

# United Methodist Messenger

April 2014

Groton/Conde Parishes

## Dear Friends in Groton & Conde

Mother Teresa once shared the following story, from her book "In the Heart of The World." Pgs 71-72

"The other day, two friends of mine came to see me. They brought me a large amount of money to use for feeding the poor. I asked them, 'Where did you get all this money?' They answered, 'We were married two days ago, but before that we had decided not to have a large wedding banquet. As a witness of our love for each other, we wanted to bring this money to Mother Teresa.' This is the greatness of young people! They are so generous! I asked them further, 'Why did you do this?' They answered, 'We love each other so much, and we wanted to share our love with other people, especially with those you are serving.'"

This season of Lent has been a journey that has allowed us to recognize that without a loving community to help us in times of trouble, the depths of despair would be deeper. Isn't the loving action of the young couple in Mother Teresa's story amazing to think about? What a wonderfully selfless act of unconditional love! Using the money that had been set aside for a huge wedding feast and instead letting God direct the use of their money!

This young couple certainly had their priorities directed by their faith and love for God and people. Our lives are certainly busy, and especially for

our parents and young families in the church. You all have certainly been on my mind and in my prayers. I hope you have found time to prioritize your lives according to your faith and love for God and people. We all need this. Life is crazy at times.

We even see in scripture where Jesus himself needed time away for devotion and to re-center and recharge the batteries. Jesus recognized after he fed the 5,000 that he needed to go off to a place where he could commune with God. (John 6:1-15) Jesus had his priorities centered on God and the calling from God to love all people and he knew that if he didn't take time to recharge the struggle with temptation would be much greater.

We see Jesus giving of himself, emptying himself and then taking time for renewal. And all of this foreshadows his great sacrifice on that dark, bleak but blessed Friday when he gave himself up for us, only to rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. May you recognize the priority of God in your life and find ways to give sacrificially, knowing that through dying to self and giving of oneself, new life is found!

I look forward to seeing you in church,  
Pastor Matt



### Pastor Office Hours

Monday 9 am - 4 pm

Tuesday 9 am - 4 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm followed by evening meetings

Thursday will be out spent on visitation and a time of sermon prep

Friday and Sat - Off

Emergencies - Any time



Mother Teresa, "In The Heart of The World" (Thoughts, Stories, & Prayers), MJF Books, Fine Communications, 322 Eighth Ave, New York, NY 10001. © 1997 New World Library.

## Groton Confirmation & Graduation Events

Confirmation Sunday is May 4. A reception will be held during coffee hour for all the confirmands. Getting Confirmed this year is Alex Graf, Anthony Sippel, and Jasmine Schinkel

Graduation Sunday is May 11. A reception will be held during coffee hour for all the graduates. Graduating this year is Reilly Ell, Mason Madsen, Alec Oleson, Camille Sippel, and Kylie Hawkins.



## Open House Birthday Celebration

Dick Ruden will be celebrating his 95th Birthday on May 3, Saturday, at the church. Hosted by family and friends. I do not have a time for newsletter printing so please watch the bulletin and calendar.

Greetings for Dick's May 6 Birthday may also be sent to: 3 East 11th Ave, Groton, SD 57445.



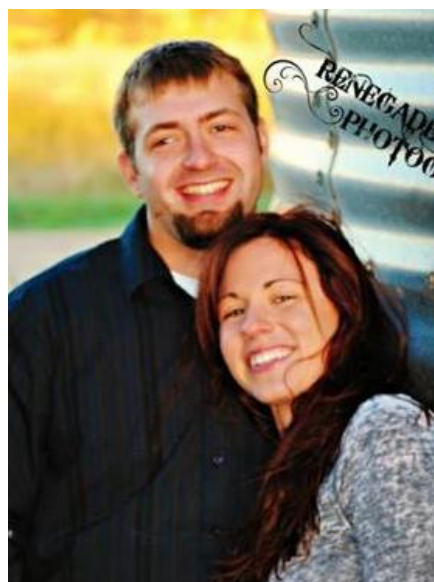
## Groton Sunday School Mission Projects

The current Sunday School Offering will be donated towards playground equipment for the Groton City park.

Soap for Hope box is located in the fellowship hall. Here we are collecting those little bars of soap and small bottles of shampoo, hand lotion, and conditioner that you bring home from motels when you travel. Anything travel size may be donated. This is being done through AAA of SD and they are distributing them to various charities throughout the state.



**Kaelee Marie Morehouse** was born on March 21 at 4:15 am, 7 lbs 2 oz, and 20 inches long. Parents are Justin and Amanda.



Sunday, April 6, at 10 am during coffee hour there will be a

### Blessings

### Wedding Shower

hosted by the Congregation of the Groton UMC to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Zachary Townsend and Stephanie Jung. They are planning a June 13 wedding and are registered at Target.

## Open House Bridal Shower

Saturday, May 10, will be an open house wedding shower for Stephanie Jung and Zachary Townsend hosted by friends and family from 9:30-11:30 am. The couple is planning a June 13 wedding and are registered at Target



## Conde UMW

The Conde UMW met at 9:00 on Wednesday, March 19. Patty Knoll gave the lesson on Prayer and Self Denial. It was interesting to find out how our donations to this mission are used. Focus of giving is to help women and children. Pat Siefken served a delicious breakfast which was followed by a short business meeting. Focus Day will be April 5th, but at this time we do not know where it will be. It was decided to have a special luncheon for the May meeting on May 14th at 11:00 am. The program will be about Mothers and we will invite guests from the community, Groton UMW ladies, and members from the Bath UMW. It will be similar to the meeting that was held in February. More details will come out in the May newsletter and in The Conde News.

## Conde "Shrove Tuesday"

The Conde United Methodist Church had a "Shrove Tuesday" pancake supper on Tuesday, March 4, which was the day before Ash Wednesday. The tradition connected with this event is to use all of the rich fattening foods that are in the kitchen, so the household is prepared for the fasting of Lent. The typical meal consists of pancakes, eggs, butter, and the King Cake. This is the third year that the Conde Church has held this event. Even though the weather was very unpleasant, the crowd was good. The community is

becoming more aware of this fun evening, and also the good food. There is no charge; it is just an evening to come and have fun, and also get in the spiritual mood for Lent.

## He is Risen!

W.E. Sangster (1900-1960), a well-known pastor in England, contracted a progressive, incurable muscle disease. He lost the ability to move his legs, and eventually his voice faded away. Because Sangster wanted to continue serving God even though he could no longer preach, he became a prolific writer and organized prayer cells throughout England.

On Easter morning, shortly before his death, Sangster wrote a note to his daughter in an unsteady hand. "It is terrible to wake up on Easter

morning and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!'" he wrote. "But it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."



### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Conde UMW

**April 16 at 10 am**

**Program Focus is Easter by Pat Siefken**

**Hostess is Joan Fahrenwald**

## Groton Missions Committee

The Missions Committee is holding a silent auction for theme baskets. Please stop in the fellowship hall and bid! The proceeds will go towards Easter Baskets for our local mission project. These baskets make great gifts for birthdays, weddings, and other events all beautifully wrapped. Bidding will end at noon on April 6 when everyone may pay and pick up their baskets after church. Everyone join in the fun and BID!

The missions committee also has a collections box in the front hallway to collect items for our swimming pool. At times

there are children outside looking in wishing they may swim and we would like to give every child a chance to have fun this summer with your help. So, as you clean

**Stop in and Bid on the Baskets TODAY!!**  
**Ends April 6**

your children's closets this spring we would like nearly new bathing suits and trunks. Small drawstring bags or beach bags, Beach Towels, Sun Tan Lotion. Monetary Donations may also be given so a child can have a day pass and go swimming!

Thank you all for supporting our local missions!



Local

Missions

## Groton Lenten Season

The family committees will be in charge of serving the Lenten Supper each week from 5:30 - 6:15. The Lenten Services will take place in the fellowship hall.

April 2 - May Committee

April 9 - June Committee

The work committee is responsible to prepare, serve, and clean-up. Soup & sandwiches are typically served but other choices are optional. Prepare for 50 people. Take a free-will offering which should be turned over to Anita Lowary or Kay Brandt. It will help defray any costs of the meal. Groceries may be charged or receipts given to Kay for reimbursement.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Good Friday service is a community service held at noon at CM&A..

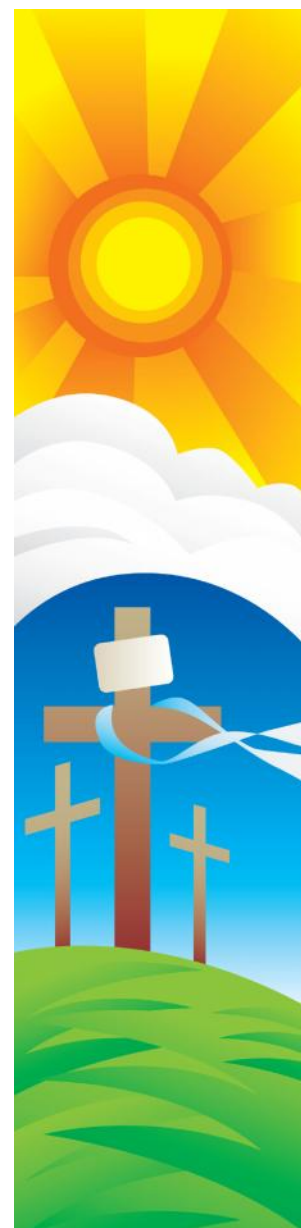
Sunrise Service at 7:30 am and the regular service is at 11 am.

## Groton Church Camping Information

Early Bird Deadline is April 30th. Registrations must be completed on-line or postmarked by April 30th. After April 30 the Full Price will show in the registration process online. Register Online at [www.dakcamps.org](http://www.dakcamps.org)

A new payment system is in place this year with the Dakotas UMC Camping Program. All members and regular attendees of the Groton UMC will be able to input our church code during the registration process and the 75% we are paying will automatically be deducted from the camper's fees and billed to the church. Please call Kay Brandt, Pastor Matt, Kim Weber, or Carna Pray for this code. I will leave a card with the code taped to the office monitor as well.

Watch the bulletin for updates and if we have volunteers to take the younger children and what dates. Sign up today!



## Groton UMW - Feb

President Jolene Townsend introduced the program by Linda Thurston having to do with social issues.

Old business: World Day of Prayer Chairman Mari Overacker reported the event would be held Mar. 7 at the UMC at 9 am with lunch to follow. This will be the last year for the World Day of Prayer.

New business: UMW chairman Jolene Townsend announced that UMW Sunday would be 3/9/14 with the theme baptism and holy communion. May Breakfast Chairman, Gloria Pharis announced a meeting for 2/25/14 at 1pm to begin plans for the May Breakfast. It's planned for 5/7/14. For Social Action, Jolene reported an Action alert for peace and refugees around the world. Ed. and Interpretation, Jolene reminded the

unit to be saving grocery receipts and box tops. Time was allowed for kisses and hugs. From Program Resources, it was noted that books from 2010-2014 qualified for the reading program. A suggestion was made that we purchase some large print books.

Next meeting: Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 with hostesses Pat Dahlquist and Jan Raap. Lunch was served by Doris Zoellner and Darlys Kampa.

### April UMW Meeting

April 16th at 1:30 pm

Shepherdess Visit

Hostesses Sharon Wheeting and Delores Knoll

## Groton UMW - March

Since the Shepherdess was unable to attend the meeting, President Jolene Townsend began the meeting with the following: She reviewed Love Ribbons, played a Bible game and shared some amusing items found church bulletins over the years.

Old business: The World Day of Prayer was canceled due to the ice storm and is not scheduled for next year. UMW Sunday held on 3/9/14 went smoothly. Several books have been removed from the reading program because they have expired.

New Business: Focus Days is in Webster this year. Watch for more information in the bulletin. Gloria Pharis reported on the 2/25/14 May Breakfast Meeting. The theme is "Welcome to Paradise" given by

Eugenia Strom. Chicken salad will be part of the menu. It will be held 5/7/14 with two settings being planned for 11:30 and 1:15. The price will be \$8.00. Caralee Heitmann will replace Delores Knoll on reservations this year. President Jolene thanked Delores for her years of working on reservations for the May Breakfast. Pray partners were again handed out. Jolene ended that meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 with a visitation from the Shepherdess. Hostesses will be Sharon Wheeting and Delores Knoll. A delicious spring themed dessert was served by Pat Dahlquist and Jan Raap.



## Daffodil hope

In Lisa Genova's novel *Love Anthony*, Olivia lives on Nantucket Island, where winter is long but daffodils bloom even while it's still cold. In one scene, she watches the flowers "shivering in the wind, impossibly bright and fragile and brave against the cold grayness."

Struggling with deep grief, Olivia finds hope in the bright yellow blooms after a long, bleak winter. She embraces the daffodil as a sign that summer will come again – and that "life will return to her as well."

In Christ, God gives us hope that sometimes appears vibrant against the grayness of earthly life. We cling to it because we've seen the promise made good before – winter yielding to summer, a new beginning granted – and we trust that new life will return to us, as well.

# Our Church Celebrations

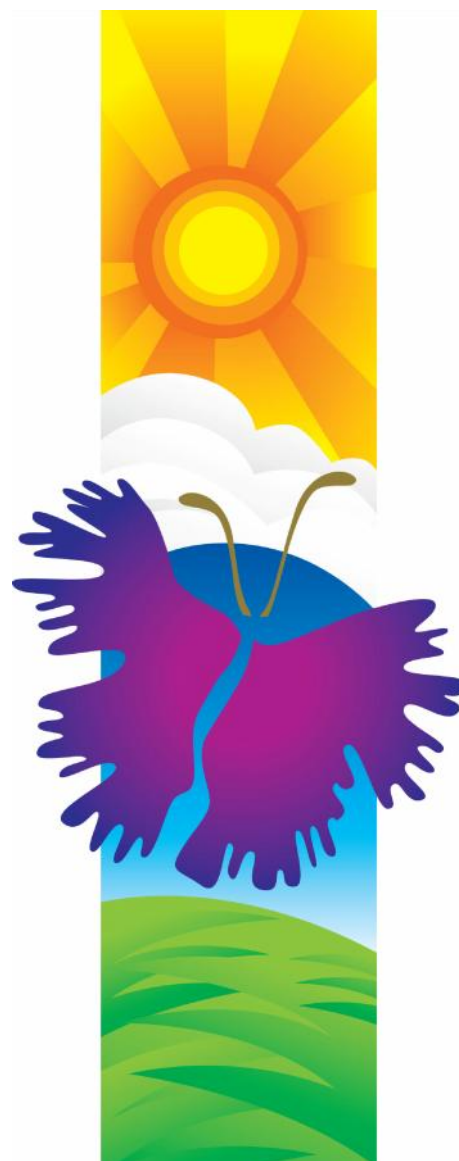
## Groton

Apr 3 Marc Johnson  
Myndi & Scott Kampa  
Apr 4 Mitchell Madsen  
Sue Stanley  
Apr 5 Wyatt Kurtz  
Apr 6 Elise Pharis  
Apr 7 Reilly Ell  
Apr 8 Lon Gellhaus  
Apr 10 Pauline Luce  
Apr 11 Taylor Thompson  
Apr 12 Erin Bahr  
Apr 13 Jessica Morehouse  
Apr 14 Reta Washnok  
Toby Dobbins  
Apr 15 Brady Graf  
Hannah Fischbach  
Nolan Bahr  
Apr 16 Kristi Peterson  
Rodney Boehmer  
Apr 17 Jaimie Mitchell  
Apr 18 Dylan Vogel  
Merrie Atherton  
Apr 19 Amanda Morehouse  
Apr 20 Marlys Rodman  
Apr 22 Ali Pasteur  
Apr 23 Colton Morehouse  
Apr 24 Max Suther

Apr 25 Michael Dunbar  
Apr 28 Kevin Pharis  
Apr 30 Breslyn Hinman

## Conde

Apr 14 Dylan Stark  
Apr 18 Loren Siefken  
Apr 22 Curtis Haskell  
Brandon Schlosser  
Mary Ann Watts  
Apr 28 Jim Baldridge



Huntley Overacker was baptized March 23. Parents are Jesse and Jaymie Overacker.



# "Welcome to Paradise"

by Eugenia Strom

## Groton UMW May Breakfast

**Wednesday, May 7th - Seating at 11:30 am and 1:15 pm**

**\$8.00 - Reservation Required**

Call Clare Brotherton at 397-8177 or Caralee Heitmann at 397-8634



## Groton UMW May Breakfast

Plans are underway for the 2014 Annual May Breakfast to be held on May 7th. The poster above explains the details. This year we are expanding on delivering to businesses in town, just call Kay Brandt with your order. Reservations will be taken by Clare Brotherton and Caralee Heitmann so make yours today!

Committee Members are looking for volunteers to help out in many ways so call today and volunteer! We need everyone's help. If you can't help on Wednesday but have Monday or Tuesday free, please come and help out at the church.

Looking also for decorating items. We need a few more large round fish bowls. Other decorating items may be sand, sea shells, boats, beach towels, or anything else that you feel would fit the theme.



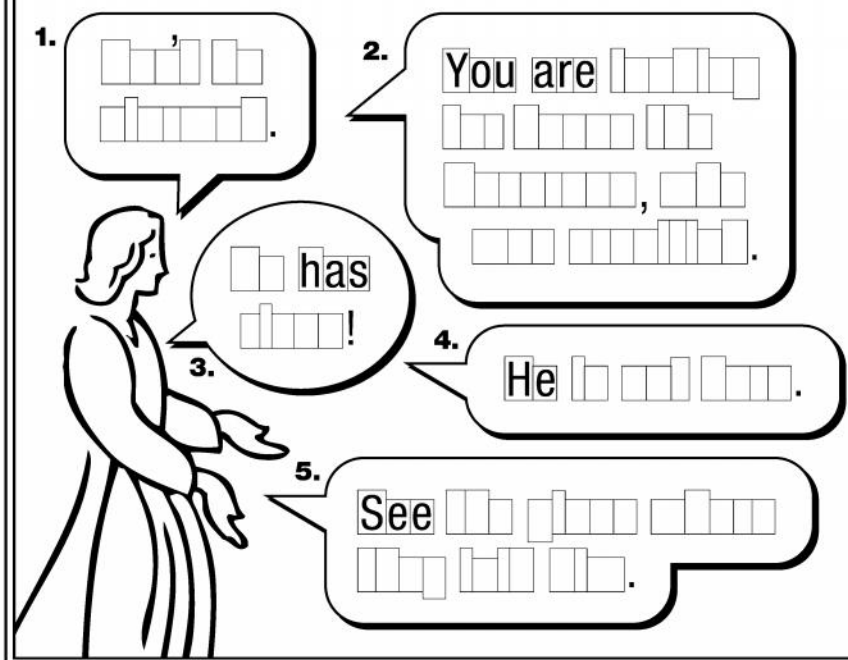


# HE HAS RISEN!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were surprised to meet an angel at Jesus' empty tomb.

Directions: Use the word shapes to complete the angel's message, in Mark 16:6 (NIV).

for be crucified risen Don't is Jesus He  
looking where not the place who here  
the laid alarmed Nazarene they was him



Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. 3. He has risen! 4. He is not here. 5. See the place where they laid him.

## Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

### What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

### What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"

## Groton Easter Sunday Potluck Brunch

There will be a brunch after the 7:30 Easter Sunrise Service. The work committee will be bringing Egg Bake and the rest of the congregation is asked to bring appropriate items to go with it. Come and Join Us!



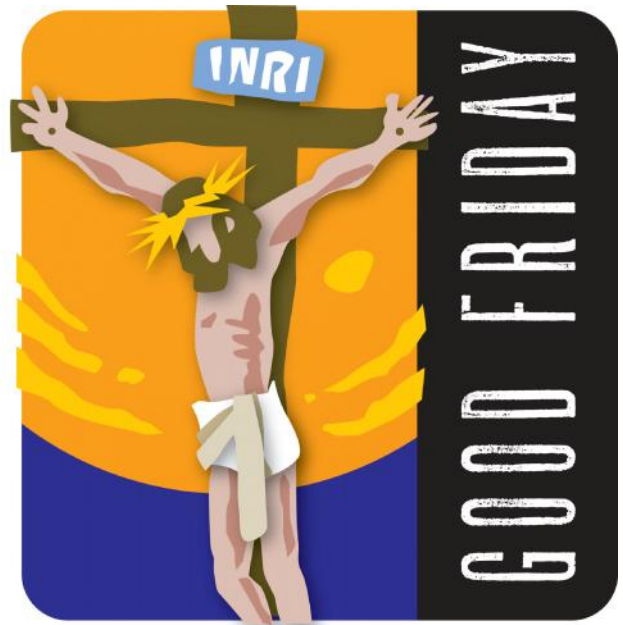
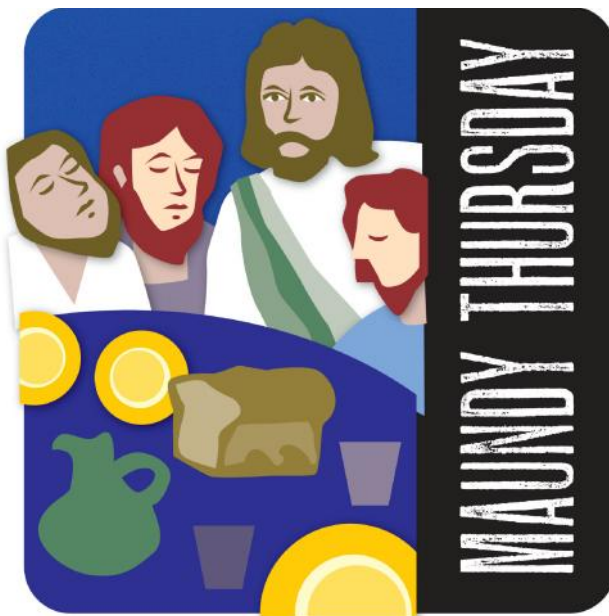
## A foretaste of the feast

While teaching a group of First Communion students about the Lord's Supper, a pastor gave each child one M&M's candy at the beginning of class. "Eat it!" he invited, before proceeding to teach.

Near the end of the session, the pastor asked the students what they'd thought of the earlier treat. "Good!" said one. "I wanted more!" another admitted. "I wanted a whole bag!" chimed in a third.

"Now you understand another thing about Holy Communion," the pastor said. He drew out of his supplies a full bag of M&M's for each stu-

dent. "Sometimes we call Communion 'a foretaste of the feast to come.'" Indeed, he explained, God promises that one day we'll feast together with Jesus in heaven, but until then, Communion is that delicious little taste of what the feast will be like. We're left wanting more because we have "[tasted] and [seen] that the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8).



## An Organized Response

Some people today reject the idea of belonging to a church by saying, "I'm spiritual but not part of any organized religion."

It may be cute to respond by saying, "Well, you'd like our church. We're the most disorganized group of people you could imagine." But what a putdown to the body of Christ.

Instead, try saying this: "I really enjoy our church. We have something for everyone. I've learned so much and get a lift for living every week." Briefly point out what has been most helpful and meaningful to you. Then offer to take the person to worship with you as your guest.

## The glory of spring

A pastor looked out his study window and was smitten by the glory of spring bursting forth all around him. He recalled a story about a Jewish doctor freed from a Nazi concentration camp.

The doctor began walking along a country road and was captivated by the green meadows, the wildflowers, the singing birds. He felt touched by the master artist's work in nature. Indeed, the doctor was so moved that he knelt by the road in prayer. He decided that God was giving him a whole new life. He was becoming a healthy human being again, instead of a victim of horror and hate.

The pastor, remembering that story, praised God as he saw the earth blooming once again with indescribable beauty.

## Something borrowed

When a Sunday school teacher told her class that Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb, one girl raised her hand to share an insight. "I know why," the girl said. "It's because Jesus only used it for three days."



**Groton Mission  
Statement**  
"Enriching Spiritual  
lives through Christ."



**Groton  
Stewardship  
Report Mar 2014**

Average  
Wkly Giving  
\$1,592

Needed Wkly for  
Church Mission  
\$2,125

Average Weekly  
Attendance Sunday  
69

Total Building  
Fund  
Donations  
\$60

## Groton May Family Committee

Cheri & Tom Strom

Kristi & Ben Peterson, Jocelyn

Karla & Russell Davidson, Alec Oleson

Zachary Townsend

AM & Laurie Mitchell

Erin & Damian Bahr

Charity Hinman

Doug Sippel

Curtis Krueger

Anita & Gary Voss

Betty Strom

Carol & Luverne Strom

Caralee & Gary Heitmann

Sharon & Larry Wheeting

Alan & Jolene Townsend

**Honorary Members**

- Deloris Knoll
- Hazel McKittrick

**May Extra Responsibilities**

- Mow Lawn if needed
- Potluck 2nd Sunday



**Groton UMC**

Marlys Rodman	397-4570
Pat Dahlquist	397-2616
Doris Zoellner	397-2417
Marjory Townsend	298-5221
Ann Rix	397-8478
Darlys Kampa	395-6996
DeLoris Knoll	397-2681
Gloria Pharis	397-2375

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

We must have your permission to start the Prayer Chain. So please call and request this to be done. It is not automatic for privacy reasons.

May 2014						
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

- Apr 6 Groton Blessings Wedding Shower for Townsend/Jung during Coffee Hour
- Apr 6 Groton Missions Basket Auction Ends at noon.
- Apr 7 PPR in Conde 7:30
- Apr 9 Groton Lenten Supper 5:30-6:15 with June Committee Serving
- Apr 9 Groton Lenten Service 6:15 pm in fellowship hall
- Apr 10 Conde Lenten Study 6:30 pm
- Apr 13 Groton Sunday School Singing in Church for Palm Sunday
- Apr 13 Groton NO Potluck this month
- Apr 16 Conde UMW 10 am
- Apr 16 Groton UMW 1:30 pm
- Apr 16 Groton Ad Council 7 pm
- Apr 17 Groton Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
- Apr 18 Groton Good Friday Service at Noon at CM&A Church
- Apr 18 Conde Good Friday Service 6 pm
- Apr 20 Groton Sunrise Service at 7:30 am-Potluck Brunch Following-regular service 11 am
- Apr 20 Groton Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 20 Conde Service at 9 am
- May 3 Groton 95th Birthday Celebration for Dick Ruden
- May 4 Groton Confirmation Sunday
- May 4 Native American Ministries Sunday Special Offering
- May 4 Groton Honoring Sunday School Teachers
- May 7 Groton May Breakfast
- May 10 Open House Wedding Shower for Townsend/Jung 9:30 am
- May 11 Groton Honor Senior Graduates during fellowship and church
- May 11 Groton Sunday School Singing in Church

April 2014						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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