

Seward United Methodist Church News Stream December 5th

We are so looking forward to an Amazing Advent with all of you!

We hope you will join us this coming Sunday, December 5th from 4-6pm for the Soup Supper. All of the funds donated will help with our ministry funds for Bright Beginnings CDC, our own children, teachers, and staff. We will have delicious soups and sides available during the whole time... all are invited to come and eat Sunday evening! We will also have a cool opportunity for dressing up in the Nativity costumes and taking nativity pictures out on the front lawn. This is also from 4-6pm. The big tree in the Parlor is also a cool place to take some family and friends pictures too! We hope you can join us.

Coming up on Sunday, December 12th from 8:00-12:00 we will have a Cookie Walk, where you can purchase plates of cookies by the pound. This is a church-wide fundraiser for Re-Member (the Lakota people in SD, where we go on mission to build, etc). We will have a group going this coming summer and a large part of the cost is for building materials, which you know have almost doubled in cost. We skirt trailers, build outhouses (yes, they are still used...), build porches, and build bunk beds for the mattresses we take up there each year... this helps to build community and hope as we help to make reparations for the way the tribe was treated so many years ago... it takes a long time to heal deep wounds and the Re-Member mission is a year round facility where groups come from all over the USA to assist with building hope again. I am sure many have no idea what happened to the Lakota people and their families, but we can make a difference today in the way they are loved as we build hope together for this group of people.

Many thanks to all who will bring cookies and treats for the cookie walk! On Friday the 10th from 4:00-6:00pm there will be tables set up on the wall in the Fellowship Hall, for you to bring your donations of goodies. You can also bring them just at 7:30am on Sunday before the sale begins. Thank you so much for helping with this important project!

On Sunday, December 19th at 9:15am we will meet in the Sanctuary near the tree for the Birthday Party for Jesus. All are welcome to attend and especially children of all ages and stages~ We will have a special story, songs, and prayer before we move to Room 208, downstairs, for party games, centers, and crafts for all! Join us as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday again this year! Cake is sure to be yummy also....

I am looking forward to an Amazing Advent with each of you and to seeing you soon!!!

Love and prayers, Pastor Jo Ellen

Weekly Activities and Meetings

- December 5th - Communion Sunday both services
- December 5th - Gather & Grow - 12:00pm - Parlor
- December 5th - Bright Beginnings CDC Soup Supper Fundraiser - 4:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- December 5th - Live Nativity Interactive Photo Opportunity - 4:00pm
- December 8th - Holy Scrappers Quilting - 9:00am - 12:00pm - Fellowship Hall
- December 8th - Focus - 3:45pm
- December 8th - Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 5:45pm - Sanctuary
- December 8th - Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 6:45pm - Sanctuary
- December 9th - Bible Study - 10:30am - Parlor
- December 9th - FoodNet - 5:00pm
- December 12th - All Music Sunday, both services, bring a bell!
- December 12th - Cookie Walk - 8:00am - 12:00pm
- December 12th - Blood Pressure Checks after each service - Sanctuary
- December 13th - Kevin & Heidi Cheng Concert - 6:30pm - Sanctuary

Advent Season Worship Series

The church season of Advent is upon us. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas and is a time of preparation and waiting. Our Advent Worship series will be "Body and Soul: to Worship the Incarnate One." The weekly themes are:

- Advent II December 5 "Taste the Goodness"
- Advent III December 12 "Hear the Message"
- Advent IV December 19 "See the Light"
- Christmas Eve December 24 "Loving Touch"

All Music Sunday – Bring a Bell

On December 12th, folks are invited to bring a bell with them to worship. This week we will focus on the gift of hearing. We will use bells throughout the service to indicate delight and joy. School bells, cow bells, jingle bells, dinner bells -- all bells are welcome! As are all the ones who ring the bells!

The Greatest Story - A Christmas Program

All are invited and welcome on Wednesday, December 15th to the Midweek FOCUS Christmas meal and Children's Christmas program! The preschool and school-age children of Seward UMC and Bright Beginnings CDC have been busy learning new songs and memorizing lines for the program. They are preparing to share the story of Christ's birth and to spread Christmas hope, love, joy, and peace through music. The story begins with a family discussing an upcoming birthday. The birthday child asks the question, "What was it like the day I was born?" The telling of this family story leads to re-telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

Please plan to join us between 5:00-6:30pm for a delicious Christmas meal in the Fellowship Hall. The program will begin at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there as we continue to prepare to worship God with our whole selves, Body & Soul.

2021 Bazaar was a Big Success, Thank You

Church Family, our Church Bazaar was a TOTAL SUCCESS because of each one of you! A TOTAL of \$8,200 from our Bazaar proceeds will be distributed in 2022 to support outreach and mission ministries locally and worldwide. Thank YOU, Church Family, for your prayers, your willing hands, and the heartfelt generosity of your time, talents, and treasures. Watch for announcements about the mission and outreach programming Seward United Methodist Church will be supporting in 2022.

2022 Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge

Mission Trip to Re-Member on the Pine Ridge Reservation: We will be going to work in ministry with the Ogallala Lakota Oyate residents the week of Saturday, May 28th through Saturday, June 4th. All Senior High students and all adults are eligible to go on this amazing trip with us. Our friends at Faith Lutheran have also been invited to attend this special week of work and love and learning... please see Pastor Jo Ellen or Jamie Axthelm for more information on this week long trip for mission. We will be working on fundraisers, beginning with a Cookie Walk, in December as well as other plans. A meeting will be hosted early in December to begin to gather our "team". We have 14 spots available at this time, and they will be on a first to sign up basis, after our first gathering meeting. Please let Pastor Jo Ellen know if you want on the "I am interested" email list so you will get a specific email to attend an interest meeting.

Seward Foodnet Report for November 2021

What an incredible month! This month we served 169 family units that impacted 435 individuals! The week before Thanksgiving we served 147 individuals which almost broke our previous record of 154!!! Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers this month—Randy Halder, Jane Pallat, Linda Eberspacher, Jeff Sugden, Jody Pelan, Sherry Menze, Deb Snell, Sue Imig, Carol LaVelle, Franklin Hronik, Juanita Hill, Lori Shriner, Ed Zak, Jack and Lynette Broderick, Merlyn Nielsen, Cade Bartels, Doug Brand, Duff Campbell and Lee Doehring. These volunteers provided over 121 hours of volunteer work this month!

We were able to give out 58 turkeys thanks to the generosity of people that donated money towards turkeys as well as turkeys! Thank you to the congregants of Faith Lutheran Church and Seward United Methodist Church for their donations of money that will be used towards purchasing meat as we need it in the upcoming weeks.

All donations are always welcome, due to limited refrigerator space if your donation is perishable, please contact us for coordinating those deliveries. Money donations are used to purchase needed food items to fill in with what we need each week and checks can be made out to “Seward United Methodist Church—attention Seward Foodnet”.

Our continued thanks for your support of this mission that benefits so many people in need in our community! The people in need in our community are so very grateful!

E.V. and Susan Walsh

(Please Note that if Seward Public Schools close due to bad weather we will, too)

Blue Christmas Memorial Ceremony

The City of Seward, along with Volzke Funeral Home and Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home, will again be sponsoring a Candlelight Memorial Ceremony to remember and honor those who have gone on before us. The service will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 6:00 pm at the north Cemetery located at Highway 15 and Waverly Rd. Bring an ornament in memory of your loved ones to place on the Memorial Tree which is planted directly north of the Cemetery Office. If you have any questions about this ceremony, contact City Hall at 643-2928.

Quilters Needed

The Holy Scrappers meet every Wednesday from 9:00 to noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy fellowship and quilting. Contact Rosie Westerhoff for more information.