Dear Friends,

Are you a dreamer? Do you ever find yourself imagining the unimaginable? If so, I’d love to have you on my team this fall! You don’t need to run fast, have a good batting average or a fabulous field goal percentage. All you need is exponential thinking! That’s right; all you need is the ability to dream big.

I am going to step out in faith and ask you to dream big with me. I would like to provide 30+ small groups for our congregation this fall as we dig into our new study, 40 Days in the Word. I’ve dreamed of having 30 small groups for quite some time, so I’m going to dream even bigger. Would you like to dream big with me and trust God to pull it off? My director’s manual warns the church to not put God in a box by thinking too small. It challenges us to go on a faith adventure and “think impossible.” God will do far more through big goals than He ever will in the safety of small goals. If we can figure out how to pull it off, we aren’t thinking exponentially!

Our fall study, 40 Days in the Word, is written by Rick Warren. This church-wide campaign will teach us six easy-to-learn methods for reading and meditating on Scripture, techniques for a meaningful quiet time with God, how to memorize scripture, principles for accurate Bible interpretation and a
step-by-step process for applying God’s Word to our lives. Go to www.40ditw for more information explaining this study and testimonies of a church that has gone through this campaign.

The Bible isn’t meant to just inform us, it is meant to transform us. God doesn’t want us to just be hearers of the Word, he want us to be doers of the Word. Our lives will be transformed if we allow his Word to become our standard for our lives: our GPS, owner’s manual and sound counsel for how we live out our daily lives. We hope that at the conclusion of this 40 day study our congregation will love, learn and live the Word of God like never before.

Please dream big with me and prayerfully consider hosting a small group this fall. This six-week DVD study will begin the week of September 30 and conclude the first week of November. You may host a new or existing small group at your home, church or other comfortable location of your choice. Please contact me with any questions that you might have at 967-2991 or leann Gaulke@hotmail.com.

Like I mentioned above, you don’t need to run a four minute mile to be a part of our Host Home team. You just need a Heart for others, Open you home, Serve a snack/drink and Turn on the TV/DVD. Rick will do the teaching and you can do the facilitating with the provided study guide. I would be happier than a coach winning the state championship track meet if you would join the Host Home Team!

Running the Race of Christ with you,

LeAnn Gaulke
Our church is planning another spiritual growth campaign September 30 - the week of November 4 entitled **40 Days in the Word**. An exciting aspect of this campaign is the opportunity to gather in small groups that meet in homes or other comfortable settings for six weeks studying God’s Word together. Each week groups will gather to watch a DVD teaching session that will explore the Bible and provide a time to discuss together the truths of scripture and how to apply them to their lives. God never meant for Bible study to only increase our knowledge. Receiving, reading, researching, remembering and reflecting on the scriptures is of no value if we fail to put God’s Word into practice. Knowing and applying the scriptures creates the foundation for our lives. We must be living translations of God’s Word.

**During the month of August, we are looking for Host Homes** where groups can meet in the fall to go through this study together. All you need is a TV/DVD and a willingness to facilitate your group through the study guide following the DVD teaching led by Rick Warren. For more information regarding this study and testimonies of those who completed it, please go to [www.40ditw.com](http://www.40ditw.com). Please contact LeAnn Gaulke at 967-2991 or [leanngaulke@hotmail.com](mailto:leanngaulke@hotmail.com) if you would be willing to host a small group in your home.
If you are interested in becoming a member of AUMC, our next class meets Wednesday, September 19 AND Wednesday, September 26 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Chapel, with the reception of new members on Sunday, September 30. For more information or to sign up for this class, please contact the church office at 967-2991 or trinan@altoonaumc.org. Nursery is available during the class as well as Midweek activities for older children.

Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a new ministry here at AUMC. If you are a mom, you are invited to be part of MOMS. Watch the bulletin and weekly email in August for details about our next MOMS get together.
COMING IN CONCERT
LIGHTSWITCH

Altoona United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 5

8:20 a.m.
Traditional Style Worship Concert

9:40 & 11:00 a.m.
Contemporary Style Worship Concert

www.lightswitchmusic.com
Sky VBS 2012 - Everything is Possible With God! (Mark 10:27)

120+ kids ~ 60+ volunteers ~ 397 food pantry items ~ $741 for Mali, Africa

coming soon!

SEPT 5
Midweek Family Social

SEPT 9
Bible Presentation
Sunday School Open House
KIDS FEST (see page 7)

SEPT 12
Midweek Kick-Off

SEPT 16
Sunday School Starts

Wed., August 22 at 6:00 p.m.
Stay tuned for more details!

For more Children’s Ministries information, please contact Shelene Billups at 967-2991 or sheleneb@altoonaumc.org.
Kids Fest Carnival
Sunday, September 9
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Then join us for...

A fast-paced, high-energy, explosive, and inspirational show for all ages!

September 9
6:30 p.m.
Top Notcher News
A ministry for adults 55 and older

Top Notchers & Friends
One-Day Bus Trip
Jamesport, Missouri
October 16

This is a trip you don’t want to miss! We will tour inside an Amish home as well as several farms and also visit a buggy making shop, country store, several bakeries, a cheese factory, and a furniture store. We will go on limo carriage rides pulled by “Clyde” and learn of the interesting customs and way of life of the Amish community. Our lunch will consist of fried chicken, roast beef, delicious pie and all the trimmings family style.

We already have 44 confirmed reservations so contact Joan Nolin ASAP (967-2773) for your reservation. When reservations have filled the bus, we will start a waiting list as it is not uncommon to have some last minute cancellations. Checks ($64 per person) should be made out to Travelin’ Rose Tours but given to Joan for recording. Full payment is due September 11 for this great trip!

Upcoming Get Togethers

Tuesday, August 14, noon
*Host/Hostess: Duane & Shirley Hunziker, Dave & Phoebe Larson
*Potluck with homemade ice cream
*Program: Three Redeemed trio

Tuesday, September 11, noon
*Host/Hostess: Marilyn Cowell, Darlene Watson, Margaret Gowin
*Potluck
*Program: Mitchellville Prison Ministries speaker
*Mission project to be determined

Tuesday, October 16
*Bus trip to Jamesport, Missouri
*See article above for details

July Meeting

On Tuesday, July 10, approximately 35 Top Notchers went on a tour of the World Food Prize Building. It was the former Des Moines Public Library. It has undergone a major transformation in the last two years. It has a very interesting story and is a beautiful piece of architecture. Everyone should take the opportunity to tour it. Guided tours are available on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 1:30. Reservations are suggested. It is also open for viewing, but not guided tours, during the Farmer’s Market on Saturday mornings.

August Meeting — Join Us!

Our August get together will be a potluck at noon in the Family Life Center on August 14. We will be entertained by a trio from Floyd, IA called Three Redeemed. Join us for a great afternoon!
**Music Notes**

**Can you keep a secret?**
You can know the 1980s #1 hit early! We are looking for singers age 16 and up to present Pastor John’s #1 song for the 80s. Rehearsals are 6:45-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, August 1 & 8 in the Sanctuary. The song will be performed on August 12 at all three services. You’re invited!

**Chancel Choir**
The fall/Christmas kick off rehearsal is Wednesday, August 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have some inconceivably cool music coming your way. This ministry opportunity is for musicians age 16 and up. Do it now!

**Churchestra**
Our church orchestra (Churchestra) resumes their Wednesday rehearsal schedule on August 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. If you play or have played an instrument in high school or college, you are invited to join us. This group does all types of music including hymns, feature numbers, choral accompaniments, and even praise band accompaniments. It is an incredible opportunity to brush up and sharpen your musical skills and bless the church.

If you are interested in becoming involved in music ministry, please contact Steve McLellan at stevem@altoonaumc.org or call 967-2991.

**Pastoral Partners**

If you or a family member would like prayer support or a hospital visit, please fill out a prayer card on Sunday morning or call the church office at 967-2991.

Consider sending a DVD to a homebound friend or loved one. Contact the church office at 967-2991 with DVD requests.
The Mission Committee continues to collect supplies to fill school bags and layette kits. There are two containers located in the Narthex to collect your purchases. If you would like the Missions Committee to make your purchases for you, please make your check to AUMC with “School Bag Supplies” or “Layette Kit Supplies” on the memo line. Please visit the Welcome Center in the Narthex for donation envelopes and supply lists.

Thanks to the Ann Wilson Quilters of our church who have already sewn 100 school bags and to other AUMC seamstresses who have sewn 100 jackets for the layette kits.

Thank you in advance for your purchase of any of the below listed supplies as well as your financial gifts and time spent to make a difference in our world.

### School Bag Supplies

- (3) Wide ruled spiral or bound notebooks, 8.5 x 11, 210-250 sheets each
- (1) 30 cm metric ruler
- (1) Box of 24 crayons (24 only)
- (1) 2.5" eraser
- (1) Metal blunt scissors
- (1) Handheld pencil sharpener
- (6) Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

### Layette Kit Supplies

- (6) Cloth diapers
- (2) Gowns or sleepers
- (2) Diaper pins with plastic closures
- (2) Receiving blankets
- (2) Shirts or onesies
- (2) Baby washcloths

Coin bags are still available at the Welcome Center to collect money to purchase product for packaging at Hy-Vee Hall August 29-September 1. These donations will be collected until August 5. Time slots to help at the packaging event will be available starting August 5. Please contact Jane at 967-2991 or janeb@altoonaumc.org for more information.
Stay Connected at AUMC

If you would like to receive our weekly updates via email, please go to the church website: [http://www.altoonaumc.org](http://www.altoonaumc.org)

Under the Resources tab, choose E-newsletter signup. Enter your email address when prompted, and you will begin to receive our weekly newsletters on Thursday afternoons in your email box!

If you would like to be included on our new email prayer chain list, please contact Heather in the church office at heatherm@altoonaumc.org. The new list took effect on July 1.

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact Trina in the office at trinan@altoonaumc.org or 967-2991.
| 1.  Drake Cox | 14. Devon TeKolste | 22. Carol Lockard |
| 2.  Isaac Schubert | 15. Ron Wilson | 23. Audrey Dunn |
| 10. Marian Collison | 18. Greg Hanson | 27. David Person |

10. Max & Beverly Bowman
10. Chris & Tracy Gibson
11. John & Tori Hanson
12. Phil & Coleen Sandquist
16. Harvey & Jean Koch
16. Marv & Mary Wood
17. Roger & Donna McKee
19. Donald & Phyllis Barkhaus
19. John & Pam Lageman
19. Ron & Bobbie Manock
19. Dean & Shirley Rowley
19. Tom & Cheryl Smithson
24. Chad & Amy Kruse
25. Stacy & Deborah Ruggless
28. Dennis & Sharon Creveling
29. Jason & Suzanne Kurth
29. Rod & Judy Losh
31. Will & Amy Larson