

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

August 8, 2021 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Dylan Teut

Passing of the Peace

Call To Worship

L: Let us give thanks for our faith ancestors who established a Methodist and a United Brethren presence in Seward as far back at the middle of the 19th century.

P: **Thanks be for those faith ancestors.**

L: Let us give thanks for the 1968 union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church as a denomination, and also locally to form the United Methodist Church of Seward.

P: **Thanks be for this union.**

L: "From our past will come our future." Let us give thanks for our history which has brought us to this day.

P: **Thanks be for our history.**

(sung to tune THE SERVANT SONG)

1 Lord, we come to ask your blessing
on the love that makes us one;
here, as Christians, to acknowledge
you are Lord, and you alone.

2 God of love, unless you bless us
how can we each other bless?
Only as you live within us
is there depth of happiness.

3 May our loving be a sharing
of the gifts we each possess;
may no failure of forbearance
turn our love to bitterness.

4 Lord, we come to ask your blessing
in the presence of our friends:
Grant us joy that blesses others,
grant us love that never ends

Common Prayer

God of Past, Present, and Future, we give thanks for the ones who established churches and passed down faith in Jesus to those of us who are the congregation of Seward United Methodist this day. May we learn from our past, may we be faithful in our present, and may we prepare with creativity for our future. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide all our ministries. Amen.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain,
or bear children for calamity;^[c]

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

John 15: 1-5, 8-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

⁸ God is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept God’s commandments and abide in God’s love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise

Sermon

Fruit of the Vineyard

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

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

Hymn of Promise

UMH 707, v. 2

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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

Offertory

Dylan Teut

Doxology

UMH 95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

We remember and give thanks for those who came before us. We are grateful for their generosity which enables us to gather for worship this day. Holy One, help each of us to be as generous as those who have gone before that we, too, might make a difference in this congregation and community. Amen.

Hymn

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

¹God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
I come to you, to share his love
as he told me to. (R)

²All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
I come to you, to share his power
as he told me. (R)

Refrain

He said, "Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give. Go in my name, and
because you believe, others will know that I live

Benediction

Rev. Mary Kay Totty

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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