
DREAM ACRES



Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Omro

July and August 2011

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

What happens when a pack of fun-loving pandas invades our church?

Come and find out at this year's VBS ...

"PandaMania – where God is wild about you"

Sunday through Thursday evenings,

August 7- August 11th

from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.



This will be the wildest VBS you've ever seen! You'll explore amazing Bible adventures, sample yummy snacks, make and take cool crafts, and so much more.

Contact Jennie Longworth for more information or watch for registration information soon at

www.omropres.com

We can't wait to see you there!

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Interim Pastor Sara Ver Burg

Worship/Sunday School: 9:00 am

Contact us at: 1stpresomro@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Sara's email: queenverburg@gmail.com

In case of emergency: call the office at 920-685-2610

Check our website at: omropres.com

Or the Presbytery at: winnebagopresbytery.org

MISSION STUDY RESULTS

On June 12th, the congregation received a report from the Mission Study Committee on the survey conducted in May. For those who were not present that Sunday, or have not picked up a copy from church, the results are printed here in this newsletter. The results of this survey will be made available to the Pastor Nominating Committee for use in the search for a new pastor.

REMINDER ...

Church does not close for the summer! Expenses do not take the summer off! Please try to keep your pledges to the operating budget up to date. If you are unable to keep up with your pledge because of job changes or unexpected expenses, please call or email the office to indicate the change in your situation.

Dear Friends in Faith....

This Fourth of July we will be promoting our VBS in the Omro Parade!! I invite ALL of you to get 'eared up and help us out!!! We want to let our community know that our VBS is gonna be a BAMBOO BLAST!!!!

For anyone that would like to walk/or ride the float in the parade... PLEASE bring a black or white T-Shirt to church this Sunday June 26 OR Sunday July 3... We will be permanently painting ON these shirts. I really hope to have at least 5 other PandaMania advocates other than myself and Jessie.... If you have any questions please contact Jennie Longworth by email longworthbuilders@yahoo.com or phone 920-420-4773.

Who's ready to "Take a walk on the WILD side" with us!??
In God's Love,
Jennie Longworth

Note: If you're interested, Jennie found out that plain black and plain white T-shirts are on sale - 50% off - at Hobby Lobby ... \$2 for adults; \$1.50 for kids



PRAYER CHAIN

Let us keep the following members and Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

Let us keep the following members and friends in prayer:

FOR HEALING: Tricia Wright, Patty Fauk, Linda Kutchenriter, Vernita Fink, Jerry Person, Jeanne Faust.

FOR STRENGTH AND SAFETY: Members of the military and their families, victims and survivors of floods, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.

HOMEBOUND: Marge Hellwig, Bettie Nipko, Joan Moon, Catherine Hoeft

If you'd like to include a prayer request for the weekly bulletin, please call it to the office by Wednesday noon. Let us access God through the power of prayer each week. Names will remain on the list for two weeks, unless we are notified otherwise. If you would like to place someone's name on the prayer chain, you may call the church at 685-2610 or Rozanne Werzinske at 685-6074.

When you call the prayer chain, we will assume that it's okay to print the name in the bulletin and newsletter unless you say otherwise.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in July or August. The next meeting will be in September.

Thank you

To the Board of Deacons and my whole church family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls before and after my surgery. Every one was greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Deacons for the beautiful plant. It's blooming right outside my patio window. I am doing well and getting stronger every day. Vernita Fink



SESSION NEWS

- Approved extension of the contract with Pastor Sara for another six months.
- We continue our recent practice of inviting a speaker from Mission Aviation during EAA week. Guest speaker for worship, July 24th – when Pastor Sara is on study leave – will be John Lemmon, Midwest Recruiter for Mission Aviation Fellowship. According to John Boyd, president of MAF, *“The people of MAF are bound together by a common purpose: to leverage aviation and other technologies to share the love of Jesus Christ with isolated people and improve their lives. The MAF team – pilots, teachers, mechanics, technicians and others – partner with hundreds of like-minded organizations around the world to achieve this goal.”*
- David Morrison and Darwin Lovell have both expressed an interest in serving on the Administration Committee and will join the committee in August as representatives from the congregation.
- The Building and Grounds Committee is working on a solution to a problem with animals burrowing under the storage shed and in the garden and hill to the west of the church. They were authorized to level out the hill and move dirt to fill in uneven places in the landscape.
- **Thank you** to Debbie Huebner and Jane Wilson for their dedicated work in the Memorial Garden. As work in the garden warrants, they may be asking for volunteers to help. Please be generous with your time.
- Session has decided to streamline distribution of the newsletter. Beginning in September, copies of the newsletter will be available for pick-up at church by the first Sunday of each month. We will no longer mail out those that are not picked up, but will only be sending newsletters to homebound members and others who may not be able to come to church regularly. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically and are not currently doing so, please email a request to Sandy King (gking5@new.rr.com) or to the church (1stpresomro@sbcglobal.net). The newsletter will also be available for viewing and download on our website – www.omropres.com. Please get newsletter articles to Sandy King by the 20th of each month (except August, when there is no newsletter).
- **Reminder:** A “Grievance/Suggestion” procedure was adopted by the session in February 2000. This is the official process of this church by which any active member may bring a grievance or a suggestion to the session for consideration and action. To bring a grievance or suggestion to the attention of the session, we ask you to complete and sign a “Grievance/Suggestion Form” and forward it to the appropriate session committee (*see instructions on the “G/S Form”*). A copy of the G/S procedure and form is printed in this issue of the newsletter, and additional copies are located on the bookcase in the sanctuary and in the suggestion box in the narthex if you need them.
- Jessie Piper has agreed to continue as Wonderful Wednesday Youth Group leader in the fall, despite working full time and carrying a 15-credit load at UW-Oshkosh. **Thank you, Jessie!** However, she cannot do it alone and Stacey Wright has agreed to assist her with the meetings. The group will meet once a month during the 2011-12 school year, and **parent involvement** will still be needed.
- Jill Stiller reported that the High School Youth Group aluminum can recycling program is going well, and close to \$300 has been collected. They will be building a cover for the collection bin to help keep the cans contained.
- A VBS Planning Meeting will take place immediately after worship, Sunday, July 24th. Anyone who can help with VBS ... please plan to attend.
- Our Congregation Protection Policy requires that we perform a background check on everyone (*over the age of 18*) who works with children and youth in our church, and that new checks be completed every 5

years. We are in the process of obtaining updated information forms from staff and volunteers so that the needed background checks can be completed prior to Vacation Bible School in August.

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GRIEVANCE SUGGESTION PROCEDURE

Introduction: This Grievance Suggestion Procedure was adopted by the session into the Church Policy Book and for implementation February 15, 2000 and is the official process of First Presbyterian Church by which any active member may bring a grievance or a suggestion before the Session for consideration and action. The following 10-step process explains how concerns and suggestions for change can be heard, considered, and resolved in a responsive way becoming of Christians.

1. This 10-step process is the only acceptable procedure for handling grievances and suggesting change from members of the church to the Session. It has been developed carefully and prayerfully, keeping in mind the scriptures, our Presbyterian polity, and local policy book.
2. The grievance or suggestion must be submitted in writing on the G/S form available in the church office to any active member who requests it. If assistance is needed in doing this, an elder will be asked to assist in completing the form. The issues in the G/S should not be discussed outside this process.
3. The written G/S form must be signed by the person or persons initiating the action and by any others who want to support the action. A signature also means all parties will refrain from discussing the issues at other meetings and in the church at large while the G/S is in process.
4. The G/S form must indicate the date it was properly submitted.
5. The G/S form should identify the subject of its concern or suggestion and should be sent to the committee that deals with that area of concern. The four committees and their areas of concern are:

Administration: Personnel, Property, and Stewardship

Celebration: Worship, Sacraments, and Special Worship Services

Mission: Mission, Membership, and Evangelism

Nurture: Education, Youth Programming, and Special Programs

6. The G/S form must indicate which session committee is to receive it and should be addressed to the attention of the committee moderator and put into that committee's mailbox in a sealed envelope, mailed to the committee at the church, or mailed to the committee moderator. The committee will review the G/S at their next meeting and invite the person(s) who initiated the action to its meeting if they decide clarification is needed.
7. The committee will formulate a written recommendation regarding the G/S for consideration at the next regular session meeting. The session will review and render a decision by majority vote on the G/S and inform the author of the G/S of its decision in writing within two weeks of its meeting. The time

between the date on the G/S form and the date of the session's letter of response will be no more than 90 days.

8. Decisions of the session are final. A decision may be appealed in the following way: The issue may be resubmitted one time only, according to the above procedure and will be accepted for reconsideration by the session only if presented with significant new information and recommended by a two-thirds committee vote.
9. The decision of the session is final unless the appeal is successful and session reverses its decision.
10. All members involved in this process are called to be prayerful and careful in its use. It is expected that all members abide by the final decision of the session. Anyone unable or unwilling to accept the session's decision is asked to prayerfully consider their commitment to this congregation. If a party will not abide by the session decision, they are out of bounds in the Presbyterian System and may need to transfer their membership to another congregation rather than disturb the peace and unity of this church.

GRIEVANCE / SUGGESTION FORM

I ask that the following:

Grievance

Suggestion

be considered by the:

Administration Committee

Celebration Committee

Mission Committee

Nurture Committee

(Send to the committee moderator for consideration and action)

Subject of Grievance or Suggestion:

Date Submitted: _____

Signature(s): _____

First Presbyterian Omro - Congregational Mission Study

(May 2011 – results presented to congregation 6/12/11)

68 Member of this church **4** attend here regularly **1** visitor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

▶ Does your child participate in Sunday School? **20%** Yes **80%** No

▶ Our children's Sunday School programs are effective in:

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never | Don't know |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Teaching Bible truths | 38% | 39% | 4% | 2% | 18% |
| Loving and nurturing our children in a Christ like manner | 46% | 39% | 0 | 0 | 15% |
| Providing challenging and interesting lessons | 25% | 42% | 6% | 4% | 21% |
| Scheduling classes to serve all the children | 38% | 34% | 4% | 2% | 21% |

WORSHIP AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

▶ I'd like to try some new approaches to worship. **74%** Yes **26%** No

Summary of Comments: The most frequent comments were related to

(1) using more "upbeat" music;

(2) having children take part in the service;

(3) using varied formats such as more visuals, more technology, more dramas/skits.

▶ Is there an element or characteristic of worship not mentioned that is important to you?

13% Yes **87%** No

▶ Rank the following in order of importance to you, with "1" being the most important:

******NOTE:** Rankings are a compilation of 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, etc. votes for each.****

****See chart on next page for number of 1st place votes.****

___7___ Administration (e.g. committee work, participate in Presbytery)

___5___ Congregational care (hospital visitation, nursing homes, home bound)

___8___ Facility (building and grounds)

___6___ Mission work (local and global)

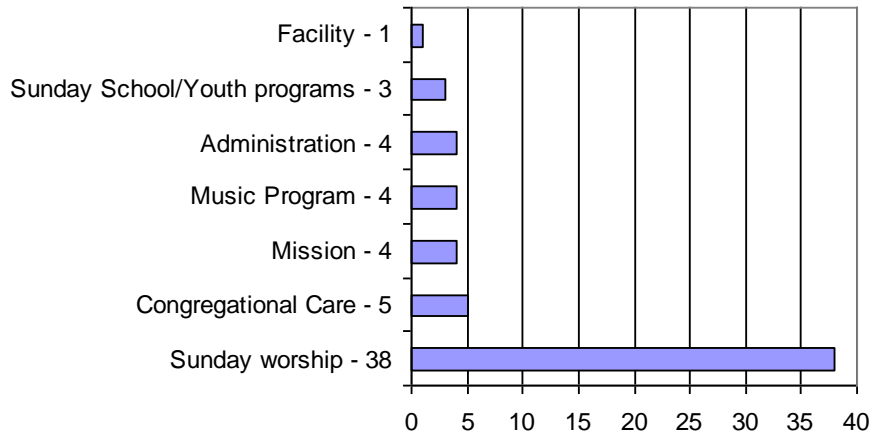
___4___ Music programs

___1___ Sunday morning worship service

___2___ Sunday School

___3___ Youth programs

Which area of church life is most important to you? (shows the number of 1st place votes received)



FELLOWSHIP

► When I come to First Presbyterian, I am:

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Warmly greeted | 79% | 21% | 0 | 0 |
| Well taken care of | 63% | 37% | 0 | 0 |
| Somewhat ignored | 0 | 3% | 34% | 61% |
| Engaged in conversation | 38% | 59% | 3% | 0 |
| Told about church programs or events | 42% | 45% | 12% | 1% |

► When I see a newcomer at church, I usually:

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Make sure to say hello and welcome | 21% | 59% | 17% | 3% |
| Engage them in conversation | 1% | 60% | 35% | 3% |
| Tell them about church programs or events | 0 | 18% | 71% | 12% |
| Invite them to coffee hour | 6% | 38% | 45% | 11% |
| Sit with them at coffee hour | 0 | 17% | 63% | 16% |
| Invite them to return | 12% | 54% | 28% | 6% |
| I don't feel I've been here long enough to know who is a newcomer | 8% | 18% | 22% | 53% |
| I'm not comfortable striking up a conversation unless the other person talks to me first. | 3% | 27% | 35% | 35 |

EVANGELISM

▶ I regularly take part in activities of this congregation that reach out to the wider community.

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Always | Often | Seldom | Never | Don't know what they are |
| 8% | 43% | 37% | 9% | 2% |

▶ We need to increase our efforts at meeting the needs of our community.

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 94% Yes | 26% No |
|----------------|---------------|

Summary of Comments: The common themes here were
 (1) to reach out to the community and let them know we're here
 (2) due to our financial situation, take care of ourselves first

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|---|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| ▶ I am committed to, and active in, bringing others to Christ. | 10% | 47% | 39% | 4% |
| ▶ I feel strong enough in my own faith to teach/disciple others | 14% | 44% | 31% | 10% |
| ▶ rely on my actions, rather than words, to convey the gospel message | 24% | 67% | 9% | 0 |
| ▶ Faith is a private matter, and I feel uncomfortable discussing it with people outside the church. | 1% | 38% | 42% | 19% |
| ▶ As it stands today, I believe First Presbyterian appeals to the following people: | | | | |
| Seniors/older adults | 96% Yes | 4% No | | |
| Families with children | 87% Yes | 13% No | | |
| Newly married couples | 47% Yes | 53% No | | |
| Singles/young adults | 27% Yes | 73% No | | |
| Youth/teenagers | 38% Yes | 62% No | | |

MINISTRY

▶ Which of the following aspects of this congregation do you personally most value? **(Choose three.)**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Holy communion | <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary worship or music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traditional worship or music | <input type="checkbox"/> prayer ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching | <input type="checkbox"/> openness to diversity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Care for one another | <input type="checkbox"/> bible study groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reaching the unchurched | <input type="checkbox"/> wider community care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry to children or youth | <input type="checkbox"/> adult education |

► This congregation is ready to try something new.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|-----------|------------|------------|----------|
| 4% | 51% | 45% | 0 |

► The worship services and activities of this congregation help me with everyday living.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 7% | 75% | 15% | 3% |

► My spiritual needs are being met in this congregation.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 15% | 70% | 14% | 0 |

► There is common agreement among members about the mission of our congregation.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never | Don't know |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1% | 55% | 12% | 1% | 30% |

ATMOSPHERE OF THE CHURCH

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never | Don't know |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| People here are open to new ideas. | 3% | 52% | 39% | 4% | 1% |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| I sense an atmosphere of genuine care and concern among our members | 35% | 55% | 7% | 0 | 3% |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|

| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| I'd like to get to know other church members better. | 31% | 64% | 5% | 0 |

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| I have a strong sense of belonging to this church. | 48% | 51% | 1% | 0 |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

► Rank the qualities you want to see in our next pastor, with "1" being the most important.

******NOTE:** Rankings are a compilation of 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, etc. votes for each.****

****See chart on next page for number of 1st place votes****

- ___1___ Spiritual leadership (fosters spiritual growth)
- ___2___ Preaching and leading worship
- ___4___ Pastoral care (counsels, visit the sick, visits home bound)
- ___5___ Teaching
- ___3___ Serve with people of all ages
- ___6___ Leads and/or supports mission work
- ___7___ Administrator/head of staff

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|----------|
| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
| 4% | 51% | 45% | 0 |

▶ The worship services and activities of this congregation help me with everyday living.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
| 7% | 75% | 15% | 3% |

▶ My spiritual needs are being met in this congregation.

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|------------|------------|------------|----------|
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▶ There is common agreement among members about the mission of our congregation.

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|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
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| 1% | 55% | 12% | 1% | 30% |

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|---|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| | Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
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| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| I have a strong sense of belonging to this church. | 48% | 51% | 1% | 0 |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|----------|

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

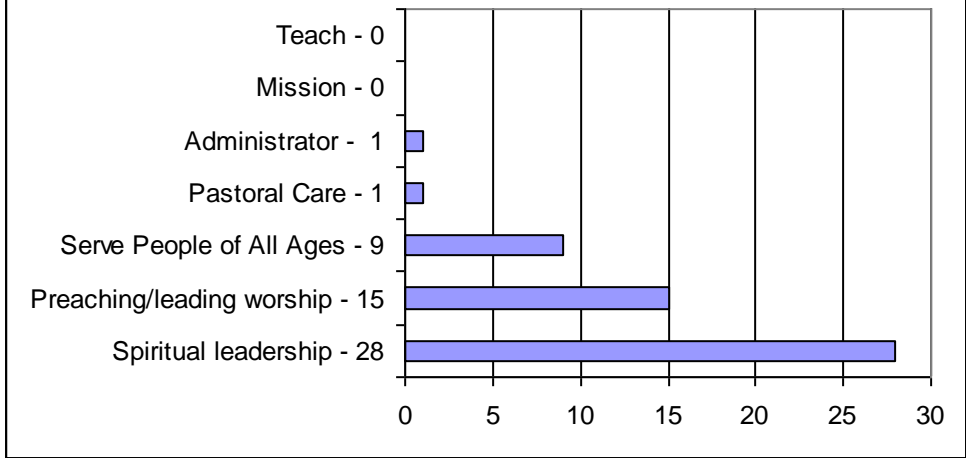
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- ___4___ Pastoral care (counsels, visit the sick, visits home bound)
- ___5___ Teaching
- ___3___ Serve with people of all ages
- ___6___ Leads and/or supports mission work
- ___7___ Administrator/head of staff

What qualities do you want to see in a new pastor? (shows the number of 1st place votes)



- ▶ I have a sense of excitement about our congregation's future.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 22% | 57% | 20% | 1% |

- ▶ This congregation has a clear vision, goals, or direction for its ministry and mission.

| Always | Often | Seldom | Never | Don't know |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 7% | 42% | 30% | 3% | 18% |

- ▶ If you could make one change in this congregation, what would it be?

Summary of Comments: The most frequent comments were

(1) relate sermons to everyday life

(2) more contemporary, joyful worship

(3) getting different people involved in all areas of the church

- ▶ What is your hope and vision for the future calling and ministry of this congregation?

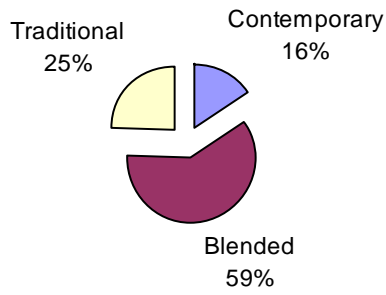
Summary: The most common hopes/visions for the future are

(1) grow membership

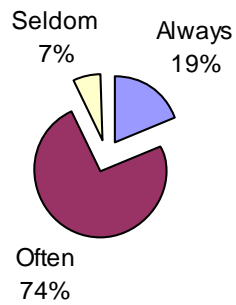
(2) attract young people

(3) build sanctuary

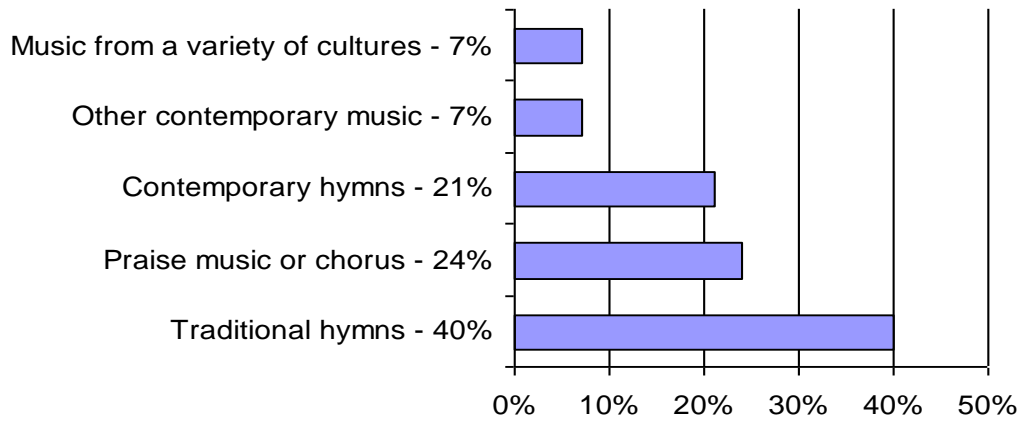
What type worship format do you prefer?



Do you feel spiritually nourished after worship?



What styles of music do you prefer?





July 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Wor/Comm-9 | 4 Independence Day  | 5 Pastor Sara on vacation thru 7/10 | 6 Prayer Shawl group-10 | 7 *Colleen Baltes | 8 *Jean Koon | 9 |
| 10 Worship-9 Elders/Lay members lead *Bev Ginnow | 11 *Jill Stiller *Larry Wright | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 *Jacob Albright |
| 17 Alleluia Family Choir practice-8 Worship-9 | 18 | 19 *Justin Jackson | 20 | 21 | 22 *Georgia Jackson | 23 *Hannah Albright |
| 24 Worship-9 Guest speaker from Mission Aviation Fellowship Pastor Sara & Cindy@Synod School thru 7/29 | 25 | 26 *Max Potratz | 27 *Debbie Schilder | 28 | 29 *Lisa Baltes | 30 *Marv Matulle |
| 31 Worship-9 *Peggy Allen | | | | | | |



August 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| | 1 Celebration-6 | 2 Deacons-9 *Josh & Ashley Koon-3 yrs | 3 Prayer Shawl Group-10 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Wor/Comm-9 Mission-10:15 | 8 *Jody Buttke *Larry & Stacy Wright-19 yrs | 9 *Tim & Georgia Jackson-31 yrs | 10 Admin-6 *Sue Koon *Mike & Donna Domke-9 yrs | 11 *Brian Butkiewicz | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship-9 Nurture-10:15 | 15 Session-6 | 16 *Jane Wilson *Jon & Terri Groth | 17 | 18 *Mike Zimmer | 19 *Bob & Sue Walther-44 yrs | 20 |
| 21 Alleluia Family Choir Practice-8 Worship-9 *Isaac Koon | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship-9 Congregational meeting to elect Pastor nominating committee | 29 *Nancy Jackson | 30 Back to school luncheon for teachers | 31 | | | |