

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 16, 2021 - 10:30 a.m.

Celebrating our Graduates



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Pre-Service Music

Alex Sommerfeld

Welcome and Greeting

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Congregations, families of faith, show up for each other at significant times in life.

P: We mark the milestones and support one another in both good and hard times.

L: We mark milestones of birth, baptism, birthdays, confirmation, graduation, marriage, promotions, anniversaries, retirement, and death.

P: Over the years we have learned the truth of the old adage: sorrow shared is halved, joy shared is doubled.

L: This day we celebrate the significant milestone for seven of our young adults, high school graduation.

P: We pray that each graduate may flourish as life unfolds for them. May they stay close to God in all that they do.

Hymn

¹Through every battle
Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe that You are my fortress
Oh You are my portion
You are my hiding place
Oh I believe You are

²Through every blessing
Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe that You are provider
You are protector
You are the one I love
I believe You are

The Way

^cThe Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe You are
the Way, the Truth, the Life
I believe (You are)

^BIt's a new horizon
and I'm set on You
and You meet me here today
with mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts
They can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I'm here with You

Common Prayer (unison)

God of Wisdom and Learning, we give thanks for this year's class of high school graduates -- for those we know personally from here in Seward and for all those across this country. We pray for the well-being of each graduate this day and all the days ahead of them. Guide us all to be our best selves. Keep alive in everyone a love of learning and growing. Help each of us to shape our lives in keeping with your will. Amen and amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jen Davidson

Inspirational Lesson

"The Call"

by George Herbert

"Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

Scripture Lesson - John 14:1-7

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Rabbi, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know God also. From now on you do know God and have seen God.”

Special Music

Follow the Way of the Lord

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Follow the Way

Pastor Mary May Totty

Recognition of the Graduates

The Prayers of the People

Please share your joys or concerns at the microphone or in the comments on Facebook or by texting us at 402-810-8900.

Prayer Hymn

Come and See

TFWS 2127

¹“Come and see, come and see, I am the way and truth,” said he.
“Follow me, follow me, come as a child, O come and see.”

² Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

Alex Sommerfeld

Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Put these gifts, and our time and talents, to work in the world for your purposes, O God. Grant to us the capacity to move beyond good intentions to give ourselves completely to making a difference in your name. Amen.

Hymn

The Blessing

The Lord bless you, and keep you
make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Amen, amen, amen

May his favor be upon you and a thousand generations
and your family, and their children, and their children, and their children

May his presence go before you and behind you and beside you
All around you and within you he is with you, he is with you

In the morning in the evening, in your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing, he is for you, he is for you

Benediction

Pastor Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Alex Sommerfeld

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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Prayer of Dedication adapted from "Fresh Winds of the Spirit", Lavon Bayler, p. 115

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Holy Bible, © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States

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