



UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

Groton/Conde Parishes

www.grotonsdchurches.com

December 2004



He is King

Sixty-six years before the birth of Christ, in an aristocratic community of Rome, a very important child was born. As soon as he arrived, a messenger raced into the Roman Senate and announced, "The next ruler of the world is born." His name was Octavius, and he was destined to become the adopted son of Julius Caesar. He grew up in the palace. He was educated by the finest teachers of literature, philosophy and government. And at the age of 33 he was the uncontested ruler of the entire Roman Empire. He just had to give the word and armies would march and ships would sail. He just had to give the word and the world would move for him. Then Senate gave him the name Emperor Augustus, meaning the exalted one, who reigned over the golden age of the empire.

When he was about 66 years old, "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered." It was during this census that another child was born in a very unimportant village, in a very unimportant part of the empire. No Roman messengers ran to announce his birth to the Senate. Instead, it was God's own angelic messenger who announced the birth of Jesus Christ to the least of the inhabitants of the empire, a small band of shepherds watching over their sheep. "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2: 10-11).

This other child began his life in a humble manger, because there was no room for him in the normal places, not even the village inn. He was raised not in a palace, but in a common Jewish home. He was not educated in literature and philosophy, but in carpentry and the Scripture. At age 33, he ascended not to the reign of the Roman Empire, but to a Roman cross, "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him" (John 1:10-11). No, we never did have much room for Jesus. That is why we killed him. But in that ultimate act of sacrifice for the sins of a dark world, Jesus became the King of a whole new kingdom that has long outlived every empire.

Emperor Augustus, who was thought of as so important in his day is not remembered anymore except for the fact he lived during the birth of Jesus. Jesus who was considered so unimportant in his own time, now has armies who do follow him. He is King Jesus, Lord of Lords and King of Kings, forever and ever.

Follow him; worship him, today, in the Christmas season, and through all of life. Merry Christmas and God's blessings as you celebrate the season and its reason!

Peace,

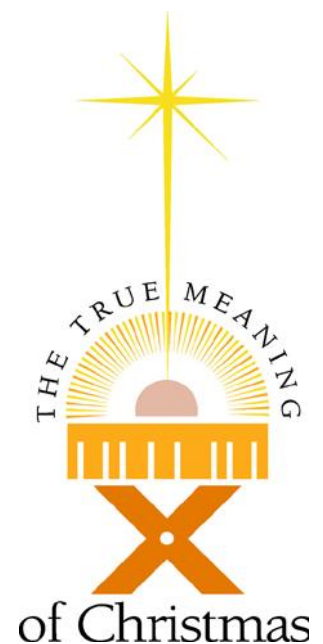
Pastor Grant



Christmas Eve Service

Groton—5:00 PM
Offering for
Randy Padfield

Conde—7:00 PM
Offering for
"The Banquet"





Men's Dinner



And UMW Fall Bazaar



Christmas Decorating Thank You

A special thank you for putting up Christmas greens and cleaning the entire church goes out to: Mary, Sidney, and Evan Erickson; Kelli and Kerri Hanson; Marc and Tanner Johnson; Carna Pray; Marlys Rodman; Barb, Halley, and Taylor Schmidt; Alan and Vicki Strom; Doris Strom; Linda Thurston; Alan Walter; Elaine and Amber Wolken.

She was right after all

Small children were putting on a Christmas program. The entertainment proceeded without a hitch until near the end of the event. Each child held a large card with a letter printed on it. The letters were turned away from the audience. One by one each child turned the card he or she was holding to reveal a letter. First was the child with the "C," then the one with the "H," and so on down the line. When it was time for a little girl to hold up the "M," it was upside down. The "M" appeared to be a "W."

Quiet giggles rippled through the audience. Nevertheless, the kids continued one by one to reveal the rest of the cards. When the last card was shown, the cards were meant to spell out: C H R I S T M A S L O V E

Instead, they spelled: C H R I S T W A S L O V E

What first seemed to be a mistake wasn't one after all.

Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner Thank You

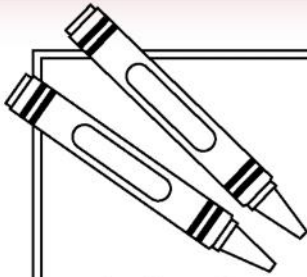
The 9th annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner was again a great success with over 100 in attendance at the SEAS Catholic Church. Thank you to those who responded with food and cash donations. Our participation in a community mission outreach activity such as this is a prime example of our "Open Hearts, Open Minds, & Open Doors" program that sets no boundaries on what God and You can do. Please consider spending next Thanksgiving Dinner with us. The members of the Mission Committee.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who so generously helped with the Men's Dinner. We really appreciated your help.

Harry & Gloria Pharis





Just for **KIDS**

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah knew that Jesus would be called a peacemaker, but that He would also be called by other names.

Use the code to find out what Isaiah said Jesus would be called.

CODE:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

Z M W S V D R O O Y V

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

X Z O O V W D L M W V I U F O

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

X L F M H V O L I N R T S G B

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

T L W V E V I O Z H G R M T

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

U Z G S V I K I R M X V

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

L U K V Z X V

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Answer: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Groton UMYF
December 8th
Wednesday, 6:15 pm
Supper Provided



Christmas Program

Groton

December 12th during the worship service. Potluck to follow. Remember to bring a toy \$1-10.00 for the banquet birthday gift box.

Conde

December 19th during the worship service.



Acolytes

Schedule for Groton

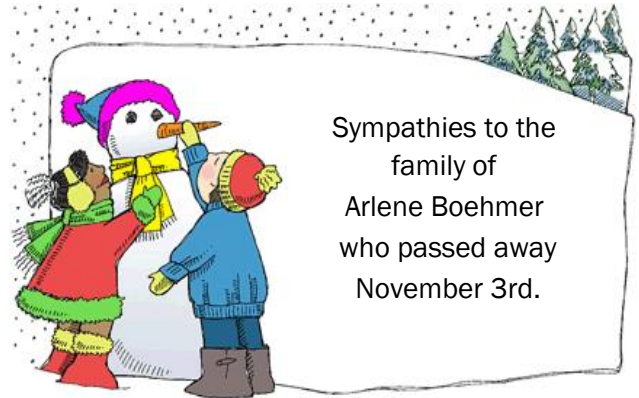
- December 5th**—Camille Sippel & Lyndsay Gese
- December 12th**—Katelyn and Kylie Hawkins
- December 19th**—Mitchell Madsen and Reilly Ell
- December 26th**—Dylan Hanson and Ryland Strom



Schedule

Conde Confirmation Class will meet Sunday at 1:00 pm December 5, 12, and 19th. Then resume after Christmas vacation on January 9th.

Groton Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesday's. December 1st at 6:00 pm with lunch provided, December 8th at 7:00 pm, and December 15th at 6:00 pm with lunch provided. Class will resume on January 5th after Christmas vacation at 6:00 with lunch provided. If school is closed because of bad weather, there will be no confirmation and those make-up days will be done in the month of April.



Sympathies to the family of
Arlene Boehmer
who passed away
November 3rd.

A lesson learned during Advent

Julie Reynolds of Snohomish, Washington, tells of one Advent season when all her young children came down with chicken pox. Everything planned was put on hold or forgotten altogether. They missed many church and community activities as well as get-togethers with family and friends.

But Julie discovered something during her forced hiatus. She had time to do things with her children. The children were well enough to engage in some family activities that the normal Christmas rush might have prevented.

She read Christmas stories to the children. The kids used blankets, walking sticks and other objects to reenact the story of the holy family traveling to Bethlehem. They had time together to discover the joy of family fellowship and to think seriously about the meaning of Christmas.

Julie recalled other Christmases when she had been so busy shopping, decorating, cooking and running about that she missed Jesus. She said, "I completely missed celebrating the joy of His birth in my own heart. And the emptiness I have felt at those times brought a sorrow and regret deep in my soul."

No more! Now she deliberately schedules "open days" on her calendar, especially during Advent. They are days for waiting upon God, praying, listening and enjoying the peace of God. And they are days of truly being with her family, keeping the bond strong, and the relationships in good repair. Now, she recalls with gratitude the lesson she learned during that Advent years ago.

Groton Emmanuel Lutheran Church Christmas Events

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton will be having an Advent Sing on Sunday, December 5, beginning at 6:30 pm. We would like to invite the public to come and sing favorite Christmas Carols and other Christmas music with us. This will be very informal. Christmas goodies and coffee will be served following the Advent sing.

This will not take the place of our Cantata which will be held Dec 19th during worship and Dec 22nd in the evening.

Groton Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 7th
12:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Groton American Legion

To make an appointment, call Linda Thurston at 397-2371.

Sponsored by the Groton Kiwanis and the Groton United Methodist Women.

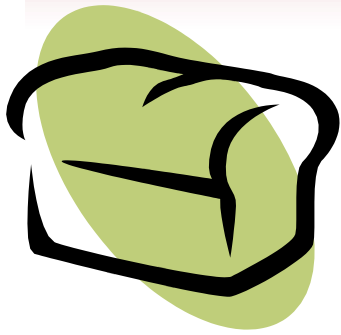
Birthday Gifts For Banquet Kids

The last day the Groton Sunday School Children will be collecting birthday gifts for the Banquet Kids is the day of their Christmas Program, Dec 12th.

These gifts will be delivered to "The Banquet" Kids in Sioux Falls to refill their birthday box. When a child celebrates their birthday they are allowed to chose 3 gifts from the birthday box.

The price of each gift may vary from \$1-\$10. Groton Missions Committee





Groton Pastor's Challenge Update

Last Month at the Groton Ad Council, Rev Piehl offered this challenge, "If we can find 10 people who will give \$500 or more each, I will be number 11" We need large gifts to get us where we need to be with the Conference Apportionments. We are half way there! So, consider this gift this Holiday Season and help our Apportionments help others through Missions.

Take some time and prayer and consider your share. Give a gift of \$500 and mark it for apportionments so our financial secretary knows how the gift is to be used and let's fill up the sanctuary with many loaves of bread this holiday season.

BUY A LOAF!

January Committee

Brenda & Tony Madsen
Gloria & Harry Pharis
 Ben & Kristi Peterson
 Carla & Tim Geffre, Lucius & Skylar
 Linda & Jay Johnson
 Charlotte & Art Lange
 Marjae & Dan Schinkel
 Francine & Marc Sippel
 Carol & LuVerne Strom
 Sharon & Larry Wheeting
 Caralee & Gary Heitmann
 Kim & Craig Weber
 Karla Pasteur, Jessica & Ali
 Don Bartz

Honorary Members

Barbara Wegner
 Irene Breitung
 Lila Bartz

Extra Responsibilities

- J January 2nd—White Altar Cloths
- J January 9th—Communion Banners This Sunday Only
- J January 9th—Green Altar Cloths
- J Take down Christmas Decorations with help of all church members
- J Clean Sanctuary
- J Potluck 2nd Sunday
- J Shovel Snow from doorways before Church



Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2004
Average Wkly Giving \$1,662
Needed Weekly to Meet Church Needs \$1,765
Average Weekly Attendance 83
Total Building Fund Offerings \$440

Groton UMC Mission Statement

The Groton United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to strengthen and build a church family that provides all individuals with the opportunity to grow in their faith and lead an enriched spiritual life in Jesus Christ through worship, study, fellowship, working together, and reaching out to others.

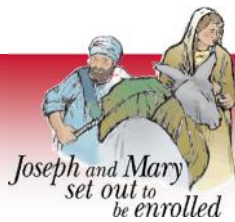
Tempting givers

Some time ago, a beggar was seen on a street in New York asking passersby for money. He was carrying a sign that said: "Know the joy of giving without the slightest gift of involvement."

That must have been a tempting offer. One could give and be done with it. Nothing else required.

Yet there is much wisdom in the old saying, "The gift without the giver is bare." Involvement is a plus not a minus. What if the giver took time to talk with the beggar? What if the giver told the beggar about The Salvation Army or other Christian organizations and social service agencies where more permanent help might be found?

Christmas is a good time to remember these marvelous organizations with monetary gifts. But why not also volunteer your time, talent and friendship to aid those who are having a hard time in life? That would be joyous giving with involvement.



Church Office Secretary How do I find her?

How do you find me? Well best start is just give me a call at home, 397-8389, and I can always arrange to meet you at the church to help you with any projects you require (I don't live far). Generally, I try to have the bulletin rough draft typed up by Thursday noon and then photocopy the final usually on Saturday after dinner unless I have plans; then I would do the final bulletin a day early.

Email? I check the grotonumc@nvc.net email when I am at the church doing the bulletin twice per week. (Pastor Piehl may check it more often and pass messages on to me.) But, If you need to email me sooner than that, please use the umc@grotonsdchurches.com email and that is checked several times per day by myself only! When sending items for the newsletter, I do prefer to have them attached in a Word Document to save on typing time. Photos in jpg are fine at any size through the email. And yes. I can scan in regular photos as well if digital is not available. (Thank you to Anita Lowary who takes the Groton Photos for me that you see in the newsletters.)

Newsletter is generally worked on Monday and Tuesday after the last Sunday of the month at my home. It is printed on Wednesday or Thursday morning to be mailed on Thursday. If you have any late items, please contact me at home so that they are not missed.

Need a document from the church? I can usually send it via email in a short time!

Thank you and if you see anything I can do to help, feel free to ask.

Kay Brandt



More than a wreath and candles

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Lighting its candles is a common practice on the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Different color combinations for the candles are used depending upon the church or denomination. Some churches use four blue candles around the wreath with one white candle in the center, while some use all white candles. Many denominations light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth Sunday and a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The wreath, the candles and the colors all have symbolic significance. Here are just a few of the many and various interpretations:

- The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. Green represents eternal life.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents one thousand years. They total 4,000 years – the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.
- Purple, in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence.
- Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- The first purple candle signifies Hope.
- The second purple candle stands for Peace.
- The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy and signifies the halfway point of Advent.
- The final purple candle is for Love.
- The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior – "the light of the world."
- The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people – "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).





Groton UMW Clips from the Past in Celebration of 135 Years of UMW

December 15, 1993

UMW met Wednesday December 15th at 2:00 pm. The program "Hope In the Midst of Change" was given by Ann Rix and Elaine Wolken. Hope is the gift of the Holy Spirit—a sign of faith—linking one's life to God's larger purpose for creation. Marvel Johnson, Anita Lowary, Mary Hayenga, Gert Ruden, Jean Lowary, and Carolyn Snyder assisted with the program.

Special mission recognition pins were presented to Elaine Wolken and Anita Lowary—Elaine by her mother, Ann Rix and Anita by Jean Lowary, her mother-in-law. A monetary gift in their honor was given to the General Board of Global Ministries.

The meeting was opened by president Marjory Townsend. The treasurer reported the balance of \$1594.69 in the UMW account.

Jean Lowary moved bills be paid for new can opener to Diann and \$4.25 for sympathy cards to Omega Circle. Jean Schiltz sent a written thank you for the UMW Christmas store donation.

Diann and Gloria will check on price of artificial Christmas roping—125 feet. Real roping is \$39.60 for 100 feet.

Irene Voss donated a quilt top to be quilted and sent to Ingathering. Diann M. will check with her great aunt on cost of hand quilting and finishing.

Gloria Pharis, V.P., passed around lists of new 94 May Breakfast, Fall Festival, and Monthly Meetings.

Volunteers were asked to help with the soup supper December 19th following the Sunday School Christmas Program.

Meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Snyder, Secretary

December 17, 1997

Preceding the December 17th meeting, members enjoyed a Christmas potluck luncheon. The program leaders, Jolene Townsend and Marge Townsend, presented "Advent/Christmas—The Power to Bless". Several examples of how disadvantaged or abused children were salvaged by caring compassionate people were given. Pres. Gloria Pharis called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm with 14 present. The UMW Purpose was recited, and Gloria led devotions based on Micah 5:2.

Treasurer Carolyn Snyder outlined the revenue and expenses for the period. The balance on hand this date is \$4,211.50.

Linda Thurston reviewed the message for each of the officers and coordinators from the November issue of Central Heartline and Dakota Links. All officers and coordinators receive these quarterlies.

Jolene Townsend discussed the Prayer Chain and Spiritual Growth Committee plans to sponsor. Sign up sheets have been started, and an article will be placed in the next newsletter inviting others, especially shut-ins, to join the Prayer Chain.

A motion was made by Joyce Sundling to give the Eberharts \$50 for Christmas.

Gift to Mission baby cards are now presented on the birth of a baby, and the supply is depleted. Six cards at \$5 each will be ordered by Carolyn Snyder.

The large Bible on the altar is in need of repair. A motion was made to have it repaired at UMW expense. Jolene Townsend will arrange to have the work done.

Linda Thurston

inquired about possible UMW support for the UMYF group who wish to take a winter trip to Storm Mountain in February. A motion passed to pay \$20/youth toward camp fees.

There was a discussion regarding the need for suitable tablecloths to be used for showers, weddings, and other special occasions. A \$100 donation has been received to get the project started. Gloria named a committee of Jean Lowary, Jolene Townsend, and Twila Ruden to take measurements and get prices and samples for consideration.

Clare Brotherton, Secretary

HOPE
PEACE
Love Joy





Groton UMW Minutes - November 17th

The executive board met at 1:00 p.m. preceding the regular meeting. Plans for the 2005 year were reviewed and the board recommended the adoption of the proposed budget. The Christmas luncheon was planned.

Rev. Grant Piehl presented as program on Thanksgiving, entitled "In the Spirit of Thanksgiving". He included several interesting facts about the first Thanksgiving and heightened awareness of our many blessings and freedoms.

President Linda Thurston called the business meeting to order following the program. The PURPOSE was repeated in unison and Linda led a brief devotion. The minutes were read and approved. In the absence of the

treasurer, the president gave the financial report, which included the World Thank Offering amount of \$153.50 and the Fall Bazaar amount of \$1170.00. The proposed 2005 budget was approved at a total of \$3900.00. Of that the unit pledge to mission is \$1600.00 and \$565.00 goes to local missions. Gloria Pharis thanked the unit for her special recognition pin with sapphire and gold certificate.

The "Banquet" in Sioux Falls will sponsor a concert at Washington Pavilion at 2:00p.m. December 5th, the proceeds of which will be used for the Children's Christmas gift distribution administered by the Banquet. Other announcements included the Prayer Vigil at the church on December 3rd from

9 to 9:45 a.m. and the December 7th blood drive at the American Legion clubroom. UMW will furnish cookies, napkins, cups and juice.

The next meeting will be December 15th starting at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon served by the Executive committee. Members are asked to bring 3 dozen cookies or candy for the containers that will be packed and delivered to the shut-ins later that day.

As the meeting closed Jolene Townsend presented a Love Ribbon to Linda who is retiring as president and Mary Swisher presented a past president's pin to Linda.

Doris Zoellner and Vicki Strom served pumpkin pie and coffee following the meeting.

Groton December UMW Meeting

December 15, Wednesday, at 1:00 pm (note time change) will be the UMW Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Officers.

We ask that everyone bring 3 dozen cookies or candy to assemble for a Christmas Cookie Gifts to be delivered similar to the "Tea Party on Wheels" and also just a delivery to others with goodies. Groups will go out and have coffee with as many other members as possible. Even if you can't attend the UMW meeting, we will be in need of treats that day so we can deliver as many boxes as possible. Please help us spread the Christmas Spirit with this NEW Christmas Outreach Program.

Hostesses are Linda Thurston, Jolene Townsend, Twila Ruden, and Clare Brotherton. Program will be the "Delivering Gift Boxes of Treats"



Layette Kits

- 6 Cloth Diapers
 - 2 T-Shirts or OneSies
 - 2 Baby Washcloths
 - 2 Gowns or Sleepers
 - 2 Diaper Pins
 - 1 Sweater or Sweatshirt
 - 2 Receiving Blankets
-) All Items are to be New.
) Sweater or Sweatshirt must have a front opening with button or snaps for closure or a tie at the top.
) Knit and Crochet sweater patterns available from a UMW member, Church Office, or on the Web Site
) Articles of clothing should be 6-9 Months in Size.



Conde UMW Minutes - Nov 17th

The November 17th meeting of the Conde

UMW met with 8 members and one visitor present. Get Well and Thinking of You cards were sent to Betty Taylor, Alice Van Hatten, Ivy Nogle, Darlene Meyer, Irene Pfaff, and Janice Herman.

Patty Knoll led the world Thank Offering lesson on Gratitude and Service. We were made aware that we are all partners and called to service ministries, be it to the poor, where there is violence and oppression, or just helping to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Donna Hearnen gave the devotions using the devotional booklet. The meeting was opened by reciting the purpose.

The Activity Chairs were selected for 2005: Jan, Feb, March—Donna Walter assisted by Pat Siefken; April, May, June—Pat Siefken assisted by Cindy Smith; July, August, Sept—Cindy Smith

assisted by Jane Worlie; Oct, Nov, Dec—Jane Worlie assisted by Donna Hearnen; Jan, Feb, March of 2006—Donna Hearnen.

Date for the Soup Supper is February 27th.

Donna reviewed the programs and activities planned for 2005. The individual booklets will soon be ready.

The Unit will again buy Christmas gifts for a needy family.

Joyce Haskell and Judy Dirksen took a day trip visiting shut-ins from our church. It was a rewarding experience that all of us should be doing.

The General meeting on December 1st will begin with a Christmas lesson by Pat Siefken and Betty Jensen at 11:00. At noon Jane Worlie, Joyce Haskell, and Donna Hearnen will host a luncheon. Be sure to come and bring a friend.

Betty Jensen

Sunday School Can Collecting

The Conde Sunday School is collecting cans. The proceeds are going to the Heifer Program. You can drop your cans off at Marsha Murphy's home 425 4th St SW in Conde by her Garage or at Ann Menzia's home 285 Cedar St SW in Conde. We will also make arrangements to pick the cans up if you have some to donate please call Marsha at 382-5608 or Ann at 382-5237. We would like to thank everyone who has donated cans already. The kids have raised about \$70 with the cans and Sunday School Offerings. We hope to be able to buy a Heifer at the end of the year. **You may also wish to remove the tabs from the cans for the Ronald McDonald House

No Conde Sunday School Dec 26th & Jan 2nd

Stewardship Reminder Conde Church Members

It is getting close to the end of the year. If you haven't met your goal for "2004 Church Giving," it is a good time to take care of this commitment.

Conde UMC Mission Statement

The Conde United Methodist Church is a body of believers seeking to worship God; to proclaim the salvation of Christ the Lord; to increase the knowledge of the teachings of the Bible to all ages of people; to satisfy the spiritual and physical needs of all; and to instill in the people a sense of concern and obligation to the church, the community, and the world, through our church build on God the Rock.



Conde Ad Council Minutes - Nov 17th

In the absence of Chairman Darrel Haskell, Pat Siefken acted as presiding officer. The Mission Statement was read and Pat offered a word of prayer.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Jane Worlie gave a report on the income and expenses for the month of October. The income being \$5189.63 and expenses \$4414.79, so for the first time in several months, expenses were less than income.

Trustee's Report: Hand Rails in Bathroom—Marion Jensen & Jim Zeck put up one hand rail in the women's bathroom. It was decided that another one should be installed.

UMW Report: The General Meeting was held at 2:00 on Nov 17th. Upcoming Events include: Feb 6th—UMW Sunday and Feb 27th—Soup & Sandwich Meal

Missions Committee Report: This committee, consisting of Chairman Donna Hearnen, Pat Siefken, & Lois Trapp, met prior to the Council Meeting. They started making up a schedule of projects and activities for the year 2005. Some of the activities included are: 1) *Observance of the Six Special Sundays*, 2) *Collection of items or money for UMCOR Kits—Dec04—Layettes, Jan & Feb—Sewing Kits, April & May—Health Kits, August & Sept—School Kits, Nov & Dec—Baby Layettes*, 3) *Habitat Houses—Continue with optional donation given on Birthdays*. Tentative plan to have an official visit and give information about this mission., 4) *World Hunger—Continue with 4th Sunday collection*, 5) *Aluminum Cans & Tabs—A project for Sunday School with tabs removed for Ronald McDonald House and cans collected for cash*, 6) *Work Day for Banners and School Bags—a time of fellowship to make some new church banners and bags for school kits*, 7) *Banquet—coordinate plans with the Groton Church as date has been set*.

Sunday School Report: Marsha Murphy reported that Christmas Program would be on December 19th during the Sunday Morning Worship Service. There will be no Sunday School on December 26 and January 2. There are now three age groups for Sunday School, thus, three classes. Attendance has been good. Marsha reported that Pop Cans could be dropped off at her or Ann Menzia's house. The cash from these will be donated to the Heifer Project.

NEW BUSINESS;

Confirmation: There are six or seven youth who are interested in attending a Confirmation Class. The parents, mentors, & young people will meet with Rev Piehl to decide on a time for their classes and get information on what he expects of the participants. Rev Piehl already has a Confirmation Class scheduled in Groton, so the Conde Class will have to work around that time. The planning meeting will be 7:30 on November 21st.

Stewardship and Dakotas United Methodist Foundation: The Conde Church has some money in the United Methodist Foundation, and the Council felt that it would be interesting for the congregation to know more about this fund. Pat Siefken is going to contact Bruce Blumer, Executive Director, from Mitchell to see if he would be able to come up and talk to church members and constituents. He may also have some ideas on how to improve Stewardship in the Conde Church.

Missions Statement: It was decided that the Mission Statement should be revised and shortened. A committee of Cindy Smith, Donna Hearnen, Pat Siefken, and Darrel Haskell will work on this.

Church Decorating: Advent begins on November 28th, so the tree and Advent Candle need to be in place. Time for doing this will be 6:30 on Monday, November 22nd. The Christmas decorations need to be down by Jan 2, 2005.

Communications Person: Getting news in the Church Newsletter needs to be improved. It was decided that it would be good to have a certain person designated to collect the news and also take pictures for the newsletter.

Christmas Eve Service & Offering: The Candle Light Service will be at 7:00 and the offering will be used to help cover expenses when we serve the "Banquet" in Sioux Falls next June.

Poinsettias: Those wanting to donate money for Poinsettias to decorate the Church should contact Donna Walter.

January 2004 Planning Meeting with James Persons: There was discussion of goals set at this meeting. Three that were carried out include: Food and other items taken to shut-ins, Lay participation in Sunday Morning Service, and having church building accessible for community and church activities.

December Council Meeting: The meeting will be on Monday, December 13th at 7:00

Persons Present at Meeting: Jane Worlie, Pat Siefken, Marion Jensen, Donna Hearnen, Cindy Smith, Rev. Grant Piehl, and Marsha Murphy.



Our Church Happenings

December



December 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dec 3 : Groton UMW Prayer Vigil for Holidays 9-9:45 am

Dec 5: Conde Confirmation 1:00 pm

Dec 7: Groton Community Blood Drive (Sponsored by UMW)

Dec 8: Groton UMYF 6:15, supper provided

Dec 8: Groton Confirmation 7:00

Dec 8: Groton Choir Practice 7:30

Dec 12: Groton Sunday School Christmas Prog & UMYF Meal

Dec 12: Groton Final Day Collecting for "The Banquet" Birthday Box

Dec 12: Groton Serve Coffee & Worship at Beverly Healthcare

Dec 12: Conde Confirmation 1:00

Dec 13: Conde Ad Council 7:00

Dec 15: Groton Last day to bring Canned Goods for Safe Harbor

Dec 15: Groton UMW Luncheon 1:00 (Time Change)

Dec 15: Groton Confirmation 6:00, lunch provided

Dec 19: Conde Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec 19: Conde Confirmation 1:00

Dec 24: Groton Christmas Eve 5:00

Dec 24: Conde Christmas Eve 7:00

Dec 26: Newsletter Items Due!

Jan 2: Worship Times will change!

Groton 9 am worship

Conde 11 am worship