

Sterling Evangelical Bible Church

Church Information
3017 North Sterling Road
Sterling, KS 67579

Community

The SEBC community includes several distinct areas around rural communities—Sterling, Nickerson, Alden, Sylvia, Abbyville, Plevna, and Hutchinson. The church property is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Sterling at the corner of 30th Street and North Sterling Road. The community and economy are largely oriented around agriculture and ranching with some distinct businesses in other markets—Jacam Chemical, United Industries, Kansas Machine Works, Sterling Services, Sterling College, Kansas Ethanol, Hyatt Life Sciences, and several others in Hutchinson. The population of Sterling is approximately 2,300. Hutchinson, 22 miles to the southeast, has a population of about 40,000; Wichita, about an hour's drive southeast, is a city of 396,000. We enjoy distinct changes of seasons during the year. While spring and fall are pleasantly cool and wet (sometimes), summer can be very warm (100+) and winter very cold (near 0) with some snow. Central Kansas is generally a conservative area that values hard work, education, compassion, and generosity. Popular recreational activities include hunting, fishing, golf, local sporting events, the Sterling annual 4th of July celebration, and attending collegiate events.

Facility

The current church building was completed in 1976. Since then, there have been several maintenance and updating projects, including air conditioning, roof, paint, carpet, sound and projection system, kitchen remodel, library remodel, as well as nursery and cry room updates.

Sanctuary Seating: 350 plus a small overflow room available.

There are also Sunday school rooms, nursery and cry room, library, storage rooms, as well as Pastor and Secretary offices.

The Fellowship Hall and Kitchen are used for Sunday School, potluck dinners, AWANA, VBS, bridal and baby showers, wedding receptions, etc.

Finances

General Fund Balance is healthy: \$101,000+

Giving Balance: In 2024, the church received \$190,277 from tithes and gifts

Income vs. Expenses: Current giving exceeds expenses and has for several years.

Debt: None

Attendance

Current attendance is approximately 100 persons who generally fit in the following groups:

Infant – Elementary: 20	Youth: 8	20-30 years old: 10
30-45 years old: 20	45-60 yrs. old: 15	60+ yrs. old: 27

Potential for Growth: SEBC is centrally located among several communities: Sterling, Nickerson, Sylvia, Plevna, Abbyville, Alden, and Hutchinson, to name several. Despite being a rural church, the size of this area and the number of “unchurched” people in it makes us believe that the potential for numerical growth is greater than one might first believe.

Ministries & Activities

Current Priorities: Teaching/Discipleship, Worship, Preaching, Weekly Programs, Missions, Fellowship, Serving, Evangelism, Community Involvement

We would like to place more emphasis on several of these priorities. We recognize that with our current numbers come limits on the number of programs we can incorporate in each of these areas. Our greatest challenge is engaging as “salt and light” in our surrounding communities so that new believers are added to the body of Christ.

Some of our goals are:

- spiritual growth and maturity
- continue to build on the enthusiastic involvement of the people with new opportunities
- make and develop disciples of Jesus Christ
- intentionally develop the next generation within the church by training families
- develop and promote greater fellowship, accountability, and evangelism

Activities: AWANA program, Fall Harvest Party, Thanksgiving Service/Offering, Easter services, Christmas service, VBS, Missionary Support, Children & Adult Sunday School, and Outstanding Worship Music.

Worship

The worship at SEBC consists of music, giving, times of prayer throughout the service, communion, and teaching. SEBC enjoys a blended style of worship implemented in a well-organized worship schedule. New ideas are considered by the worship ministry team leader in consultation with the pastor. We warmly welcome visitors to worship with us.

Leadership

SEBC is led by a plurality of elders and a body of deacons. Because of his calling, gifts, education, training, and preaching ability, the pastor is expected to provide leadership within the Board of Elders and the church at-large. The current leadership strives to be shepherd leaders who lead in a fashion that promotes willing, eager, and joyful following.

Staff

The current staff at SEBC includes the pastor position, church secretary, and janitor.

During this transition time, we have people from SEBC who continue to serve in various ways, including men from the congregation who regularly fill the pulpit for Sunday morning worship services.

History

Sterling Evangelical Bible Church is 139 years old. Originally established as an Evangelical Mennonite church, SEBC still enjoys good traditions stemming from that heritage. However, SEBC is now an independent church, not currently affiliated with any conference.

Doctrine

We strongly encourage candidates to view SEBC's complete Statement of Faith, accessible on the church website: <https://www.sterlingbible.org/>

SEBC is an independent and unaffiliated church.

Pastoral History

Phil Carroll: 2013 to 2023, Senior Pastor
David Norris: 2012 to 2013, Interim Pastor
Brad Penner: 2011 to 2012, Interim Pastor
Tim Elsner: 2001 to 2011, Senior Pastor
Brent Preston: Late 1990s to 2001, Senior Pastor
Gary Yates: Early 1990s to Late 1990s, Senior Pastor
David Harder: Through 1980s, Senior Pastor

Pastoral Priorities

The first priority of a pastor is to care for his own spiritual welfare and that of his family. Others include prayer, preaching, time with church family, counseling, visitation, administration, and para-church work.

Work Week: The SEBC community places great value in work and doing what is necessary to get the job done. It will be important that the new pastor demonstrate his sincerity in ministry through hard work. We also recognize as needs arise or shortcomings become apparent, that time commitments may need to be reorganized to meet those needs. It is important that a pastor reserve time for his family and personal spiritual life so that a proper balance of obligation can be reached.

Pastor's Wife: A successful, married pastor has a wife who is an intimate and vibrant part of his ministry. She should be encouraged to use her gifts in support of her husband and in the ministries of the church.

Pastoral Benefits

Personal & Professional Development

The church provides resources for a pastor to attend annual conventions, seminars, and conferences. To the best of our knowledge, we have not had a pastor go on sabbatical or request to do so.

Salary, Pension, Insurance

SEBC is committed to providing benefits and compensation that allow our pastor and family to live comfortably in this community; one advantage of living in central Kansas is the favorable cost of living. The compensation package includes salary and a health reimbursement plan, as well as a housing allowance. The compensation package may be structured, as much as the law allows, to the advantage of the pastor. We will use every reasonable resource we have to help the pastor and his family secure suitable housing compensation.

We are glad to provide further information or clarification at your request.