



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC ZUMBROTA  
and  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO**

**May 2010 Newsletter**

**May Sunday Events**

Worship Times      9:00 (Z)   11:00 (O)

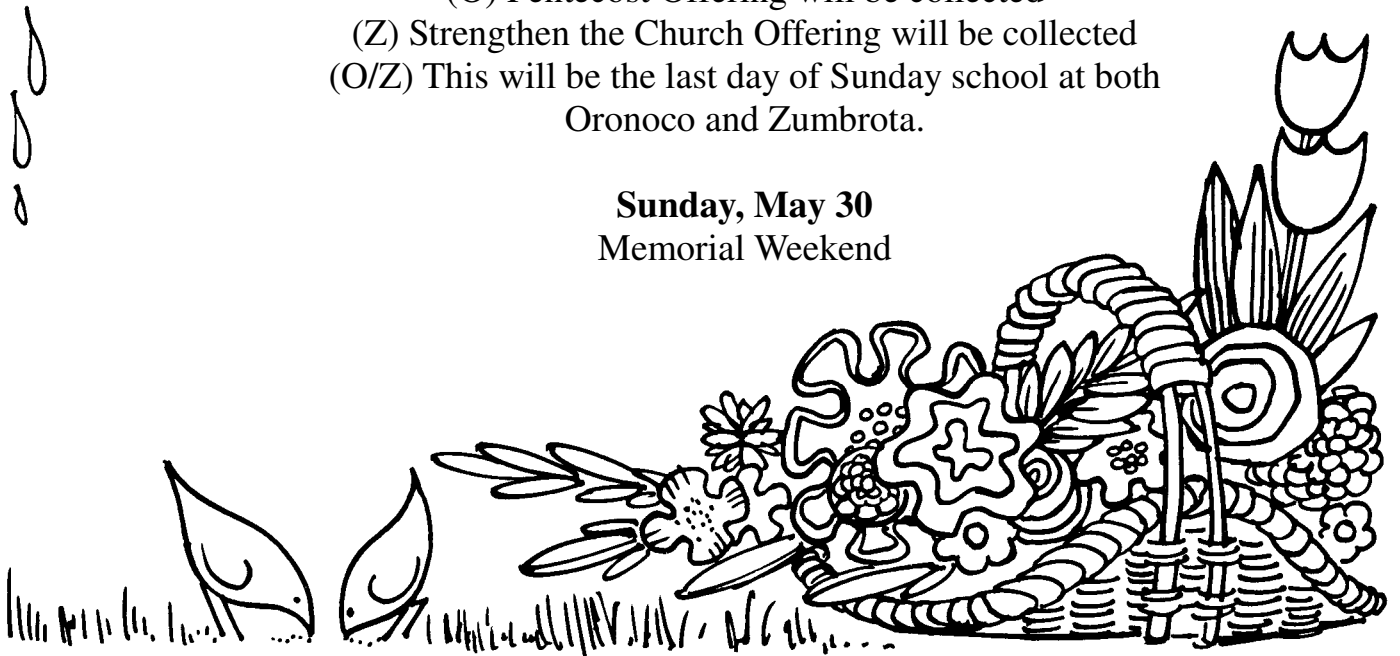
**Sunday, May 2 is Food Shelf Sunday for both congregations**  
All are invited to bring food items to share with our local food shelves.  
Monetary donations are always welcomed!  
(O/Z) Immigration Rights Sunday

**Sunday, May 9, is Mother's Day**  
(O/Z) We will celebrate Camp Sunday on this day.  
All campers will be blessed during worship service.  
(O) Mother's & Father's Day Brunch following 11:00 worship.  
Ladies are encouraged to wear their finest hat.  
Men are expected to come sporting their craziest tie.

**Sunday, May 16**  
We will honor our high school graduates on this day.

**Sunday, May 23, is Pentecost Sunday with guest preacher Rev. Dick Eick**  
(O) Pentecost Offering will be collected  
(Z) Strengthen the Church Offering will be collected  
(O/Z) This will be the last day of Sunday school at both  
Oronoco and Zumbrota.

**Sunday, May 30**  
Memorial Weekend





One of the characteristics of the Easter story is the conviction that eternal life begins here, today. Now that Christ has been raised from the dead, we can also come "up from the grave." That is the message of Easter...the transforming hope of a new day. The poet Emily Dickinson penned, "The world is not a conclusion; a sequel stands beyond, invisible, as music, but positive, as sound." A bit of that sequel starts right at this moment. The sound she speaks about is the echo of Easter, an echo that reverberates across time and distance, straight into our ears and lives. Our Christian faith is not so much transforming people so that we are ready to die, as it is transforming people so that we are ready to live in a healthy relationship with God and each other.

That's a great hope, that new life can be ours. I've often said that it's wonderful that Jesus came back to life...bully for him! But, what about us? How shall we be raised? We can be such slaves to habit, routine, the predictable, and the patterned. For us, everything depends upon Easter. Are we willing to be "Eastered"? One reason why people find the Easter story so difficult is that it demands a response from us. We can choose to ignore it or to embrace it. Easter exacts a change in our outlook and our behavior, and that "ain't easy." We know how hard it is to turn over a new leaf. Yet, even as Jesus is on the loose, he loosens our grip on the old and fearsome, prying our "cold, dead fingers" off the past. I can never understand why we resist the possibilities of the future when Jesus is already there waiting for us?

During this Easter season we have been bumping into Jesus on the road, at the beach, around the table, in a locked room...here, there, everywhere. We are going about our business, assuming the familiar world is intact, when all along the risen Christ intrudes...and wonder of all wonders, we experience miracles and extravagant love. He asks us to follow him. But where? Into a fresh tomorrow where every-

thing has been overturned by the powerful work of God in the resurrection of Jesus. As I said, eternity is in the air. We just have to breath it in!

Easteringly yours,  
Rev. Gary

## **(O) Pot Luck Brunch, May 9**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Mothers, Fathers and all others, We will celebrate Mother's & Father's Day together with a pot luck brunch on Sunday, May 9 following worship service. Women are encouraged to wear their fanciest hat and men are invited to come sporting their craziest tie. There will be a prize for the most "unique" outfit (male & female). So, dig out your most distinctive ensemble, whip up your favorite food item and come join the fun! If you have any questions please call Carol Tiede at 282-6273.

## **OZ Graduates, May 16**

Sunday, May 16, the OZ churches will honor this year's three high school graduates...Hailey Vath and Hannah Watkins from the Zumbrota UCC and Anthony Vallejo from the Oronoco Presbyterian church. During worship the graduates will stand before us for prayer and laying on of hands. We pray for their continued success. May God bless them always.

### **In Our Prayers**

*The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*

James 5:15-16

Remember in our prayers Bruce Johnston, Irma Brooks, Dick Tiede, Eunice & Vernon Marcham, Dick Brooks, Don Wilder, Karen Vallejo's father, Lance Sorensen's aunt, Jean Roth's father, Marlene Kosobucki's father, Don DeBlieck's sister, Arlen Kyllo's family, Mae Stee's family and Bob Larsen and the Larsen Family.

## In Appreciation

Dear Members of UCC,

Thank you for your large donation of clothing, shoes and household goods that was received by Third World Friends. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Your donation allows us to continue with the ongoing work of the Thrift Store. We currently assist two organizations in Uzbekistan and an organization in Appalachia.

If your church or group within the church would like to hear more about the work of Third World Friends, Inc., please contact me. I am available to speak to groups.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Vold  
Manager, Third World Friends Thrift Store

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends at OZ Churches,

(I missed getting this out in the last newsletter)

Thank you to everyone for your beautiful cards and gifts I received for my birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

God's blessings to you,  
Joyce Rucker

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all in both congregations for your prayers for my Father's rapid recovery. He is progressing very well being able to stay on his own occasionally now. His sights are on returning to driving short jaunts around town once again which appears realistic. Efforts are underway to achieve that and return him to full time independent management. Thank you to all for your concerns and all your prayers!

Marlene Kosobucki

Dear Pastor Gary and the wonderful people in his congregations,

When tragedy struck—our world changed. In an instant our lives will never be the same. The doctors told us he will not have any meaningful recovery. He will not be able to interact and we should make some decisions that will be the hardest ones of our lives.

And then people started praying. Through prayers alone, Bob gained strength—tiny little bits of *something* was there. I too, felt the prayers being answered. It is with a little shame that I must admit I have never so clearly felt the hand of our Lord holding me up—giving me strength to get through this horror. Am I strong? No. But I can actually feel His hand on my shoulder. His love in my heart. How can you thank so many strangers for all they are doing to help us get through this—to ask the Lord to help Bob come back to us? It is overwhelming the kindness of strangers who are praying.

And then—for Pastor Gary to bring not only the Prayer support to us, but monetary support as well. Words cannot express the overwhelming gratitude we feel! A friend told me recently that tears should come in colors—so when you see a friend in tears you can tell if they are “happy or sad” tears. Many people have seen my tears lately, and this gift, this gift to help us BE THERE for my son, well, it brought tears again. Thank you all, for everything you are doing. The prayers, of course, and now the assurance that the lack of funds will not be an issue in keeping us from being with Bob.

I do not know how to express the feelings in my heart for all that you are doing. But know—everyone of you—have taken part in a miracle.

“Thank you”. The words are inadequate. But thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,  
Lance, Deb, Danielle and Bob Larsen

\*Note: Bob Larsen resides at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, MN.

## **(O/Z) Camp Sunday, May 9**

Sunday, May 9, is Camp Sunday. During worship at each church that morning we will bless any youth going to summer camp. We will also take the opportunity to uplift camping ministry and highlight our efforts to support campers with grants. If you would like to contribute to the camping fund for youth, please see the church treasurer or Pastor Gary. Thank you!

## **(Z) Pilgrim Point Camp Summer Opportunities**

It's time to start thinking about summer plans and coming to Pilgrim Point Camp. There are programs for all ages. There are brochures on the table in the back of the church. Information can also be found at [www.pilgrimpoint.org](http://www.pilgrimpoint.org). The camp can also be reached at 320-763-6549.

We hope to see you at camp!

## **(O/Z) Sunday, May 2 is Food Shelf Sunday**

Remember our families in need. Items needed for this Sunday can be paper products, cereal, toothpaste-mouthwash-bar soap, and any canned food items.

Thank you for supporting our food shelf and all that has been donated is greatly appreciated.

## **(O) General Assembly, July 3-10**



All our members and friends are invited to attend the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which will take place this year in Minneapolis, July 3-10. The theme this year is "Rivers of Living Waters" from John 7:38.

To register, visit the GA website at <http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/observers.htm> You

may wish to attend as a visitor and you may wish to volunteer for some of the 100+ different tasks and over 1200 volunteer positions. You don't even need to be present to volunteer as you can serve from home as a "prayer partner". Sign up to help at the website.

There will be opportunities to participate in worship, to attend exhibits, tours (including the Dead Sea Scroll exhibit), workshops and to sit in on committee meetings where our church's national governing body will determine priorities for the work of the church, develop objectives for national and world-wide ministries, and deal with other docket items brought before them from the Synods and Presbyteries serving over 10,700 churches nationwide.

Most of the meetings and exhibits will be at the Minneapolis Convention Center, however, on Sunday, July 4, following morning activities at the Convention Center, the evening events will be at Nicollet Island.

Following the Moderator's reception that evening from 5:30-7:30, there will be a family picnic from 7-10 including food, games and entertainment. From 10-10:30, participants will have a birds eye view of the Minneapolis fireworks. Be sure to visit the website and check out your options. Or bring your questions to Judy Wilder who is serving as our church liaison to General Assembly.

## **(O/Z) Sunday School Comes to an End**

Our last day of Sunday School at OZ will be May 23.

Thank you to all who attended Sunday School over the past months. And a big thank you to those who supported our program and to the willing teachers who dedicated their gift of time and energy to share the word of God with our youth. Blessings to you all!

(Z) We will celebrate the conclusion of another good year of learning the stories about God's way in the world and about how we are called to live in God's way by picking up a treat at Casey's or Dairy Queen and enjoying it at one of our local parks.

## **(Z) Rummage Sale Raises \$1100 for the Lift Fund**

Take a basement full of no longer needed items, the yummy taste of fresh sweet rolls, and the hard work of many volunteers and what do you get? You get a great donation for the Lift Fund—something over \$1100 this year.

I can't begin to name all of the people who donated and helped out, because I was down with the flu for a good share of the week's work that preceded the sale and so am not sure who worked when. I do know that my co-chair, Nattalie Vath, did her usual great job, and I thank her. One truckload of leftover items was taken to Third World Friends in Kenyon, and two truckloads of furniture and other items went to the Salvation Army in Rochester. We were blessed with abundance, which we shared. To all who donated and helped, many thanks.

--Coleen Johnston

## **(Z) Brats for the Lift—Saturday, June 19, at the Covered Bridge Festival**

The Z council and Lift Committee are looking for a few good brat servers and brat eaters. Do you answer to one of these descriptions? We will be serving brats during the Covered Bridge Festival on Saturday, June 19, to raise money for our lift fund. More information to come in the next newsletter. Watch for it!

## **(Z) New Deacon at UCC**

Everyone at Z welcomes new deacon Wendy Kylo, who has graciously volunteered to follow in the path of her mother-in-law, Lesley. When the nominating committee asked Lesley to serve as a deacon back in November, she gladly accepted. She loved serving communion and helping to plan for and assist with the worship life of the church. She was elected in at the annual meeting in January, on the last Sunday she was able to be in church. Wendy now takes her place, honoring Lesley and the whole Kylo family. Thank you, Wendy!

## **Readers of O/Z**



The book discussion selection for May is "Jesus Interrupted" by Bart Ehrman. The publishers commentary: In this New York Times bestseller, leading Bible expert Bart Ehrman skillfully demonstrates that the New Testament is riddled with contradictory views about who Jesus was and the significance of his life. Ehrman reveals that many of the books were written in the names of the apostles by Christians living decades later, and that central Christian doctrines were the inventions of still later theologians. Although this has been the standard and widespread view of scholars for two centuries, most people have never learned of it. *Jesus, Interrupted* is a clear and compelling account of the central challenges we have when attempting to reconstruct the life and meaning of Jesus.

All are welcome to join the group for discussion on May 11th, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Simon. If you need directions, call Ellen at 367-4348.

## **(O/Z) Special Offerings**

(Z) Sunday, May 23 is STRENGTHEN the CHURCH Mission offering. 'Spread the Love' is the theme for the 2010 Strengthen the Church offering. Through our contributions, these funds help in the new and renewing churches, pastoral and lay leadership information, adults and young adults ministries—especially for women and people of color. Let the Spirit lead us in supporting this mission. The offerings get directed to the conference, local church ministries, and the Still Speaking Ministries.

Thank you for supporting this mission,  
Your Stewardship Coordinator

(O) The Pentecost Offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (May 23, 2010). It provides a direct way to meet the needs of children at risk, youth, and young adults. Congregations are encouraged to keep 40 percent of the Offering to support ministry with children at risk in their communities.

Thank you for your support of the Special Offerings on Sunday, May 23. Your gifts will have an impact now and in the generations to come!

**(O/Z) Peace Camp: Sharing Our Gifts  
June 15-17,  
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., held at O**

Peace Camp 2010: Sharing Our Gifts

This years Peace Camp: Sharing Our Gifts will focus on ways we can share our talents and gifts with the community and greater world. Peace Camp will be held June 15th, 16th, and 17th (T,W,Th) from 6pm to 8:30 pm at O church. It will be open to children going into grades Pre-K through 8th in the fall of 2010. Registration will be free for this event! Peace Camp is open to everyone so please share this wonderful opportunity with anyone you know who has children.

**Peace Camp  
Registration Forms Must be  
Completed and Turned in by  
Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**(O/Z) Immigration Rights Sunday, May 2**

Our interfaith community of believers recognizes that our country needs comprehensive immigration reform. Christians are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and to provide hospitality to strangers. We need legislation to establish a safe and humane immigration system that aligns border and internal enforcement policies with humanitarian values and due process protections. How can we create a process for undocumented immigrants to earn legal status and eventual citizenship? Minnesota's immigrant population is estimated at 355,000, approximately 6.5% of the state's residents. On Sunday, May 2, we will lift up in prayer and worship an awareness of our need to respond to immigration reform in light of our Christian faith. Jesus said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

**Peace Camp 2010  
Registration Form**

**Camper Info:**

**Name(s):**

---

---

---

**Grade(s) (going into this fall):**

---

**Parent/Guardian Name:**

---

**Address:**

---

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Person & Number:**

---

**Medication Required While at Camp:**

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**(Please specify below or on back of form.)**

**Food Allergies or Other Medical Needs:**

---

---

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:**

---

**Please return completed registration form to:**

**Presbyterian Church of Oronoco  
Attn: Erin Bluhm  
P.O. Box 118  
Oronoco, MN 55960**

## In the Community

### **Heartland Hospice Invites You to a Bereavement Support Group**

Heartland Hospice is pleased to provide a support group for all who are experiencing grief. The group will meet on an ongoing basis on the second Tuesday of every month, beginning May 11, 2010, from 4pm until 5:30.

This is an opportunity for you to meet with other people who are sharing your journey with grief. There will be an educational presentation followed by open discussion. The group is ongoing and attendance at every meeting is not necessary.

**Please RSVP at 507-292-1170**

The group meets at the offices of Heartland Hospice, 3143 Superior Dr. NW, Suite A, Rochester, MN 55901. The group will be facilitated by Sue Flemke, LICSW, Bereavement Coordinator for Heartland.

### **“Preventing Slips, Trips, & Broken Hips”**

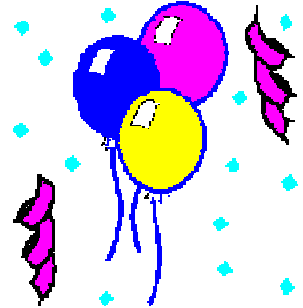
Every hour an older adult dies as the result of a fall in the U.S. Falls are the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the age group of 75 years and older. Of all fall related fractures, hip fractures are the greatest cause of death. *Olmsted County has the highest death rate due to falls & unintended injury in MN.* There are so many things you can do to protect yourself and your family from experiencing the consequences of a fall with injury. The *Rochester/Olmsted County Falls Prevention Coalition* is a unique group of providers across the healthcare spectrum that have many resources for you, in education and also a FREE home safety check for home and personal safety. We offer educational seminars that will provide you with tools you can take with you to assess your living environment independently or provide you with people you can contact for some additional help. Our goals are to keep you living independently in your current environment.

The *Rochester/Olmsted County Falls Prevention Coalition* mission is to provide a network of services for citizens 55 years of age and older to help decrease the

number of falls and severity of falls in order to maintain independence in their home. You can request a seminar for any group that you are involved in or schedule a home safety check by calling 328-6890 anytime.

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

5/2 Dick Scheerer  
5/3 Sara Hartzell  
5/5 Harriet Glasenapp  
5/7 Amy Wendt  
5/8 Jim Wendt  
Mindi Arendt  
5/9 Erica Mann  
Phyllis Hovel  
5/10 Michael Sapp  
5/13 Michelle Pahl  
5/14 Joy Bertsinger  
Nancy Scheerer  
5/26 Dorothy French  
5/29 Jeanne Hodge  
5/31 Marie Rucker



### **Directory Changes and Corrections**

(Z) Gary Ofstie's new address & email:  
16 Mill St.  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
Email: [gofstie@gmail.com](mailto:gofstie@gmail.com)

(Z) Sarah Johnston's new email:  
[johnston.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:johnston.sarah@gmail.com)

### **(Z) Financial Update**

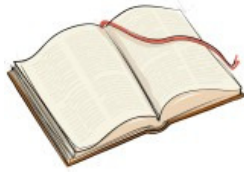
First quarter (Jan-Mar, 2010)

Total income	\$32,197.27
Total expense	29,754.62
Net income	\$ 2,442.65

## Readings for the Month of May 2010

### May 2

Psalms 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35



### May 9

Psalms 48  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5  
John 14:23-29

### May 16

Psalms 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17:20-26

### May 23

***Pentecost Sunday***  
Psalms 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-17, (25-27)

### May 30

***Trinity Sunday***  
Psalms 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

## 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

## Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson  
Secretary: Sue Johnson  
Custodians: (O) Marcy Burt  
(Z) Debbie Floan  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gary Titusdahl

### UCC Leadership Team

Rex Wiederanders, Moderator  
Brenda Watkins, Clerk  
Connie Wendt, Accountant  
Kay Wilshusen, Treasurer  
Matt Biever, Trustee  
Gerry Webster, Trustee  
Larry Thomforde, Trustee  
Bonnie Rolland, Deacon  
Bob Rolland, Deacon  
Wendy Kylo, Deacon  
Hailey Vath, Deacon  
Cindy DeBleick, Deacon  
Larry Gruenberg, Deacon

### Presbyterian Leadership Team

George Vallejo, Clerk  
Kim Stanton, Treasurer  
Kay Erdahl, Elder  
Ron Peterson-Rucker, Elder  
George Vallejo, Elder  
Judy Wilder, Elder  
Gail Rucker, Elder  
Kim Stanton, Elder  
Karen Vallejo, Deacon  
Anthony Vallejo, Deacon  
Ellen Simon, Deacon  
Vivien Midthun, 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

## Church Office Hours

**Tuesday in Oronoco - 10:00-3:00**  
**Wednesday in Oronoco - 10:00-3:00**

**Office Phone: (507)367-4711**  
**Email address: [oronocopc@pitel.net](mailto:oronocopc@pitel.net)**

First Congregational UCC  
455 East Avenue  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
(507) 732-7015



Presbyterian Church of Oronoco  
PO Box 118  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
(507) 367-4711



**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 2010**



5/2	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/9	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/16	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/23	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)
5/30	9:00 (Z)	11:00 (O)

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

**Reverend Dr. Gary Titusdahl - Contact Information**  
Cell Phone (507) 696-8753 E-mail address: [titusdahl@mchsi.com](mailto:titusdahl@mchsi.com)