

Welcome to Seward United Methodist Church

May 15, 2022 - 8:00 a.m.



Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Deb Snell

Passing 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 doubled.

L: This day we celebrate the significant milestone for nine 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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 wellbeing 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 JoEllen Axthelm

Scriptures - Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Yahweh is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
God does not faint or grow weary;
God's understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ God gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹ but those who wait for God shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

3. Great God of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heave's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Recognition of the Graduates

Luke Briggs	Parents Daniel & Nicole Briggs
Zack Brown	Parents Michael & Peggy Brown
Jayden Fernau	Parent Krista Fernau
Christian Fields	Parents Josh & Jamie Fields
Ethan Galusha	Parents Dana & Sue Galusha
Drew Kratochvil	Parents Jim & Erika Kratochvil
Reid Marker	Parents Troy & Kendra, Marker
Lauryn Parra	Parents Andy & Tonya Parra
Sam Schroeder	Parents Rob Schroeder & Elizabeth Neeley

Graduation Litany

We are gathered together
to celebrate the accomplishments of members of our community.

**We give blessings to you for all that you have achieved
and many more achievements yet to come.**

One part of your life’s journey is complete.
You will prepare to begin another phase
that will take you to unimaginable places.

As you prepare for your next journey,
we hope that you remember the ones you leave behind,
who have loved and supported you throughout the years.

**We give you blessings of good will and love
as you journey forth into the world.
We thank you for the laughter and fellowship
that you have shared with us
And pray that as you begin your next journey,
remember the times that we all have shared with you.**

Use those memories as a beacon to guide you on your path.
Don’t look back; continue only forward,
while using those memories to create a new path.

**We pray that God will give you strength and determination
to develop new relationships that will help to strengthen
and sustain your faith.**

Because we are made in the image of God
We have been blessed with free will to make choices and decisions.

**We pray that you make wise and rational decisions,
Always turning to God for help.
God hears, God listens, God is always with you.
Do not forget that.
Always keep in mind that God is around**

and if you turn to God, God will guide you.

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

On Eagle's Wings

UMH 143

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.

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

Offertory

Deb Snell

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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 up lifts!
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

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Postlude

Deb Snell

The People of God Go Forth to Serve

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