



December 2021

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## ...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

The year was 1847. A priest in a small town in France went to his friend whose name was Placide Cappeau and asked him to write a song for Christmas Eve mass. So, in a horse-drawn carriage on his way to Paris, Placide Cappeau, a poet, composed the poem that we now know as *O Holy Night*. He had the words, but didn't have a melody, so he approached a friend of his who was a composer. Cappeau asked him to write a melody for that great hymn we now sing every Christmas. And so in 1847 at Christmas Eve mass, this little church in France, for the very first time, sings this great, epic hymn *O Holy Night*.

Fast forward to 1906. There's a man named Reginald Fessenden, a former colleague of Thomas Edison. He was in his office one evening experimenting with a microphone and a telegraph. He didn't know if anything was coming through, but he decided to give it a try. What he did was he began reading his Bible from Luke chapter 2. He started to read: *In those days a decree went out*



*from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered...*

Can you imagine, ships in the open sea that were used to hearing only dot-dot-dash-dash-dash now hear *in those days a decree went out...* Reginald Fessenden decided that was good, but he pulled back from reading Luke 2 and he picked up his violin and he started to play. Any guesses what the first song EVER played over the radio was? *Jingle Bells*, of course! No, *O Holy Night*. Can you imagine, on your ship in the open sea, hearing for the very first time, not just a voice, but music coming through?! It was this song, by then a famous song, that declared the worth of hu-

manity. That declared the value of people that said *chains shall He break.*

Listen to the words of this beautiful Christmas hymn: *O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angels' voices... Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful*

*chorus raise we, With all our hearts we praise His holy name.*

This Advent I want us to wrestle with, and think through this reality that when He appeared *the soul felt its worth*, the idea that *His law is love*, what it means that *in His name all oppression shall cease*, and finally on Christmas Eve, we're just going to soak in *the thrill of hope* that the Savior brings.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Thursday  
Mornings

Friday  
Day Off



# THE HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES

**Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows.** We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives?

This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Pastor Brandon will lead a study in in Groton on Monday nights at 7pm and Conde on Tuesday nights at 7pm. All who wish to join the conversation are welcome as we all seek to ground ourselves in the true reason for this season.

See you then!



Conde Christmas Eve Service will be at 5 pm

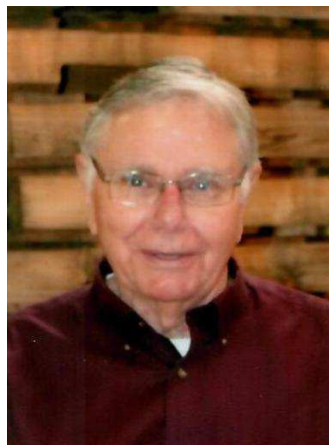
Groton Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm



**Photo of the Service of Remembrance held during worship on Nov 7th. Thank you John Padfield.**



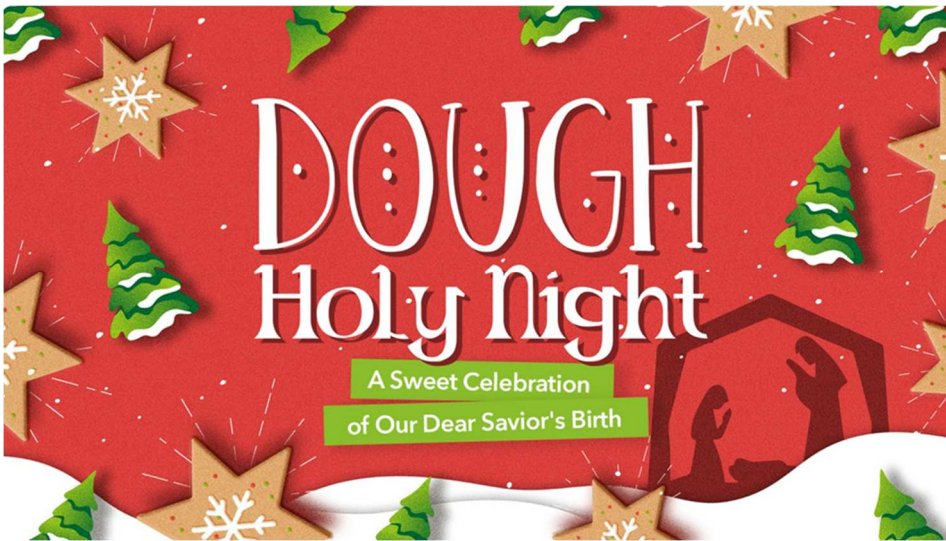
**Sympathies to the families of Guy Hanlon (Left) who died 11/27/21 AND Larry Wheeting (Right) who died 11/17/21**



### Church Information

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906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445



Hello Church family!

Can you believe it? It's almost here—Christmas is right around the corner!

There is so much joy surrounding this season, but there can also be a lot of chaos! There are decorations to put up, parties to throw, and presents to purchase. It's so easy to let the entire month of December fly past us and totally forget *why* we celebrate Christmas. That's why we're hosting "Dough Holy Night" this year.

This is a fun and interactive experience that's great for the whole family where we will gather

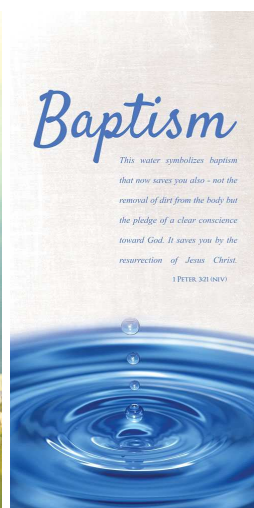
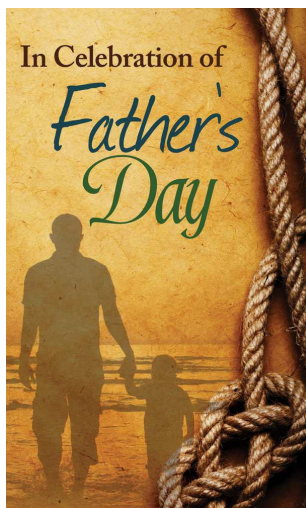
in the church Fellowship Hall, play games, bake Christmas cookies and, along the way, hear the story of the very first Christmas!

We hope and pray that this opportunity allows you to press pause on the busyness of the season and remember that Jesus is the sweetest part of Christmas!

Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall for all who want to participate on Wednesday, December 15th at 6 pm.



Thank you to the Heitmann family for the Mothers Day and Fathers Day Banners in memory of Caralee's mother Betty Jean Hagen and the Patriotic and Baptism Banners in memory of Gary Heitmann.

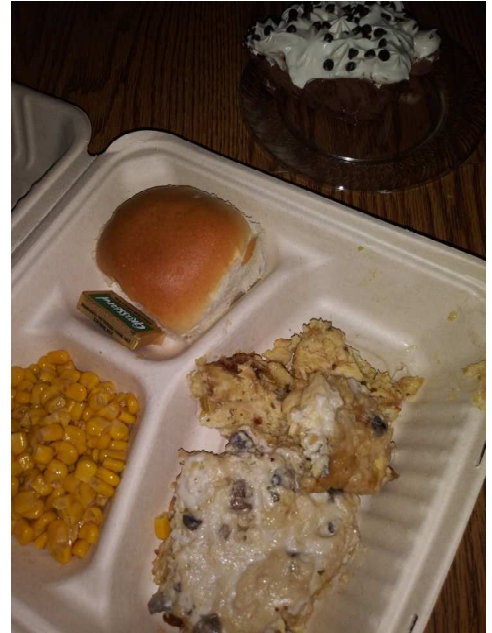


## Groton Fall Dinner

We held our annual Fall Dinner in Groton on November 14th. I want to extend a special thank you to our Groton Missions committee, for without them we would not have had a meal to share this year. Special individuals stepped up, got creative, and we shared a wonderful meal together in the Spirit of togetherness.

For those who brought food and helped set up and tear down, you are so appreciated as well. We had a decent turnout from our

church, some folks took food to-go and we even had friends from other churches make their way in as well. What was leftover was happily donated to the youth at the Table Talks ministry in Groton, and even though the event as a whole looked different than it has in past years, what a blessing it was to be a part of.



## Conde Missions

The Conde American Legion Auxiliary, Conde United Methodist Church, and Turton Catholic Church are collecting grocery and paper products for the Tri-County Food Pantry in Redfield. There will also be collection boxes at the Plains Commerce Bank and the Conde Post Office. Persons living in Faulk, Hand, and Spink Counties have access to this facility. Delivery of the items will be made about mid December.

The Conde Church will again be participating in the Aberdeen North

Highland's Mission Project of supplying Christmas gifts for the students at the Enemy Swim Native American School. They won't be putting items in shoeboxes this year, but each child will get a similar gift, which will be things like caps, mittens, and school supplies. The gifts will be taken over and hand delivered to these children. The way the Conde Church can help with this mission is by giving a cash donation. The donations can either be put in the Sunday Offering plate, with a note of what it is for, or

can be sent to Donna Hearnen 520 County Rd. 6 SW Conde, SD 57434. Make your checks payable to the Conde Church, and the Church Treasurer will send one check up to North Highland. This is one time that we can be assured that the children will benefit. In many cases, this may be their only Christmas present.

### Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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



# Groton Christmas Program

\*We are practicing for the Christmas program and assigning parts. This year, the kids will not be wearing costumes. Our Christmas program is set for December 19 @ 11:00 a.m. (during church). There will be a lunch served after the program. Everyone welcome!

### Schedule:

- ♦ Sunday, Dec. 5 - Sunday school & Christmas practice 10:00
- ♦ Sunday, Dec. 12 - Sunday school & Christmas practice 10:00
- ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 15 - Sunday school Christmas program practice (3:30-5:00) \*snacks will be provided
- ♦ Sunday, Dec. 19 - Christmas program practice 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Dec 19 Christmas Program at 11:00 a.m.**
- ♦ Sunday, Dec. 26 - No Sunday school
- ♦ Sunday, Jan. 2 - No Sunday school
- ♦ Sunday, Jan. 9 - Sunday school resumes (10:00 a.m.)



## Groton January Family Committee

**Dale & Traci Kramer**

**Kim & Craig Weber**

Cheryl Hanson

Lance & Kristi Hawkins

Jay & Linda Johnson

Yvonne Lange

Laurel & Monte McNickel

Diann & Brad Morehouse

Karla Pasteur

Dwight & Eugenia Strom

Mark & June Thompson

Linda & Gary Thurston

Todd Thurston

Anita & Gary Voss

**Honorary Members**

- Susan Odland
- Rose Tewksbury

**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
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of the committee book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- 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 ta-

bles in fellowship hall with the seasons

- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center - 4th Sunday
- Potluck 2nd Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- 5th Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer

January 2022						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30	31					

## A shoot brings life

Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several thrived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing “dates that Jesus ate,” but there’s another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11,

a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots” (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel’s sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (see verses 6-7).



Some people and churches celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



## Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Dec 2 Meri Erickson
- Dec 3 Anthony Sippel  
Edison Foltz
- Dec 4 Darlys Kampa
- Dec 7 Morgan McNickle
- Dec 9 Brooklyn Gilbert  
Wesley Morehouse
- Dec 10 Jim Zeck
- Dec 13 Melissa Gilbert
- Dec 15 Marjae Schinkel
- Dec 16 Dan Schinkel  
Sage Mortenson

### Dec 17 Pastor Brandon

- Dec 18 Dylan Hanson  
Michaela Oleson
- Dec 20 Lon & Marva Gellhaus
- Dec 21 Bo Fliehs  
McKenna Tietz  
Kent Webb
- Dec 22 John Padfield
- Dec 23 Marc & Fran Sippel
- Dec 27 Emily Overacker  
Jane Johnson  
Karla Pasteur
- Dec 28 Jaden Dobbins
- Dec 29 Andrea Davidson
- Dec 30 Alec Oleson  
Alex Graf

### Conde

- Dec 1 Betty Haskell
- Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
- Dec 17 Pastor Brandon**
- Dec 24 Floyd Smith
- Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sanderson

## From "The Stable of Bethlehem"

'Twas not a palace proud and fair he chose for his first home; No dazzling pile of grandeur rare, with pillar'd hall and dome; Oh no! a stable, rude and poor, received him at his birth; And thus was born, unknown, obscure, the Lord of heaven and earth. ...

Come to your Savior's lowly bed, ye vain and proud of heart! And learn with bowed and humbled head the lesson 'twill impart; 'Twill teach you not to prize too high the riches vain of earth — But to lay up in God's bright sky treasures of truer worth. ...

—Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)



*The Dakotas Conference presents*  
**A Very Dakotas Christmas 2021**

*Worship online!*

Sunday December 26th there will be no in-person worship, but we will be sharing the Conference's "Very Dakotas Christmas" Service like last year. The service will be available online through the website and Facebook. An email will be sent out with more details and links.

## Groton Ad Council - Nov

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Lars Hanson. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Overacker, Anita Lowary, Linda Thurston, Richard Krueger, Lon Gellhaus, Meri Erickson, Allen Walter, Val Baker, and Jane Johnson. Pastor Brandon was able to make it after helping with the food drive.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Lon Gellhaus and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anita Lowary.

**Minutes:** The previous minutes were approved on a motion by Richard Krueger and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Allen Walter.

**Correspondence:** Marjorie Overacker reported she had paid the church insurance bill, North-western Public Service and City bill. Both of those are up considerably from previous bills.

### Committee Reports:

**Trustees:** Richard Krueger reported the fire extinguishers have been inspected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marjorie Overacker had no concerns to review.

**Finance Report:** Val Baker reported for Allen Walter, \$810 was taken in at the fall dinner. Approximately 75 to 100 people attended. They did about 15 deliveries. Some feedback she received was maybe the dinner should have

started at 11:00, as we lost people from other churches that get out at 11:00. It was suggested to Val that maybe the Fall Dinner be replaced by a dinner later in the winter.

**Old Business:** Anita Lowary stated she has not heard back from Pastor Brandon regarding names of anyone who can do stain glass.

### New Business:

\*Meri Erickson said the Christmas program is Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. She asked about serving a meal afterwards. It was discussed that maybe the December work committee could be in charge of the meal. Jane Johnson said the December committee could prepare and serve the meal. Marc Johnson will prepare the pork loin and Allen Walter will prepare the hot dogs. Meri will send out a request for bars and chips. Anita Lowary made a motion to approve the meal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Val Baker. Motion was approved.

\*Marjorie Overacker asked if the board had to have 12 meetings a year. She suggested we not meet in December unless something came up that required a meeting. Marjorie made a motion to cancel the December meeting and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anita Lowary. Motion was approved.

### Administration Report:

Pastor Brandon arrived at the meeting after helping with the

food drive. He said the drive was a success.

“Dough Holy Night” is a family event which will be held at the church on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Pastor Brandon asked the council members to assist with the event. Attendees will watch a video and then break to make Christmas cookies/dough and play games. The council members will bake a batch of cookies to have that night and the attendees will take home a bag of dough to bake at home.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Secretary Pro  
Tem  
Jane Johnson

Groton Stewardship Report Oct 2021	
Average Wkly Giving	\$3,420
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,285
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday	48
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs	\$15







## Our Church Happenings...

Pastor Brandon Advent Bible Study

Each Monday in Groton at 7 pm & Each Tuesday in Conde at 7 pm

Groton Confirmation will shop for the Angel Tree Dec 8th at 4 pm

Dec 15 Groton SS Christmas Program Practice at 3:30

Check Calendar for Practice Times Each Sunday

Dec 15 Groton Dough Holy Night at 6 pm for all to come and enjoy!

Groton UMYF will assist with Dough Holy Night

Dec 19 Groton Children's Program during Worship at 11 am followed by Lunch

**Christmas Eve Services Conde is 5 pm and Groton is 7 pm**

**;Worship Dec 26 will be online with the Conference and No In-Person Worship!**

December 2021						
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