



## What's a prayer labyrinth?

A labyrinth is a circuitous path that people walk, stopping at various sites to meditate, reflect on their life and find peace, renewal and direction for living.

## Check out the labyrinth at the Granary Sculptural Park

[www.granaryfinearts.org/labyrinth.php](http://www.granaryfinearts.org/labyrinth.php)



## Groton/Conde Parishes

Dear Friends,

My life has been rather hectic here this past month, and I know that many of you can relate to that statement. This week at camp, one of the worship services focused on “stuff and priorities.” Essentially what the service focused on was our good stewardship of everything that we have from God.

One of the visual demonstrations in that service involved two, one gallon jars; a jar of rocks and a jar of water. The jars symbolized our lives, the rocks symbolized God, family and the church. The water symbolized you and I as individuals. Both jars were filled to the top. The jar filled with rocks, still had room for sand (the other stuff of life). When the sand was poured into the jar it worked its way down and around the rocks filling all the nooks and crannies. And then the question was asked if the gallon jar was full, the presenter then poured water into the jar and the sand absorbed the water and allowed for even more “stuff” in the jar.

But when the jar of water was used in the demonstration, it was a different story. The jar was filled to the brim with water and when sand and rocks were added to the water the jar simply overflowed as it could not contain the volume of mass. The point of this parable is that with proper structuring of our priorities in life, we can have a fuller more abundant life. Did you notice that the jar filled with rocks (God) was able to hold more stuff? But when you tried to add rocks (God) to a jar that was already full the jar overflowed.

Friends, if you and I desire to have a full and abundant life in Christ and live joyfully in the church (the community of God) we must put God first and re-evaluate our priorities. Perhaps a place to start would be in the book of Acts, in chapter 2, where we read in vs. 42, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” And again in vs. 46-47, “Day by day as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The early church in Acts, had their priorities in order and cared for one another, and do know what happened? God was so pleased with their stewardship that many who were newly saved were added to their care and community. It is my hope that you and I can model the example found in the book of Acts as we work tirelessly and joyfully for the community of God; the church. And then with our priorities in place things won’t seem so hectic.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Matt





**Sympathies to the family of Vicki Strom who passed away July 28th**



### Groton VBS

August 8-12 from 5:30-8:30. The theme this year will be amusement park/circus. Everyone must help in order to make this a success. Please let Melissa know what you can do! 605-397-4001 Make sure you attend the meeting whether you can help a little or a lot! Wednesday August 4th at 6 pm!



**Groton Sunday School Starts Soon! Call Melissa and VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

**Groton UMC**



- Marlys Rodman 397-4570
- Audrey Thurston 397-8493
- Gert Ruden 397-8211
- Pat Dahlquist 397-2616
- Mary Swisher 397-8337
- Gloria Pharis 397-2375
- Doris Zoellner 397-2417
- Marjorie Townsend 298-5221
- Darlys Kampa 395-6996
- DeLoris Knoll 397-2681
- Marvel Johnson 397-2425
- Mary Ann Whede 397-8330

\*Currently 82 on email prayer chain. If you are not on this list or the email list, please notify the church office.

### The boy had it right

Chris Harrison, a minister's wife, likes to tell the story about a day she was running late for an appointment. She needed to take her 3-year-old son to the babysitter's house; however, her car wasn't cooperating. Finally, after several false starts, it started firing. "It's about time," she said with disgust.

"God helped us," the little lad said calmly.

Happy with his response, his mom told him, "Thank you."

"Not me," said the child. "Thank God."





## Our Church Celebrations

### Groton Celebrations

- Aug 1 Bert Raap
- Aug 2 David Strom  
Dylan Graf  
Jessica & Brent Morehouse
- Aug 3 John & Lori Seelye  
Lance & Kristi Hawkins  
Michelle Kramer
- Aug 4 Craig & Kim Weber
- Aug 5 Gerald Rix
- Aug 7 Kelli Hanson  
Sherwin Nyberg
- Aug 8 Brad & Diann Morehouse  
Yvonne Lange
- Aug 9 Jackson Wells  
Loel Schott
- Aug 10 Dolly McCarlson
- Aug 12 Amber Wolken  
Tom Lipp
- Aug 13 Logan Nilsson
- Aug 14 Doug Bahr
- Aug 16 Alissa & Michael Wells  
Jim Jones  
Nathan Gellhaus  
Ralph Breikreutz  
Rose Tewksbury  
Sam Furman
- Aug 17 Bill & Wanda Zoellner

- Aug 19 Amanda Seelye  
Gert Ruden  
Sherwin & Chris Nyberg  
Tia Marie Zoellner  
William Zoellner

- Aug 20 Marc Sippel
- Aug 22 Virginia Breikreutz
- Aug 28 Rob & Jeanne Wanous
- Aug 29 Chuck Padfield
- Aug 30 Emma Jo Schinkel  
Nathan Atherton
- Aug 31 Don & Joy Walter  
Joy Walter  
Katelyn Hawkins

### Conde Celebrations

- Aug 1 Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 5 Myron & Joan Fahrenwald
- Aug 8 Loren & Pat Siefken
- Aug 10 Cindy Smith
- Aug 12 Cody Evans
- Aug 16 Brandon Smith
- Aug 20 Richard & Jane Worlie
- Aug 23 Jim & Mona Baldrige  
Nicklos Menzia
- Aug 26 Pamela Hanson
- Aug 30 Carl Hanson
- Aug 31 Collin Ragels

## School Kits

### School Kit Items Value: \$11 per kit

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro®, snap or button) and place items in the bag. Patterns are available from UMCOR Sager Brown. All items in the kits must be new.



Groton UMW  
No Meeting in  
August

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Conde UMW

Wednesday

August 18th 10 AM

Program

"For the Love of

John - John's Letters

by Pat Siefken

Hostesses

Donna Hearnen &

Patty Knoll

**School Kits** are being assembled for In-Gathering and other work. Also, school bags will be needed. Many stores have their school supplies on sale now. If you would rather not shop, you may donate money for them. In Conde, please see Donna Hearnen.



## Welcome Pastor Matt

Groton Roundup Picnic was well attended. Great fellowship, games, music, and home made ice cream cones!



## God's powerful Word

The Bible contains about 800,000 words, depending on the translation. This is about four times as many words as are found in a book of average length.

Although the Bible is so long and deals with the greatest themes that can engage the human mind, its vocabulary is singularly limited. It uses only 6,000 different words, a very small number compared to the 20,000 words that Shakespeare employed while writing his plays.

Not only is the Bible's vocabulary limited, but the average word in it contains only five letters. However, many of these short words are full of the deepest meanings and are worthy of earnest study. For example, consider these five-letter words: grace, peace, faith, saved, serve, glory and Jesus.

## 2010-2011 Sunday School Registration

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

(All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders please include middle names for Bibles.)

Child's grade: \_\_\_\_\_ (Will be entering Fall 2010.)

Age and Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*THERE WILL BE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY OTHER SUNDAY FOR 7-12<sup>th</sup> GRADE.**

**Please sign up for one of the following. If every family helps with one area, the SS year will be successful.**

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Music Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Music Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

VBS Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant VBS Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you in advance for your help with the Sunday school program.**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM TO: Church Office OR**

**Melissa Gilbert @ 709 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Groton, SD 57445. Please return by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

**Please return printed copy for SS records.**

Education Committee

## Groton Boy Scout Troop 264 News

A pancake feed and bake sale fundraiser was held Saturday, July 17 at the Groton United Methodist Church. The scouts, along with a few adult helpers, cooked and served pancakes and sausage, coffee and juice. Scoutmaster Clint Fjelstad presented the scouts with their newly earned Boy Scout Badges. Proceeds from the breakfast and bake sale will be used to help send the boys to Camp Wilderness in northern Minnesota.

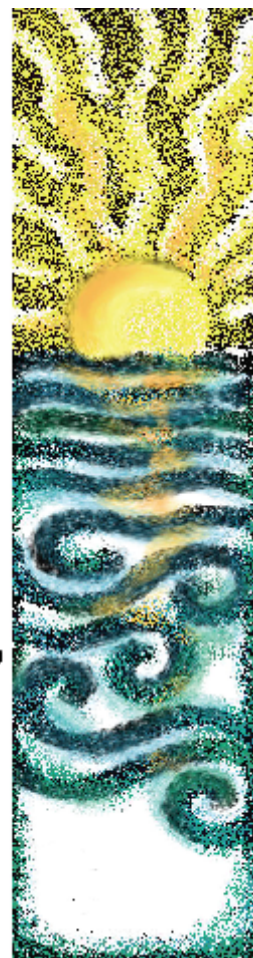
Pictured: Joe Groeblichhoff, Dillon Freeman, Nathan Fjelstad, Tevin Abeln, Peyton Jondahl, Scoutmaster Clint Fjelstad.



## The joy of coloring

In his book *Dangerous Wonder*, the late youth-ministry pioneer Mike Yaconelli debunks the idea that Christianity is “all about coloring within the lines and coloring well.” He writes: “God’s grace is so outside the lines of our understanding that we can only stand in awe and wonder. Christianity is not about learning how to live within the lines; Christianity is about the joy of coloring. The grace of God is preposterous enough to accept as beautiful a coloring that anyone else would reject as ugly.

the scribbling to the heart of the scribbler — a scribbler who is similar to two thieves who hung on crosses on either side of Jesus. One of the two asked Jesus to please accept his scribbled and sloppy life into the kingdom of God ... and he did. Preposterous. And very good news for the rest of us scribblers.”



“The grace of God sees beyond



## Groton Ad Council July Meeting

The Administrative Council and Pastor Matt enjoyed getting to know each other at our first meeting together.

It was decided to continue having the Groton worship services begin at 11:00 a.m. for the foreseeable future. The Conde congregation is agreeable to this plan.

The trustees are looking at a number of items that should be considered for repair or update in the next year to prepare our church property for our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in August of 2011.



## Groton Family Committee - September

Crystal & Doug Sippel  
 JoAnn & Richard Krueger  
 Kay Brandt  
 Pat Dahlquist  
 Joyce & Allen Walter  
 Darlys Kampa  
 Twila Ruden  
 Gloria & Harry Pharis  
 Michelle & Chuck Padfield  
 Ruby Luce  
 Marge Townsend  
 Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt  
 Rodney Boehmer  
 Bob & Mary Ann Wehde

Honorary Members

- Eugene Luce
- Ruth Thompson
- Richard Voss

### September Extra Responsibilities

- Take Care of lawn as necessary
- Clean N Storage Room & 1st NE Sunday School Room and the Hallway
- Potluck 2nd Sunday (Rally Sunday)
- Sept 5 White Altar Cloths
- Sept 12 Green Altar Cloths

September 2010						
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		



### Groton Stewardship Report July 2010

Average Wkly Giving  
\$1,878

Needed Wkly for Church Mission  
\$1,929

Average Weekly Attendance  
60

Total Building Fund Donations  
\$40

## Sounds fishy

Seen on a church signboard in northern Minnesota one summer: "Sure, you can worship God with a fishing pole in your hand, but when was the last time a wall-eye told you, 'Your sins are forgiven?'"



Groton Mission Statement  
 "Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."



August 2010						
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				

## Our Church Happenings

Aug 4 Groton VBS Meeting 6 PM - Everyone needs to attend so we can organize and have VBS! If everyone does something, - it will be a success!

Aug 4 Groton Men's Bible Study 7 am and continues every Weds

Aug 11 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Aug 8-12 Groton VBS 5:30-8:30 (Volunteer Today!)

Aug 18 Conde UMW 10 AM

Aug 22 Conde World Hunger Collection

Aug 24 Groton Tues 10 AM Bible Study starting new book  
*(We meet every Tuesday, join us anytime!)*

Aug 25 Conde Ad Council 8 pm

