



UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

Groton/Conde Parishes



February 2005

umc@grotonsdchurches.com



People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.
—Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Penance

You may have heard this story before, but it bears repeating. In his BOOK OF LAUGHS Bennett Cerf tells a story that illustrates what penance can be.

One cold winter day at the police court they brought a trembling old man before Fiorello La Guardia, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. His family, he said, was starving.

"I've got to punish you," La Guardia declared, "The law makes no exceptions. I can do nothing but sentence you to a fine of \$10 dollars." But La Guardia was reaching into his pocket as he added, "Well here's the \$10 to pay your fine. And now I remit the fine."

"Furthermore," he declared, "I'm going to fine everybody in this court room 50cents for living in a town where a man has

to steal bread in order to eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant!"

The hat was passed, and a shocked old man left the courtroom with a stake of \$47.50



We begin Lent this month, February 9 is Ash Wednesday. Perhaps this short antidote can help us to understand a little better. God is our Judge. Whatever our excuse we have done wrong, sinned. But Christ pays the penalty for us by his act of love on Calvary and we not only go free, but God blesses us as we go to live our lives and sin no more...

May the Blessings of God be yours in the season of Lent and always..

Peace,

Pastor Grant





Member Update

I received a telephone call from Haida Boyd, and thought I would share some of her story. She said basic training was very difficult, but she made it. She was transferred to Mississippi and was in the hurricane. Now she is stationed in Missouri and thinks she will be there for a while.

She is very happy with her job and says the air force is taking very good care of her. She has a nice apartment and the food is

excellent. She also said this was her 1st Christmas without snow! Her address is: Haida Boyd, 770 Mitchell Ave., Box #1094, Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

Linda Thurston

Thank you to everyone who furnished cookies and worked at the blood drive. We had 56 heroes that day.

Linda Thurston



Thank You

To Methodist Church Members

The Padfield's would like to thank you for the Christmas Offering for Randy's medical expense for his kidney transplant. We would like to thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers doing this time.

Randy is schedule to have his transplant on Feb. 23 if everything

goes well with his check up on Feb.16. My sister is the person donating the kidney. God bless her.

Again thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers.

God bless you all. The Padfield Family



Lay Ministry Workshops—February 13th

The Lay Ministry Workshops will be held at the Groton UMC on February 13th from 3:45 pm–6:00 pm. Workshops include:

Pastor Parish Relation Committee: I don't want this to be just another meeting! What are we to do when we meet?

Christian Education—Elementary & Jr. High: Rotation Sunday School plan

that works for large and small churches. New Insights on educational ideas.

Worship: How can we use words, music, and setting in our worship services?

Adult Education & Leading Small Groups: Tips on leading Adults in various learning situations.

**Camping
Information is
Now Available!
Pick one up
today! Camp
Scholarships
are available.**

DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Dakota Wesleyan University will be performing here on February 26th, Saturday evening at 7:30pm, with a community concert by the college vocal group, the Highlanders and the Woodwind Ensemble. On Sunday morning, the 27th, the students will be presenting our worship service.

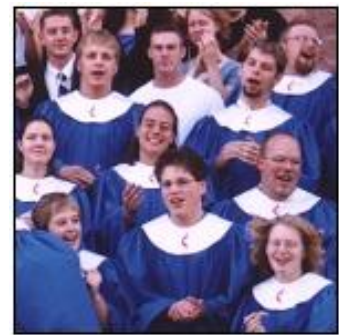
We need your help—first to attend the Saturday community event and invite your friends to come along. Secondly, we have been asked to find housing for the students and instructors. We need 6-7 homes to house 15 students and the instructors. Please contact Carna Atherton-Pray if you can help out with housing. Included in the housing will be providing the students at your home with breakfast Sunday morning.

Saturday evening UMW will be sponsoring a Potluck at 6:00 pm for

the students. UMW will prepare the main dish. If you are planning to attend, please sign up in the fellowship hall when you go through for coffee after worship. Or call Linda Thurston.

The **Highlanders**, a small, select group of singers, rehearse each day. They are the principal music outreach group from DWU and perform quite often in the Mitchell community and throughout the upper Midwest. Highlanders tours have taken them across the U.S. and Europe. The DWU Choir and Highlanders traveled to Italy in May, 2002.

The **Woodwind Ensemble** is one of DWU's newest performing ensembles. Formed in 2001, they offer performance opportunities for instrumentalists.



**Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.**



Grandpa's "drug" problem

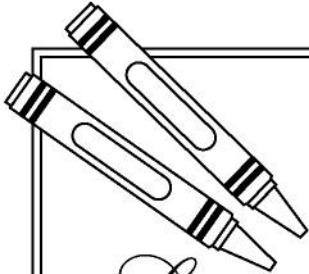
My generation just might have been lucky. I had a "drug" problem when I was young, but I turned out all right anyway.

- I was drug to church.
- I was drug to family reunions.
- I was drug out of bed in the early morning.
- I was drug by the ears when I was disrespectful.
- I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those "drugs" still run through my veins and they affect my behavior — everything I do, say and think.

Signed,
Grandpa



























Just for KIDS













Love is the greatest commandment!









What did Jesus say when asked about the greatest commandment of God?













Write the first letter of each picture on the lines below.























Mark 12:30-31

Answer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and ... Love your neighbor as yourself.

Conde Confirmation Class
Each Sunday at 1:00 pm



Groton UMYF Schedule

Feb 6—Collecting for “Souper Bowl Sunday”

Feb 9—Serving Ash Wednesday soup and Sandwich supper at 6:00 pm and attending Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm



Confirmation Class



Groton Confirmation Schedule

Feb 2—6:00 pm
 (lunch provided)

Feb 9—7:00

Feb 16—7:15

Feb 23—7:15

Groton Prayer Chain

To start the prayer chain, please call Jolene Townsend, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, or Kay Brandt. They will initiate the e-mail prayer chain and call Marlys Rodman to start the phone prayer chain.

If you have any questions, comments, additions, or changes; please call Jolene Townsend or Kay Brandt.

Phone Prayer Chain

Marlys Rodman 397-4570
Jean Lowary 397-8228
Audrey Thurston 397-8493
Gert Ruden 397-8211
Florann Norris 397-2638
Mary Swisher 397-8259
Gloria Pharis 397-2375
Mary Jane Schott 397-8588
Doris Zoellner 397-2417
Vicki Strom 397-2674
Marjorie Townsend 298-5221
Marjorie Overacker 397-8562
Darlys Kampa 395-6996
JoAnn Krueger 397-8597
Marvel Johnson 397-2425
Lorraine Bartz 397-8345
Carolyn Snyder 397-8396
Mary Ann Whede 397-8330

If the person you are calling is not home, please call the next person on the list to keep the phone chain going. If they have an answering machine, leave a message and then still call the next person on the list.



E-Mail Prayer Chain

(Email is just received and does not require being forwarded, just a moment of prayer.)

Connie Nilsson
Carna Atherton-Pray
Christi Swenson
Kelli Hanson
Mary Hayenga
Joyce Walter
Anita Lowary
Clare Brotherton
Elaine Wolken
Linda Thurston
Michelle Kramer
Kristi Hawkins
Twila Ruden
Caralee Heitmann
Chris Nyberg
Sue Rock
Kay Brandt
Betty Strom
Jeanne Wanous
Church
Rev Piehl
Marsha Wienk
Lon Gellhaus
Meri Erickson
Fran Sippel
Jodi Sternhagen
Jolene Townsend
Brenda Madsen
Kami Lipp
Michelle Padfield
Crystal Strom
Karla Pasteur
Laura Ptacek
Audrey Miller
Linda Johnson



Heroic

St. Valentine

We probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remem-

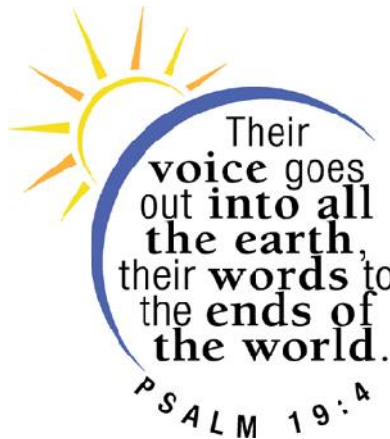
Conde UMW Minutes

The Conde UMW met on January 19th at 11:00. Jane Worlie gave the lesson THEN AND NOW: 136 YEARS OF MISSION, the pledge service for 2005. Our commitment to serving Christ, thru education, prayer, and sacrificial giving have from the beginning been the cornerstones on which the mission program of the United Methodist Women and our predecessor organizations were built. At the close of the meeting, the pledges were collected and placed on the worship table. The members then retired to the dining table where a delicious lunch was prepared and served by Donna Walter and Joyce Haskell. Betty Taylor, VP presided over the business meeting. Patty Knoll gave the devotions from the Conference booklet. Cards were sent to Bill Morton, Dolores Grimes, Marjorie Wright, Alice Van Hatten, and Darlene Meyer. The Treasurer reported \$1424.61 balance at the end of the year. Our next meeting will be on

February 9, lesson given by Patty Knoll, lunch committee is Betty Jensen and Pat Siefken. Due to a conflict the soup supper is changed. Jane and Patty are in charge of the super and will be deciding on another date.

May Fellowship was discussed. Patty said that she is looking for a play. April 27th has been chosen for the date.

UMW day has been set for February 6th. Chairperson, Betty Taylor assigned parts for the service and asked everyone to be in the choir.



Sewing Kits (Jan/Feb Ingathering Collection)

-) 3 yards of uncut cotton or cotton blend, solid color or print fabric
-) 1 package of needles
-) 1 spool of thread
-) 5-8 matching buttons
-) 1 pair of sewing scissors



Conde Ash Wednesday Schedule

8:00 am Service

9:00 am UMW
Lesson by Patty
Knoll-Call to Prayer
& Self Denial

10:00 am UMW
Business Meeting

11:00 am UMW
lunch-all are invited
to attend

Potluck in Conde February 27th

Lenten Bible Study

Sunday Mornings

9:30-10:30 am

Starting February
13th

Ending Palm Sunday

Study is written by Rick
Warren, author of
"Purpose Driven Life"
based on the movie "The
Passion of Christ"

Groton UMW Minutes - January 19

Executive Committee—1:00 p.m.

Planned UM W Sunday; service entitled “Thoughts on Prayer”. Dr. Marva Gellhaus will give the sermon and Cindy Haskell of Conde will have some special music. Greeters, candle lighters ushers and readers volunteered.

Groton’s sister unit will Thompson, N.D.

The May Breakfast was discussed. It is the unit’s largest fund-raiser.

World Day of Prayer will be March 4th at 2:00 p.m. at our church. Mary Hayenga is coordinating the program and arrangements.

The Reading program was discussed in detail. Several of the books on the shelf will expire in 2005. Members are urged to read them this year for credit.

Business Meeting—2:00 p.m.

Jolene Townsend, president, opened the meeting. The **PURPOSE** was sung with Yvonne Lange at the piano. Fifteen members were present.

The 2005 officers were installed by Linda Thurston, immediate past-president. The hymn, “Here I Am Lord”, was sung in unison.

Jolene proceeded with the business, stating that Linda’s leadership would be a hard act to follow. Linda was commended for a job well done. The minutes were read and approved.

Thank you notes were read from United Blood Services for the Dec. 7th blood drive; Linda Thurston for her past president’s pin; Ada and Bob Lower for the unit’s donation to Children of the Harvest; Rev. Grant and Eileen Piehl for the Christmas gift; Safe Harbor for the donation; and Marlys Rodman, Clarence and Ida Hannon and Mary Jane Schott for the Christmas goody boxes they received and visits from those delivering. Eunice Sperry said it was nice to get the goodies.

Jolene and Mary Swisher thanked the group for the bouquets of flowers they received for perfect attendance in 2004. The bouquets were personal gifts from Linda.

The financial report was given by the treasurer and accepted.

Committee Reports

Spiritual Growth—The Prayer Chain list will be clarified. There is a list of those who will receive it by e-mail and a list of telephone people. Several members will be able to start the e-mail and the telephone list will be operated as before. Some members expressed feelings that “Prayer really helps.”

Membership and Nurture Outreach—The Secret Angel list is being updated and the May tea is being planned.

Social Action Report—None. Education and Interpreta-

tion Report—None.

Secretary of Program Resources—The books expiring in 2005 were listed. Four ladies read the required amount in 2004 for recognition.

Nominations Report—None. Executive Report—Planned UMW Sunday

Old Business

Linda thanked those who helped and furnished cookies for the blood drive. This was the second year for UMW and we are on the list to be asked again.

New Business

There will be an open house bridal shower for Andrea Snoozy on January 29th from 2-4 p.m. UMW Sunday will be February 6th.

The Lenten services this year will follow the same format as last year. Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. there will be a soup and sandwich supper followed by a meditation by Rev. Piehl. The offering will go to the group serving and expenses will be paid by the church. Ash Wednesday is February 9th and the UMYF will serve. UMW will serve on February 16th which is its regular meeting day. The meeting is at 2:00 p.m.

The Dakota Wesleyan Highlanders and the Woodwind Ensemble will present a community concert at our church on February 26th at 7:30 p.m. Sunday morning they will present the morning worship service. Saturday evening there will be a potluck supper and fellowship time at 6:00 p.m. at Groton. Sunday noon Conde will have the meal following the worship service there. Homes will be needed for the guests to stay overnight. Linda Thurston was appointed chairperson for the Saturday evening potluck.

The World Day of Prayer service is entitled “Let Our Light Shine”, written by the women of Poland. If anyone has Polish memorabilia, please let Mary Hayenga know.

May Breakfast—Volunteers are needed in all positions. Please let the officers know if you can help in any way. A date in early February will be set to discuss details.

The meeting adjourned.

Marjory Townsend and Jean Lowary served tasty sandwiches and chips for lunch.

Upcoming Events

UMW Sunday—February 6th.

Ash Wednesday—February 9th

Sewing Kits for Ingathering and Reading Program

Dakota Wesleyan Highlanders—February 26th and 27th





Lincoln and the will of God

Do you believe that “There is a divinity that shapes our ends,” as Shakespeare’s Hamlet did? Abraham Lincoln certainly believed that was true.

In a letter to Mrs. Eliza Gurney, Lincoln referred to God’s providence by saying, “We must work earnestly in the best light he gives us, trusting that so working still conduces to the great ends he ordains.” Lincoln thought that God was at work in human history ordaining, judging, guiding and working against evil while uplifting the faithful.

Lincoln would have agreed with Mary’s song of praise in Luke 1:51-52, NRSV: “He [God] has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly”

Abraham Lincoln was intensely religious and had an unwavering faith in the power of God working “to the great ends he ordains.”

—Charles Ferrell

The prayer at Valley Forge

When Washington was leading his troops in the struggle for independence, he was greatly discouraged during the harsh winter the army was gathered at Valley Forge. A resident of Valley Forge, Isaac Potts, was walking through the woods when he heard a man praying aloud. He peeked through some trees to see that it was General Washington himself!

Isaac Potts later told his pastor, the Rev. Nathaniel Snowden, that the prayer he heard was “a plaintive sound” coming from a man in need of divine help. Mr. Potts went on to say that he saw Washington on his knees, his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He heard Washington beseeching God for aid and direction. “Such a prayer,” Isaac said, “I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying.”



Presidents' Day

Nearly all men can stand
adversity, but if you want to
test a man’s character,
give him power.
—Abraham Lincoln

from
the **Heart**

Groton UMW Meeting

February 16

2:00 pm

Safe Harbor

Program with Guest

Speaker, Amy

Krueger

Hostesses

Mary Swisher

Marvel Johnson

Coming Up:

World Day of Prayer

Hosted by Us

March 4th

Groton Ad Council Minutes January

Fifteen members were present on Jan. 12 to consider the following agenda items:

Lay leaders job descriptions were given out to committee chairmen and it was suggested that regular monthly meeting dates be set prior to the admin. Council meeting.

The music & worship committee is planning for a contemporary service based on the Lord's Prayer for the 5th Sunday in Jan.

The UMW members delivered candy & cookies to various people during the holiday season. Our church will host the World Day of Prayer on March 4.

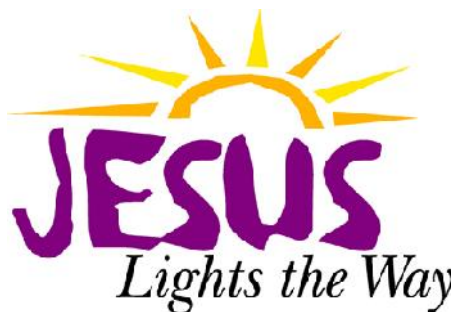
Our end of the year finances ended positively. The Pastor's Challenge raised \$7,000. The Men's Dinner profit was \$1,583, which will be used as a fundraiser kickoff for roof repairs. The Christmas Eve collection of \$521 was given to the Randy Padfield medical fund.

The Missions Committee is now collecting sewing kit items for Ingathering

The Dakota Wesleyan Univ. Highlanders singing group and woodwind ensemble will perform at our church on Sat, Feb. 26. They will also present our Sunday service. Our worship & music committee will coordinate housing. Contact Carna Atherton-Pray or Rev Grant if you are willing to provide housing.

Lenten Services will again be a soup & sandwich supper at 6:00 pm with worship at 7:00.

The next committee will be February 2, at 8:00 pm



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.

Groton Stewardship Report Jan 2005

Average
Wkly Giving
\$1,119

Needed Weekly to
Meet Church Needs
\$1,874

Average Weekly
Attendance
67

Total Building Fund
Offerings
\$70





Lent is almost here

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, comes on February 9, 2005. We Christians observe Lent for 40 days (excluding Sundays) to examine our spiritual condition and to strive to improve our relationship with God.

Lent is also a period of spiritual preparation for Easter Sunday, the greatest day on the Christian calendar.

During Lent most churches have additional services. Some offer special Bible study events

or classes in strengthening the spiritual life. It is a good time to study the life of a great Christian from the past and the ways that person developed closeness to God.

It's important that each Christian practice spiritual disciplines to "show that you are a letter of Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, NRSV).

March Church Family Committee

Ann & Gerald Rix

Mendy & James Jones

Melissa & Neil Gilbert

Joy & Don Walter

Mary Ann & Bob Wehde

Marjorie & Roger Overacker

Laurel & Monte McNickle

& Murdock

Jeanne Wanous

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Florrann Norris

Christine & Sherwin Nyberg

Jack Oliver

Betty & Charlie Strom

Dwight Strom

Ruth Thompson

Richard Voss

Marsha & Wayne Wienk

Diann & Brad Morehouse,

Jessie & Desiree

Honorary Members

Clara Rix

Margaret Blader

Dick & Gert Ruden

Eunice Sperry

Extra Responsibilities

J Potluck 2nd Sunday

J Shovel Snow from doorways before Church

J Clean the kitchen

J Order Easter Lilies

J Water the Easter Lilies

J March 20 Palm Sunday, purple altar cloths

J March 25 Good Friday with no color if we have a midweek service

J March 27 Easter Sunday, white altar cloths and change banners to Easter and arrange the lilies on the altar.



Groton Lent Schedule

Feb 9

Ash Wednesday
Service

6:00 pm

Soup & Sandwich
Supper served by
UMYF followed by a
short service

Feb 16

6:00 pm

Soup & Sandwich
Supper served by
UMW followed by a
short service

Feb 23

6:00 pm

Soup & Service
Supper served by
Mission Committee
followed by a short
service



Conde Ad Council - January

Met Jan. 10 @ 7:00 p.m. with 6 persons in attendance. Meeting called to order by Chair followed by prayer led by Rev. Piehl.

Treasurer's report showed an income of \$2314.57 and expenses of \$4040.44 for December 2004.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Activities discussed and scheduled:

UMW will be in charge of Feb. 6 Sunday services. A Soup & Sandwich Luncheon will be rescheduled.

Potluck Noon meals:

Jan. 9 with Cindy Smith in charge

Feb. 27 with Jane Worlie in charge

March 13 with Donna Hearnen in charge

Dakota Wesleyan Highlander will be in Groton on Feb. 26 for a 7:00 pm concert. They will be at the Conde Sunday Feb. 27 worship service with a free will offering going to the Highlanders. The worship service will be followed by a Potluck meal.

Lent Activities:

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 9) service at 8:00 AM.

Good Friday service (March 25) at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service (March 27) at 8:00 AM

A **Lenten Bible study** was discussed. A sign-up sheet will be sent around during church worship to see who is interested and what days will work best for participants. Pat Siefken is in charge of finding the study material.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on March 6. A calendar of giving activities/opportunities for each day starting on Feb. 5 until the March offering date will be given to members as incentive for giving to this offering.

Feb. 13 will be a **Lay Ministry training** event to be held in Groton.

Pat Siefken and Rev. Ryan Mutzenberger from Claremont are working on the planning for the event.

Pat Siefken had been in contact with Bruce Blumer regarding questions of our monies in the **Methodist Foundation**. It was decided to see if Bruce Blumer could visit with the congregation regarding the questions. Pat will try to secure a date. Suggested dates are April 17 or 24.

NEXT MEETING: Feb. 15 @ 7 p.m.



*The Conde
United
Methodist
Church is
seeking to satisfy
the spiritual and
physical needs of
all.*



I am the LORD
which exercise
*loving
kindness,*
judgment, and
RIGHTEOUSNESS
in the earth:
for in these
things I delight,
saith the **LORD**
Jeremiah 9:24



GROTON/CONDE
PARISHES

February 2005						
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					

Sunday, February 6th
UMW Sunday
Souper Bowl Sunday
Groton Potluck
Join Us!

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.GROTONSDCHURCHES.CO

M

Our Church Happenings

- Feb 2 - Groton Confirmation 6:00 pm (supper provided)
Groton Ad Council Meeting 8:00 pm
- Feb 6 - UMW Sunday & Souper Bowl Sunday & Groton Potluck
Groton Potluck Sunday
Conde Confirmation Class 1:00 pm
- Feb 9 - Conde Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 am
Conde UMW 9:00 am
Conde UMW Business Meeting 10:00 am
Conde UMW Lunch 11:00 am
Groton Ash Wednesday Supper 6:00 - Service 7:00
Groton Confirmation 7:15 pm
- Feb 13 - Conde Lenten Bible Study Starts 9:30 am
Conde Confirmation Class 1:00 pm
Lay Ministry Workshops 3:45-6:00 pm
- Feb 15 - Conde Ad Council 7:00 pm
- Feb 16 - Groton UMW Meeting 2:00 pm
Groton Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:00 pm - Service 7:00
Groton Confirmation 7:15 pm
- Feb 20 - Conde Confirmation Class 1:00 pm
- Feb 23 - Groton Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:00 pm - Service 7:00
Groton Confirmation 7:15 pm
- Feb 26 - Dakota Wesleyan Concert at Groton 7:30 pm
- Feb 27 - Worship by Dakota Wesleyan at Groton 9:00 am
Conde Potluck after Church
Conde Confirmation Class 1:00 pm