



UMC Messenger

DECEMBER 2016

GROTON/CONDE

From Pastor Thomas's Desk

Greeting Friends,

As we enter this advent season, which is a season that focuses on expectation and reflecting on the anticipation of Christ's birth leading us to Christmas. I was reminded of two great bible verses that I would like to share with you.

The first one that came to mind was, *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

The second one that came to mind was, *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

What a great reminder that a child was born who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; and indeed Christmas was the birth of the word becoming the Flesh and dwelling in each of our hearts and lives. Jesus was born a baby in a manger so that God's glory could shine and bring hope, joy, peace and love to us on earth!

In our recent bible study by Max Lucado titled, "Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is here". He asked a question that I want to ask all of you. *If the King was willing to enter the world of animals and shepherds and swaddling clothes, don't you think he's willing to enter yours?*

How are you making room for Jesus in your hearts and lives during the

busy and crazy holiday season?

It is my prayer that this Advent season would be a time of great reflection as you gather with family and are reminded of God's great hope, joy, peace, and love brought to us through a little baby born named Jesus! Merry Christmas from my family to yours!

May you have a Christ filled Christmas!

Pastor Thomas Carlson

OFFICE HOURS



Pastor's Schedule

Monday

in office 10 am - noon
and 1 -3:30 pm

Tuesday

Sermon Writing Day

Wednesday

in office 12 - 3:30 pm

Thursday

available by appt
10 am-5 pm

Friday and Saturday

Days Off

Emergency Calls

24/7





*Kodi Jean
November 8, 2016*

Kodi Jean
Born November 8
8 lbs - 21 inches
To Charity &
Scotty Hinman
family



Roman Oliver
Born November 18
8 lbs 5 oz
20.5 inches
To Brian Bahr and
Elizabeth Dinger
family

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor Thomas Carlson
Office Phone
605-397-8270
Cell Phone
605-277-8448
Pastor Email
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Secretary Email
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website
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906 N 1st St
Groton, SD 57445

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who helped cook, serve, brought desserts or pies, or donate money for the church dinner. We appreciate each one of you and are very thankful. Blessings to all, The Church Dinner Committee

**No Ad Council
December**

**UMW Annual
Christmas Goodies Packages**

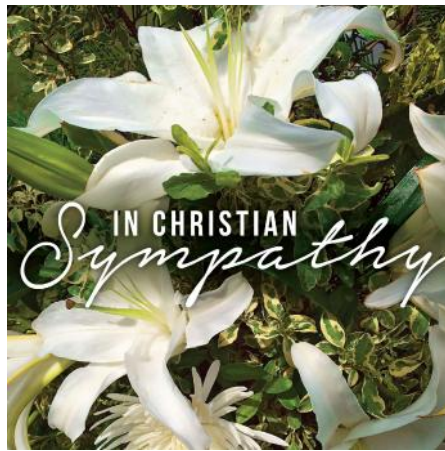
Please help us fill our Christmas Goodies packages this year. Christmas Luncheon at noon followed by packing of Christmas Goodies Packages.

Join us if you can or drop off 1-2 doz. individually wrapped or small snack size baggies of goodies to the church before noon, Thursday, December 15.

UMW ladies will package 30 – 40 boxes and deliver them that day to families or individuals who have had a difficult year or may be lonely for the holidays.

Goodies can be home baked or purchased.
Ideas: cookies, snack mix, candy.





Richard "Dick" Ruden
Died Nov 17th



- Marlys Rodman 397-4570
- Pat Dahlquist 397-2616
- Doris Zoellner 397-2417
- Marj 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 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.



Groton Kids & Sunday School

We are getting everything ready for our Sunday School Christmas Program. Lindsey Tietz will be the head of our program and Dez Yeigh will be leading the music.

Practice schedule:

- Sunday, Dec 4 is 10-11 am
- Wed, Dec 7 is 3:30 - 5 pm
- Sunday, Dec 11 is 10-11 am
- Wed, Dec 14 is 3:30 - 5 pm
- Sunday, Dec 18 is 10-11 am



Groton UMW - Nov

Groton UMW – November 17, 2016

The UMW met on November 17 with 11 members in attendance. President Jolene Townsend opened the meeting by sharing scripture and devotions. Previous meeting minutes were read and approved. Jeanne Wanous reviewed the treasurer’s report showing total receipts of \$672.06 which included \$359 for World Thank Offering and \$281 for No-Bake Bake Sale. Disbursements totaled \$93.40 resulting in a remaining balance of \$1698.04. A thank you note from Rose Tewksbury regarding her recent Jewel of a Woman award was shared.

The regular business meeting included plans to review & revise our Secret Angel list at the beginning of 2017. Gloria Pharis asked members to complete our 2017 program book by volunteering for program leader and/or hostess. New Business included voting on approvals for the following mission giving opportunities to be completed before the end of the year. 1) School Lunches, \$100; 2) Carnival of Silver Skates, \$150; 3) Angel Tree, \$100; 4) Groton school Special Ed Christmas gifts, \$200. All listed proposed giving was approved by the group.

Our December meeting will be held on

December 15 at noon, beginning with a luncheon hosted by the UMW officers. Following the lunch members will pack Christmas Goodies cans to be distributed to church and community members who need a little lift for the holiday season. It was noted that 40 cans were distributed in 2015.

Following the business meeting, Kay Daly shared a delightful program entitled M&M Christmas. She demonstrated how the ‘M’ can become an ‘E’ for East, where the star shown so bright; or it can be the ‘M’ for manger, where the baby Jesus slept that night; or a ‘3’ for the 3 Wise Men Bearing gifts; or a ‘W’ for Worship. Kay shared other easy Christmas program ideas and had the ladies draw for four gift bags with poems related to the holidays.

Following the program the ladies shared in fellowship while enjoying dessert provided by hostess Marjorie Overacker.

Secretary,

Jeanne Wanous



Conde UMW

The UMW met at 10:00 on Wednesday , November 16th. Jane Worlie had the World Thank Offering lesson and Cindy Smith prepared the noon lunch. We will have a special Christmas meeting at 6:00 on December 7th. We will be inviting women who live in the community to join us for a meal and some fun activities. Original plan was to do the skit that we had prepared for our party last year. Weather had forced us to cancel that event. Time is running short, and we didn't feel we had time to practice, so will

save the skit for another time.

We discussed the idea of choosing a card from the Mall Angel Tree. Each member will buy for a child, but we will take the expenses out of our UMW mission fund. In past years, we have sent money or bought gifts for a family of children suggested by the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield.

The next Bible Study will be Wednesday, November 30th at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing chapters 5 and 6.

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

Conde Church News

Donna Walter and Donna Hearnen went to Aberdeen on Thursday, November 10th to buy items for the Christmas Shoebox project. After doing the shopping, they delivered them to North Highland Church. They will use the items that Conde and other churches have purchased to fill the shoeboxes for children at the Enemy Swim Day School. Pastor Lou was pleased with the amount and quality of the things we had bought. This is such a good mission project, because there is no administrative costs, and North Highland hand delivers the boxes to the children.

If enough people are interested, Pastor

Thomas will do an Advent Study. Time tentatively set to be held, will be on Thursday's; probably in the late afternoon or evening.

Five Conde people attended the Charge Conference held in Groton at 5:00 pm Saturday November 19. Those attending were: Pat Seifken, Norm and Cindy Smith, Jane Worlie, and Donna Hearnen.

Six people stayed after Church on Sunday November 20th to put up the Christmas Tree, Advent Candle, and the Nativity Scene There was some other decorating done, but there are still some things that need to be put out.

Special Conde UMW Christmas Meeting Dec 7th at 6 pm
organized potluck and other activities



THANKS to all of you who participated in our TRUNK-OR-TREAT! It was a HUGE SUCCESS!!! We have heard many favorable comments about this year's event as well as some good ideas for next year. We hope that you all had as much FUN as we did and that we will see all of you back again next year! People like YOU help make our community great! THANK YOU!!!
Pastor Thomas and Kim Weber, chairmen





Mom's Group



Where's your security?



When A Charlie Brown Christmas debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "fear not" (Luke 2:10).

Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears," Soroski writes. It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."



Our Church Celebrations

Groton

- Dec 2 Meri Erickson
- Dec 3 Anthony Sippel
Edison Foltz
- Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
- Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
- Dec 9 Ann Rix
Brooklyn Gilbert
Wesley Morehouse
- Dec 10 Jim Zeck
- Dec 11 Dave & Connie Nilsson
- Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
- Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
- Dec 16 Dan Schinkel
Sage Mortinson
- Dec 17 Alan Townsend
- Dec 18 Dylan Hanson
Michaela Oleson
- Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
- Dec 21 Kent Webb
Noella Graf

- McKenna Tietz
- Bo Garrett Fliehs
- Dec 23 John Padfield
Marc & Fran Sippel

- Dec 24 Kenley Johnson
- Dec 26 Ben Peterson
- Dec 27 Emily Overacker
Jane Johnson
Karla Pasteur
- Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
Meredith Gubin
- Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
- Dec 20 Alec Oleson
Alex Graf

Conde

- Dec 1 Betty Haskell
- Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
- Dec 8 Tony Bruckner
- Dec 24 Floyd Smith
- Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson



Christmas
EVE

**Groton Service
At 5 pm**

**Conde Service
At 7 pm**

**FAMILY PHOTOS
WANTED!**

*Church Directory Needs Updating!
Please Email the Church Office
a recent snapshot
grotonumc@nvc.net*

Groton Family Committee - Jan 2017

John & Meri Erickson

Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Jasmine, Anthony

- Brian Bahr
- Dion & Sam Bahr
- Doug Bahr
- Steve & Becky Diegel, Treyton
- Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs
- Ron & Meredith Gubin
- Jay & Linda Johnson (Jan)
- Scott & Myndi Kampa
- Julie & Jesse Morehouse
- Janice Raap
- Karen & Ian Rose
- Mark & June Thompson (Jan)
- Kim & Craig Weber (Jan)
- William Zoellner

Honorary Members

- Emery Sippel
- Bert Raap
- Ida Hannon

January Responsibilities

-) Check Kitchen Supplies for the month

-) Check & Clean Oven and Fridge as necessary.
-) Coffee Hour workers (make coffee, provide cookies, launder towels, and remove trash)
-) 2 Ushers for each Sunday
-) pickup ritual of friendship sheets
-) Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
-) Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
-) Serve at Golden Living Center – 5th Sunday
-) Shovel snow from doorways before Church
-) Take down Christmas decorations with all church helping
-) If tree lights need replacing, do so before putting them away
-) Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
-) Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
-) 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

Serve Lenten Supper on March 1st

January 2017						
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				

Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2016	
Average Wkly Giving	\$1,605
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,347
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday	66
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs	\$205

Groton 2017 Committee Book Corrections

After the Family Committee Books were printed I found a couple mistakes that myself and proofreaders did not catch. Our apologies but please make these changes.

Page 6 talks about how the banners, altar cloths, and candles will be handled in the new year. So on each month, you will not have to remind the selected people. Those lines at the bottom should have been deleted with this in place...

Banners are stored in the library. The hanger to put them up with is behind the pulpit. The banner calendar and schedule is posted in the library and the back of this publication. Diann Morehouse and Carna Atherton-Pray will be taking care of the Banners, Altar Cloths, and Candle Maintenance

Then on page 7, Easter is not in March. So please correct these 3 entries.

- Palm Sunday – April 9 – purple
- Good Friday – April 14 – no color
- Easter Sunday – April 16 – white



Our Church Happenings

- Dec 2 Groton MOMs Group 9:30 am
- Dec 7 Conde UMW Christmas Event 6 pm
- Dec 7 Groton Bible Study 7:30 pm with Pastor Thomas
- Dec 14 Groton Bible Study 7:30 pm with Pastor Thomas
- Dec 15 Groton UMW Noon Luncheon and Goodie Can Packing & Distribution
- Dec 18 Groton Angel Tree Items due by noon for distribution
- Dec 18 Groton Sunday School Christmas Program 5 pm
- Dec 21 Groton Confirmation Christmas Party 6 pm
- Dec 21 Groton Bible Study 7:30 pm with Pastor Thomas
- Dec 24 Groton Candle Light Service 5 pm
- Dec 24 Conde Candle Light Service 7 pm
- Dec 25 No Sunday School Groton
- Jan 1 No Sunday School Groton

December 2016						
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

