



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA and PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

## May 2013 Newsletter

### WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.



### WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that about three thousand converts were baptized that day. (You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-41).

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?

There are three "mega-festivals" commemorated in the Christian calendar. The first two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. But it's possible that even liturgical Christians may not be as familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost. God the Father's wonderful Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ's Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit gives us the faith which believes and trusts in Christ as our Savior. This precious gift of faith in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason Pentecost is the third "mega-festival" of the church and why we celebrate it with such joy and thanksgiving.



## From the Pastor

A Methodist pastor, a Catholic priest, and a Presbyterian pastor were having a conversation about the mouse problem that their churches were having. The Methodist pastor said, "I just can't figure out how to get rid of those little pests!" The Catholic priest agreed, saying, "We tried getting traps. We tried getting cats. We can't get rid of the mice either!" The Presbyterian pastor laughed and said, "We got rid of our mice a long time ago!" "How did you get rid of them?" the other two asked. "Simple," the Presbyterian replied. "We confirmed all of our mice, and they never came back!"

This is a joke that I heard from one of my seminary professors. It's a terrible joke, but it contains a disturbing kernel of truth. Even if you substituted any of the other denominations, this would remain true. It seems that once our youth have been confirmed within the church, they walk out the doors and rarely (if ever!) return. Not too long ago, I was at a meeting with other UCC pastors in the cities discussing just this very phenomenon. Not surprisingly, our 2-hr. meeting/brainstorming session left us with more questions than answers, but we did come to one conclusion: confirmation, at least "the way we've always done it," is broken. So this month, I wanted us to think about confirmation, and, more generally, about the education and participation of our youth in the lives of our congregations.

Paul reminds us that "*the gifts God gave were ... for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children ... but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body ... promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*" (from Eph. 4:4-16) Paul is basically describing the way in which those who were part of the early church taught and mentored and nurtured new-comers in the faith.

It was certainly different for these first Christians than it is for us today. Many of them were new to the faith as adults while many of our young people today have grown up in the church. They've grown up listening to Sunday school lessons about Old Testament stories and New Testa-

ment parables. They've grown up singing songs of faith like "This Little Light of Mine" and "Jesus Loves Me." They've grown up doing what they can to participate in congregational activities.

Through all of these activities, they've been learning life-lessons about faith – what it means to let faith live in our hearts, what it means to live out faith in the community, and the ways that faith can manifest itself in different spiritual gifts. These are ways in which we as congregations have the opportunity (and the responsibility) to put into practice something we may have forgotten somewhere along the way: We've promised to help these young people grow in their faith.

As Christians, we talk about faith as a relational, experiential, living faith, and we spend hours discussing how much this faith means to us both on a day-to-day basis and in the midst of crises. But confirmation is only the beginning. If we expect to be able to keep our young people active in our congregations instead of bolting for the door, we have to be willing to hear the answers to those questions and help students find their place within the life of the church based on those answers. We need to be willing to let them take on roles of leadership and responsibility. I may be on maternity leave right now – getting to know the hearts and routines of my own children – but when I return this summer, I want to make this one of my priorities: getting to know the hearts and routines of the youth in these congregations so we, as communities of faith, can help them find genuine, meaningful ways that they can participate in the lives of these congregations. This how we "promote the body's growth in building itself up in love," and it involves love, openness, and above all, trust.

Blessings (probably from home),  
**Pastor Lisa**

### (O/Z) Maternity Leave Coverage



Thanks to Reverend Dick Eick who will provide pulpit supply for almost all of Pastor Lisa's MLOA. Reverend Dick Scheerer has kindly agreed to help when needed and Rev. Carol Schaffer is waiting in the wings if she is needed. Pastor Lisa is planning an eight week absence.

**Pastor Dick's phone # 651-385-7844**

**Email address: [pastordick@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordick@yahoo.com)**

## **(O/Z) Shower Thank You**

I want to once again express mine and Peter's immense gratitude for the wonderful baby shower that you all threw for us on Apr. 13. We already felt blessed to have found congregations so willing to not only call but also truly embrace a new pastor who was going to require maternity leave within her first year. On top of that blessing, you went above and beyond to make sure our boys have more than enough clothes, books, blankets, toys, and other necessities. It is abundantly clear that once they *finally* make their debut, these boys will be showered with love – the most important “shower” gift of all. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.



## **(O) Sunday School Teachers**

We are still looking for a couple people to volunteer to serve as Sunday School teachers. If you are interested or have questions, contact Joy Bertsinger. The goal is to have a slate of teachers who can sign up for about one Sunday per month. A curriculum will be prepared.

## **(O) Annual Spring Bake Sale**

There will be a bake sale on May 5<sup>th</sup>, so bring your goodies for others to enjoy and take home someone else's goodies, too. Everyone wins!

## **(O) Outdoor Sign Locks**

Schad Tracy has replaced the locks on the doors of the new outdoor sign as the original locks were defective.

## **(O) Church Keys**

Session has approved a plan to replace the locks on all the fellowship room doors as the old locks are worn out and not working well. We plan to distribute new keys (and keep a list) to all who need them before the new locks are installed. Undesignated memorial funds will help pay for this important project.

## **(O) Cobwebs**

A telescoping pole with attachments has been purchased to make it easier for us to dust the beams in the sanctuary.

## **(O) Lectionary**

The Daily Lectionary will be posted on the website in addition to including it in the newsletter

## **(O) Garden Care**

The Garden Committee has created an annual calendar which is posted in the Fellowship room. It lists gardening tasks for each month. Please look it over and sign up where you can help.

## **(O) Annual Church Clean Up Day**



Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 22. Session has scheduled the annual church clean up that evening. Plan to arrive around 5:30 or whenever your schedule permits and help with cleaning both indoors and outside. Even if it rains, we have indoor projects to work on so plan to come rain or shine. If you cannot come that evening, check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and sign up for a project you can handle at your own convenience. If you plan to come on the 22nd, bring your tools (EG: rakes, paper towels, window wash, leaf blowers, etc). Pizza will be provided for all workers on the 22nd!

## (O) Congratulations to Our 2013 Graduates



### Neal Sorensen

Last December, Neal completed his coursework and received his Bachelor's degree in Contemplative Psychology from Naropa University in Boulder Colorado. This May, he will participate in the formal graduation ceremonies. The contemplative side of psychology focuses on self reflection and mindfulness for therapy. Neal is currently working at the school in the disability services offices. Congratulations, Neal, we are proud of you!

### Kamyn Peterson-Rucker

In June, Kamyn will graduate from Pine Island High School and this fall will attend the University of Wisconsin at River Falls where she will begin preparation to become a secondary education teacher in either Chemistry or Physics. Congratulations, Kamyn, we wish you well!

On May 19, following worship, the fellowship treats will be in honor of Kamyn. Her high school graduation party is at the Peterson-Rucker home (11930 Cty Rd 113 NW, Pine Island) on Sunday, June 9 from 10 to 1. All are invited.

### **Birthdays for the Month of May**

5/1 Carol Eick  
5/2 Dick Scheerer  
5/3 Sara Hartzell  
5/8 Jim Wendt  
Mindi Arendt  
5/10 Michael Sapp  
5/12 Jenny Rand  
5/13 Michelle Pahl  
5/14 Joy Bertsinger  
Nancy Scheerer  
Madelyn Rand  
5/23 Bob Larsen  
5/26 Dorothy French  
5/28 Jo Ludington  
Deb Larsen



## (Z) 6th Annual Minnesota Open and Affirming Gathering: "If Not Now, Tell Me When"

When: June 6-7, 2013; 5:00 p.m. Thursday-noon Friday  
Where: College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN  
Full event fee: \$30.00 (includes Thurs. dinner, room for the night, and Friday breakfast)

Keynote speaker: Rev. Rebecca Voelkel

This is a time for those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, along with allies, to build community and create valuable networks in our work. We will pray and play together, as we work strategically toward inclusion and justice in the church and the world. Our keynote time Friday morning will be led by Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Institute for Welcoming Resources and Faith Work Program Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Register online at [www.uccmn.org/annualmeetings](http://www.uccmn.org/annualmeetings) (The link for this specific registration can be found on the right hand side of the page underneath the Annual Meeting under the heading "To register for the 2013 Open and Affirming Gathering.")

## (Z) Habitat for Humanity Workday



On Saturday, May 4, First Congregational - UCC will provide a volunteer construction crew to work on a Habitat home renovation project at 1409 West Avenue in Red Wing. The workday goes from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. but you can come and leave as your schedule allows. We are looking for a crew of five or so and ask each volunteer to bring a hammer, a tape measure, a pair of gloves, and a pencil. We will also need a noon meal for our crew plus three others (the partner family and the construction manager). Please let Parker Quammen (507-732-7761 or 651-388-9360 x32) know if you can help in any way.

## In the Community

**Shopko** is offering a special shopping event for senior citizens. Seniors, age 55 and older, will receive a **15% discount** off their total purchases on Wednesday, May 1st, 2013. *Some restrictions do apply.*



## (O/Z) Readers of OZ Meet May 14



*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak is the last selection for the Readers of OZ before their summer break. The group will meet at the home of Parker and Linda Quammen on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion of this unusual book, which holds appeal both for young adults and older readers as well.

According to the *Library Journal* review, “Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she’s roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother’s death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor’s reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel’s story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves. An extraordinary narrative.—

*Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA*

Please come and join the Readers of OZ as they continue to discover, like the Liesel, the many ways that books “feed the soul.”

## (O) 2013 Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost. It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 per-

cent of the Offering to support ministries benefiting these age groups in their communities.

The General Assembly’s portion (60 percent) provides leadership development opportunities for Presbyterian youth and young adults and supports children-at-risk programs at the national level. Since 1998, Presbyterians of all ages have raised more than \$8 million for these ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family.

Please consider how you wish to support the Pentecost offering this year and either use the special envelope provided or note the amount dedicated to Pentecost on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

## (Z) Strengthen the Church Offering 5/19

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH Offering grows our future by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries and lay and pastoral leadership formation—especially among women and people of color. This is administered by our Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry. This offering is divided between the above and MN Conference on a 50/50 basis. Here in MN our share of the offering assists local churches in their outreach and is a help for young adult ministry through campus ministries across our state.

Your participation is encouraged because we can all make a difference in the lives of others by giving what we can, but do participate. To STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH we are called to each do our part. Watch for the offering envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, May 19.



## In Our Prayers

**Matthew 21:22** *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

The friends and family of Richard Tiede, Nick Pahl, Ann Hawkins and Dianne Pinney (Pastor Lisa’s mother).

## Readings for the Month of May 2013

### May 5

Psalm 93

Acts 1:1-11



### May 12

John 17:20-26

Acts 16:16-34

### May 19

TBA

### May 26

TBA

## IN TOUCH WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

### United Church of Christ Contact Information

UCC national website...[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

Minnesota UCC website...[uccmn.org](http://uccmn.org)

Minnesota UCC weekly email newsletter...contact [alisonb@uccmn.org](mailto:alisonb@uccmn.org)

United Church News bi-monthly magazine...online at [ucc.org/ucnews](http://ucc.org/ucnews)

### Presbyterian Church Contact Information

Presbyterian national website...[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)

Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area website...[ptcaweb.org](http://ptcaweb.org)

PTCA weekly email newsletter...contact [communications@ptcaweb.org](mailto:communications@ptcaweb.org)

Presbyterians Today monthly magazine...subscribe (at cost) to Presbyterians Today, P.O. Box 5178, Brentwood, TN 37024-9931 or call 1-800-558-1669



WE DO LIKE YOU SAY, PASTOR, WE HAVE  
FAMILY COMMOTIONS EVERY NIGHT

## Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson

Secretary: Sue Johnson

Custodians: (O) Sue Johnson  
(Z) Debbie Floan

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

### UCC Leadership Team

Bob Hawley, Moderator

Linda Magdsick Quammen, Clerk

Connie Wendt, Financial Clerk

Parker Quammen, Treasurer

David Pahl, Trustee

Rex Wiederanders, Trustee

Jim Wendt, Trustee

Gary Ofstie, Deacon

Bruce Johnston, Deacon

Chad Vath, Deacon

Connie Hawley, Deacon

Bonnie Rolland, Deacon

Coleen Johnston, Deacon

### Presbyterian

#### Leadership Team

Judy Wilder, Clerk

Kay Erdahl, Treasurer

Kim Stanton, Asst. Treasurer

Kay Erdahl, Ruling Elder

Ron Peterson-Rucker, Ruling Elder

Joy Bertsinger, Ruling Elder

Ellen Simon, Ruling Elder

Brenda Longman, Ruling Elder

Kim Stanton, Ruling Elder

Karen Vallejo, Deacon

Ted Midthin, Deacon

Deb Nelson, Deacon

Vivien Midthin, Deacon

Carol Tiede, Deacon

Larry Glasenapp, Deacon

### People of the Church

Janice Ostrom Co-Moderator

Judy Wilder, Co-Moderator

Joanne Schenck, Secretary

Judy Wilder, Treasurer

### Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Wednesday in Oronoco 10:00-3:00

Office Phone# 507-367-4711

Email: [oronocopc@bevcomm.net](mailto:oronocopc@bevcomm.net)

### Pastor's Contact Information

Pastor's email: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)

Pastor's cell phone: 507-696-8753

## Daily Lectionary Readings - May 2013

### **Wednesday, May 1**

Morning: Ps. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 9; 118  
Jer. 32:36-44  
Rom. 13:1-14  
Luke 8:16-25

### **Thursday, May 2**

Morning: Ps. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 68; 113  
Jer. 33:1-13  
Rom. 14:1-12  
Luke 8:26-39

### **Friday, May 3**

Morning: Ps. 96; 148  
Evening: Ps. 49; 138  
Deut. 31:30-32:14  
Rom. 14:13-23  
Luke 8:40-56

### **Saturday, May 4**

Morning: Ps. 92; 149  
Evening: Ps. 23; 114  
Deut. 32:34-41 (42) 43  
Rom. 15:1-13  
Luke 9:1-17

### **Sunday, May 5**

Morning: Ps. 93; 150  
Evening: Ps. 136; 117  
Deut. 15:1-11  
1 Tim. 3:14-4:5  
Matt. 13:24-34a

### **Monday, May 6**

Morning: Ps. 97; 145  
Evening: Ps. 124; 115  
Deut. 8:1-10 or 18:9-14  
James 1:1-15  
Luke 9:18-27

### **Tuesday, May 7**

Morning: Ps. 98; 146  
Evening: Ps. 66; 116  
Deut. 8:11-20 or 18:15-22  
James 1:16-27  
Luke 11:1-13

### **Wednesday, May 8**

Morning: Ps. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 9; 118

Deut. 19:1-7  
James 5:13-18  
Luke 12:22-31

### **Thursday, May 9**

*Ascension of the Lord*  
Morning: Ps. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 68; 113  
Ezek. 1:1-14, 24-28b  
Heb. 2:5-18  
Matt. 28:16-20

### **Friday, May 10**

Morning: Ps. 96; 148  
Evening: Ps. 49; 138  
Ezek. 1:28-3:3  
Heb. 4:14-5:6  
Luke 9:28-36

### **Saturday, May 11**

Morning: Ps. 92; 149  
Evening: Ps. 23; 114  
Ezek. 3:4-17  
Heb. 5:7-14  
Luke 9:37-50

### **Sunday, May 12**

Morning: Ps. 93; 150  
Evening: Ps. 136; 117  
Ezek. 3:16-27  
Eph. 2:1-10  
Matt. 10:24-33, 40-42

### **Monday, May 13**

Morning: Ps. 97; 145  
Evening: Ps. 124; 115  
Ezek. 4:1-17  
Heb. 6:1-12  
Luke 9:51-62

### **Tuesday, May 14**

Morning: Ps. 98; 146  
Evening: Ps. 66; 116  
Ezek. 7:10-15, 23b-27  
Heb. 6:13-20  
Luke 10:1-17

### **Wednesday, May 15**

Morning: Ps. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 9; 118  
Ezek. 11:14-25  
Heb. 7:1-17

Luke 10:17-24

### **Thursday, May 16**

Morning: Ps. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 68; 113  
Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-23  
Heb. 7:18-28  
Luke 10:25-37

### **Friday, May 17**

Morning: Ps. 96; 148  
Evening: Ps. 49; 138  
Ezek. 34:17-31  
Heb. 8:1-13  
Luke 10:38-42

### **Saturday, May 18**

Morning: Ps. 92; 149  
Evening: Ps. 23; 114  
Ezek. 43:1-12  
Heb. 9:1-14  
Luke 11:14-23

### **Sunday, May 19**

*Day of Pentecost*  
Morning: Ps. 104; 150  
Evening: Ps. 29; 33  
Isa. 11:1-9  
1 Cor. 2:1-13  
John 14:21-29

### **Monday, May 20**

Morning: Ps. 5; 145  
Evening: Ps. 82; 29  
Ruth 1:1-18  
1 Tim. 1:1-17  
Luke 13:1-9

### **Tuesday, May 21**

Morning: Ps. 42; 146  
Evening: Ps. 102; 133  
Ruth 1:19-2:13  
1 Tim. 1:18-2:8  
Luke 13:10-17

### **Wednesday, May 22**

Morning: Ps. 89:1-18; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 1; 33  
Ruth 2:14-23  
1 Tim. 3:1-16  
Luke 13:18-30

## Daily Lectionary Readings - May 2013

### **Thursday, May 23**

Morning: Ps. 97; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 16; 62  
Ruth 3:1-18  
1 Tim. 4:1-16  
Luke 13:31-35

### **Friday, May 24**

Morning: Ps. 51; 148  
Evening: Ps. 142; 65  
Ruth 4:1-22  
1 Tim. 5:17-22 (23-25)  
Luke 14:1-11

### **Saturday, May 25**

Morning: Ps. 104; 149  
Evening: Ps. 138; 98  
Deut. 1:1-8  
1 Tim. 6:6-21  
Luke 14:12-24

### **Sunday, May 26**

*Trinity Sunday*

Morning: Ps. 103; 150  
Evening: Ps. 117; 139  
Deut. 6:1-9 (10-15)  
Eph. 4:1-16  
John 1:1-18

### **Monday, May 27**

Morning: Ps. 135; 145  
Evening: Ps. 97; 112  
Deut. 4:9-14  
2 Cor. 1:1-11  
Luke 14:25-35

### **Tuesday, May 28**

Morning: Ps. 123; 146  
Evening: Ps. 30; 86  
Deut. 4:15-24  
2 Cor. 1:12-22  
Luke 15:1-10

### **Wednesday, May 29**

Morning: Ps. 15; 147:1-11  
Evening: Ps. 48; 4  
Deut. 4:25-31  
2 Cor. 1:23-2:17  
Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

### **Thursday, May 30**

Morning: Ps. 36; 147:12-20  
Evening: Ps. 80; 27  
Deut. 4:32-40  
2 Cor. 3:1-18  
Luke 16:1-9

### **Friday, May 31**

Morning: Ps. 130; 148  
Evening: Ps. 32; 139  
Deut. 5:1-22  
2 Cor. 4:1-12  
Luke 16:10-17 (18)

### **A Few More Photos from Pastor Lisa's Shower**



Judy Wilder, Joanne Schenck, Joy Bertsinger & Kay Erdahl



Marjorie Davies, Eunice Markham & Sandy Bowers



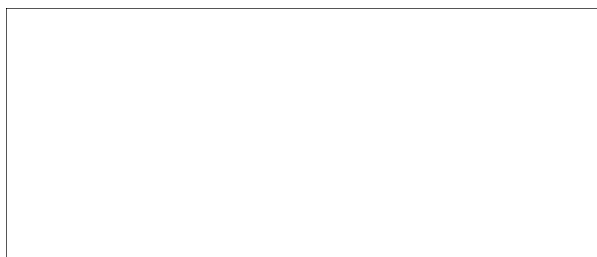
Diaper Cake with Noah's Ark theme made by Nattalie Vath



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(507) 732-7015



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Oronoco, MN 55960  
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**Check out our websites at**  
**[www.pcomn.org](http://www.pcomn.org)**  
**[www.ucczumbrota.com](http://www.ucczumbrota.com)**

### **Worship Times for the Month of May 2013**



5/5	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/12	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/19	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/26	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

**(O) Nursery for ages 6 weeks through Pre K is available during worship**

**Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information**  
**Cell Phone (507) 696-8753    E-mail address: [pastorlisaj@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaj@gmail.com)**