skit by the Witness Committee at both services.



Little Lamb, Little Lamb  
Thank you for coming to church!



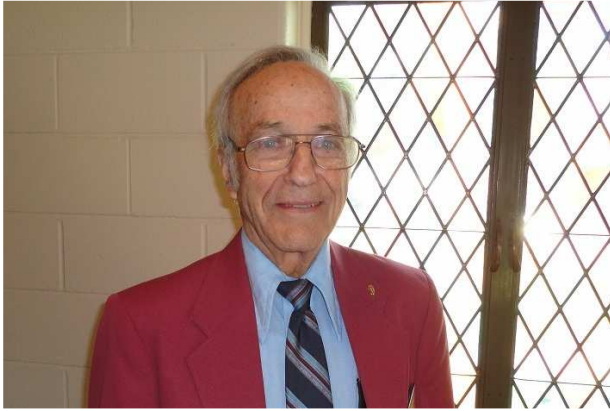
## Worship Schedule

8:15 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship for all



Watch us on Cable 13 at 9:30 p.m.  
on Sunday and 10:00 a.m.

# Radical Hospitality



Cliff Lowell



Gary Sain



Brad and Jill Perdue,  
Macy Perdue, Makena Perdue



Jen Rood and Abby Rood  
not pictured: Dave Rood  
Shelby Rood and Jesse Rood





# Vital Faith Formation



Bright Beginnings thanks Seward United Methodist Church for being invested in children's ministry in our community. We are grateful to all of you for helping in our ministry. We are very blessed by the support of this congregation, the community, and by having a strong board of directors.

We are proud to be financially sound and able to meet our overhead expenses. At the same time we feel very blessed to have an investment from the church to help with additional, non-budgeted needs as they arise throughout the year.

The center is growing and has twenty children on the waiting list, ready to start, once we are cleared by the State for expansion. God is blessing us and we hope we are blessing you.

If you have any questions, please talk to the Director, Shannon Robotham, or any board member: Cindy Butzke, Jack Clark, Terri Seibert, Gail Brand, Carrie Fitzke, Deb Kramer, Linda Dubs, Gretchen Sutherland, or Jeanne Gee.

Thank you for your continued support of Bright Beginnings and our children.



## Certificate of Hope

This certificate entitles a first time camper to attend camp at Comeca, Fontanelle, or Norwesca for a 2012 camp session at half price.

Contact the office if your are interested.  
643-4156



If you are interested in a church camp this summer but need help with

the camp fee please call the church office for a 'Campership!' We have more than one available.  
402-643-4156



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Dates!!  
June 18-22, 2012

**VBS for children  
entering K through 6th grade.  
Helpers needed too.  
Jobs available for volunteers grade  
7 through age 100!**



# Radical Hospitality



Fellowship Hour

At the last meeting of the Administrative Council, a discussion was held as to how we can increase participation in Fellowship Time. Many statements were made and ideas were shared...the result of which is that we are going to try something new. For the months of June and July, Fellowship Time will be held between services from approximately 9:15 to 10:15. We are hoping that this will encourage the folks who attend the 8:15 service to stay for Fellowship Time, and give them a chance to visit with the folks who attend the 10:30 service. It will also give parents a time for fellowship while their kids are at Sunday School. Another thought was that especially during the summer, it seems that folks want to get home as early as possible...and moving Fellowship Time will allow for everyone to be on their way immediately following worship.

# Vital Faith Formation



The  
Nurture  
Committee  
Presents

**Faith, Family, Fun evening and fellowship for families on Wednesday, May 23, 6:30. A free meal will be provided for those attending.**

# Gracious Generosity



## April - BY THE NUMBERS

Offering Received in April General Funds: **\$30,145.93**

Trustees Funds: **\$2,450.84**

Average Worship Attendance for April: 307

Mission Share/Apportionments remaining in 2011: **\$36,891.00**

## Food Net

Every Thursday Food Net helps people with their food needs. We offer shelf foods and leftovers that we may receive.

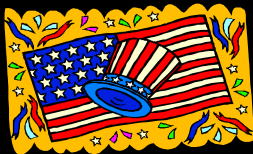
Left overs can be a variety of foods that are not consumed at lunches, dinners or any event where prepared food has been served. Such occasions coming up will be graduations and confirmation receptions.

A suggestion of leftovers which otherwise may be thrown away is to offer them to Food Net. Foods which have been properly refrigerated, if need be, can be held until the next Thursday's distribution of Food Net.

Food Net families are grateful for any leftovers so thank you.

Give LaQuita McKibbin a call for questions or donations!! (402-643-6951)

# Miscellaneous



## We have a winner!

Many thanks to the person who contributed the winning theme for Seward United Methodist Church's 2012 Fourth of July float:

The winning theme is:

**Make A Joyful Noise** (Psalm 100).

(more details later!)

## HIGHLIGHTS



The B.I.C. has prepared a "Q & A" sheet that addresses the

questions that have been submitted. They

are available in the rack by the front door of the church.



# Vital Faith Formation



Summer  
Sunday School  
begins June 2!

One room  
Sunday School  
for the summer  
months.  
9:15 a.m.



## Volunteers Needed

We need one or two  
volunteers each  
week to teach  
Sunday School.  
Team up with a  
friend and  
volunteer!!

## Wherever you go

Graduations bring a commencement, or beginning, of new things.

In 1990, Dr. Seuss published *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* This popular graduation gift tells in Seuss' inimitable style of all life's possible ups and downs, twists and turns. There will surely be excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness, purpose and confusion. And, yes, fear: "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on."

The sheer determination of the storybook's life-traveler moves him beyond trouble and fear. But God's children don't have to go it alone. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Furthermore, he walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner.

Graduates – and all Christians – can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NIV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

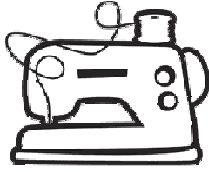


Karlee Bourke  
Samuel Brauer  
Chase DeBoer  
Abigail Hanson  
Katie Hughes  
Kyrie Knickerbocker  
Holli Luff

Sidney Marker  
Even Reeder  
Joslyn Rojewski  
Delaney Schultz  
Joey Smith  
Alex Thompson  
Marissa Wergin  
Taylor Wissing



# Risk-Taking Mission



## UMW MISSIONS WORKDAYS

Please save the following dates:  
June 17 and July 21 (no workday in May)

## BLUE VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PANTRY

Collection item for May 6th  
**Soup**



UMW Prayer Shawl Ministry

## KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits will be meeting once a month, every third Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Please notify a member if you have a need for a shawl or you know of someone who can use a shawl for extra comfort. Call Sarah Shively with questions. (402-643-3036)

May 16 is our next meeting!!!



Mission Outreach would like to thank the congregation for the generous donation on April 15 of \$574.07 to be sent to UMCOR towards the making of cleaning Flood Buckets!



*All are  
Welcome!*

The evening circle of UMW is planning a night of fun and fellowship!

Thursday, May 17, 2012  
7:00 p.m. in the activity room of  
the Manor, Building #2

## ANNUAL BAZAAR

Mark your calendars for the Annual Bazaar! The date is earlier this year so this is your HEADS UP!!



**ALL CHURCH BAZAAR  
OCTOBER 20, 2012**

The Methodist Mailbox

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

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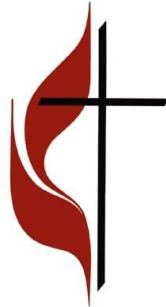
Seward United Methodist Church  
1400 North 5th Street  
Seward, Nebraska 68434



Phone: 402-643-4156; Fax: 402-643-4159  
Email: [sewardumc@windstream.net](mailto:sewardumc@windstream.net)  
Website: [www.sewardumc.org](http://www.sewardumc.org)  
Doug Griger, Pastor; Every Member, Minister



**REMEMBER...** Call the Church (643-4156) or Pastor Doug if you are going to be hospitalized and wish to have the Pastor visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals cannot disclose information.



**Seward United Methodist Church  
and  
Bright Beginnings**

**JUNE MAILBOX DEADLINE IS  
Monday, May 28, 2012**

Submit your news by Monday, May. You can e-mail articles to the church at [sewardumc@windstream.net](mailto:sewardumc@windstream.net) or call Cindy, office administrator, at 643-4156.

### **Local Church Activities**

Chair persons for **May** are:

Daina Cepure (643-0582)

Jeannie Jeary (643-2334)



1. Great plans for the future – but the fellowship hall expansion into the courtyard doesn't seem necessary.
2. The daycare is expanding now. In 5-10 years they will have space needs for 60+ children. In 10-15 years 100+ More Space needs to be allocated to this family ministry.
3. I love it!
4. Important to kick off capital campaign prior to too many more decision being made.  
Adequate restroom facilities for a church that seats 450? All at back and not accessible from front area.  
Has classroom space been adequately addressed? If we will increase church size to 450, doesn't it seem plausible the classroom space would also need to increase?
5. Good idea to use present sanctuary for a new fellowship hall! Also like addition to this by using part of courtyard.
6. Committee – Thank you for all your time & hard work – “Traditional” feel in the nave is important to me – no auditorium please?? 8-)
7. Thank you to the building / planning committee. We appreciate all your hard work! I am excited and wish to watch and ask questions and learn more. The future is very bright for Seward United Methodist!
8. Please keep the church traditional and the outside without a built-on look.
9. How to maintain “green” courtyard area? How to get lawn equipment in/out or put a pergola out there with tables and chairs & prairie grasses, perennials & walkways – eliminating mowing needs.
  - a. Is there plenty of storage in the kitchen?
  - b. Egress from basement to outside?
  - c. Easy access to kitchen for delivery of food for funerals, weddings, etc.?
 A., B., C., answered by committee member – thanks to the entire committee!
10. I like the design to it...like the background of trees and building. I like it.
11. Love it but where is the gymnasium?
12. It is obvious that a lot of time, energy and heartfelt discussion has occurred. Am impressed with the design. Let's Begin!!
13. We just spent \$\$ thousands updating the south parsonage to get rid of it. I also don't think we have enough members in attendance on a regular basis to warrant this big of renovation!! Will all the money be raised before building takes place??
14. Slight sloping (back to front) in nave to equalize view/experience/connectivity.
15. The stained glass window in the balcony would look great in the front of the new sanctuary.
16. The front of church – altar – should be traditional.
17. Idea for the courtyard area or other new outside wall in a garden – memorial plaques for people who have died. The person, or family would donate for the names on a brass plaque. Flowers could decorate the area under each plaque I think the new add-ons look wonderful. I am excited about the new things.
18. I like all of the extra space!!
19. Make the covered drop off/pick up part of Phase 1. We need the covered drop off. High priority!!
20. I like the idea of expansion but not enough storage. We lose storage west side fellowship hall. We lose Sunday school storage room & storage room next to high school Room. Replacement storage behind chancel doesn't match space lost—and way too far away to be usable by s.s.  
Where will extra tables & chairs store? (Fellowship Expansion)
21. Phase 1 Idea: consider adding another service on Sat. or sun. and just add on to the fellowship hall 1st.
22. Why “open to below?” What does that accomplish beyond making it noisier upstairs? Why would we want to lose those rooms on the 1st floor? Love total concept however.
23. I like how big it is getting
24. I like the extra parking space. I like the extended Fellowship Hall. It's Cute
25. I like the room in the courtyard, that is actually using the space. The sanctuary is bigger so we can have more people.

Obviously, none of this is happening tomorrow. Before any construction can happen, before any drawings are made to go out to bid, the full members of the church must approve the project at a Church Conference. In the mean time, please continue to hold our church, the architects, and the B.I.C. in your prayers as we continue to move forward with ideas of how we can grow our space—ensuring that there is room for all of God's children—now and into the future!