



November 2023

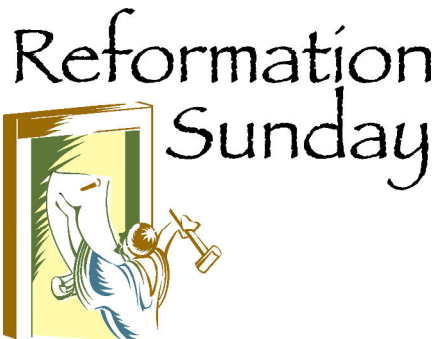
906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

## Pastor Rob's Ponderings

Happy Halloween! Oops, I wasn't supposed to say that in a church newsletter. Instead, Happy Reformation Day! Did you know today (I'm writing this on October 31<sup>st</sup>) is the anniversary of when Martin Luther nailed his 95 arguments (points of debate) with the Roman Catholic Church on the church door at Wittenberg, Germany? Luther's action started what we know as the Reformation, which changed the course of human history.

Of course, many of us, me included, are focused on today being Halloween. And even then, 98% of us are not really "celebrating" or "observing" Halloween as much as we are preparing for the number of kids we will see tonight asking for candy. I'm looking forward to my first "Trunk or Treat" in Groton where we have volunteers giving out treats out of the trunks of their "decorated" cars in the parking lot of our church. It's a great opportunity to be together as the church visiting with and sharing with our neighbors and community. In the past few days I've been reading opinion pieces and articles from people arguing against doing anything on Halloween, including giving out candy. The argument is essentially we should not give in to the "commercialization" of the day. I understand the

argument. In fact, right now I'm staring out my office window at the back of a Dodge Ram pick-up with a big silver Dodge Ram symbol on the tailgate. The only reason that symbol is on the tailgate is to "advertise" the make and model of the vehicle. It serves no purpose other than to "commercialize" for Dodge. The "being against commercialization" argument doesn't hold much water for me.



The other argument I'm hearing is we should not have our kids dress up as ghosts, ghouls, or witches. This argument is a bit more real. The Apostle Paul talked about the "spiritual forces of darkness" (Ephesians 6:12) and Martin Luther mentioned "this world with devils filled" in his most famous hymn, [A Mighty Fortress is our God](#). We need to be aware Satan is real and will use anything for his purposes. It's the reason my Mom never let us visit with fortune tellers (even at the county fair) or play with Ouija Boards. She was great

at teaching us, even about things we might have seen as innocent. How many parents still do this? As Christians, do our friends and family know what we believe? These are the kinds of things I would categorize under the "celebration or observance" of Halloween.

So what do we do to "fight back" against these spiritual forces? Have you ever heard the phrase, "There's strength in numbers"? As Christians, we get together, we meet together, we get creative (I still love the memory of my nephew dressing up as an iPhone the year Apple went big with them). And we send out our youngsters to bring back buckets and pillow cases full of candy. Of course, Mom still regulated how much we could have each night afterward.

As the Christian community, I'm looking forward to the fellowship and fun this evening. Maybe next year I'll dress up as Martin Luther. Would anybody recognize me?

See you in church.



November 5th



Pastor Rob  
In Office  
Tuesday &  
Wednesday  
Mornings

Monday  
Day Off

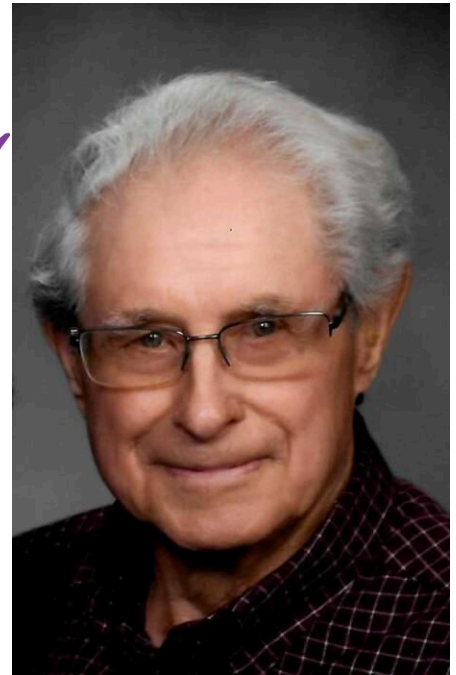




# In Christian Sympathy

Marjorie Overacker  
(left) died 10/17/23

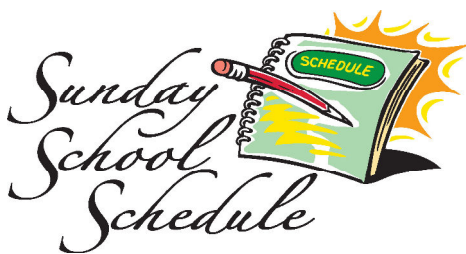
Richard Sanderson  
(Right) died 9/27/23



## Groton Service of Remembrance



All Saints Day will be observed on Nov. 5 during worship remembering Becky Diegel, Anita Voss, and Jack Oliver.



### Groton UMC Sunday School

Nov. 5 SS (10:30)  
Nov. 12 SS & Christmas Practice (10:00)  
Nov. 19 SS & Christmas Practice

(10:30)  
Nov. 26 NO Sunday School  
Dec. 3 Christmas Program Practice (9:30)  
Dec. 10 Christmas Prog Practice (9:30-11:30) (Will have snacks for kids)  
Dec. 17 SS Christmas Program Practice (9:30)  
**Dec 17 SS Christmas Program (10:30)**

### Church Information

Pastor Rob Moorlach  
Office Phone 605-397-8270  
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538  
  
Pastor Email: [pastorrob@nvc.net](mailto:pastorrob@nvc.net)  
Secretary Email: [grotonumc@nvc.net](mailto:grotonumc@nvc.net)  
Website: [www.grotonumc.org](http://www.grotonumc.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/grotonsdumc/](https://facebook.com/grotonsdumc/)  
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445





# TRUNK OR TREAT





**Groton United Methodist Church**

# Fall Dinner

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**11 am to 1:00 pm**

*Adults \$10 - Children 6-10 \$5*  
*Children under 5 - free*

## Roast Beef Meal

*Worship with us at 10:00 am*  
*906 N 1<sup>st</sup> St, Groton, SD*  
*Drive-Thru and Delivery Available*




**COATS**  
FOR **KIDS** & OTHER FOLK


# GIVEAWAY

**Saturday, Nov. 4**  
**9 a.m. to noon**

**North Highland**  
**United Methodist Church**

620 15th Ave. NE | Aberdeen | 605.226.1279

**northhighlandumc.org**

*Campbell.*

“Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch.”





# GHS FALL FOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023**

Groton Area Students will be going door to door, in Groton, collecting non-perishable foods from **6-7:00 p.m.**


- All food collected will benefit local families

Sponsored by Groton FCCLA


## GROTON'S EVENTS

**Nov. 10-12** Front Porch  
605 Christmas at the Barn  
10am-5pm each day

**Nov. 11** Legion Post  
#39 Turkey Party  
6:30pm




**Nov. 23** Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center  
11:30am-1pm




**Dec. 2: 7th Annual Holiday Party, Live & Silent Auctions at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm-close**

**Dec. 9** Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services  
9-11am



**Jan. 28, 2024** Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm



**Jan. 28, 2024** 86th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm

**GROTON**  
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445

**605-397-8422**

**GrotonChamber.com**



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

**YOU ARE INVITED!**



## Groton Family Committee - December

### Marc Johnson

### Crystal Strom, Holden, Gage

Merrie & Josh Atherton

Evan Erickson

Meri & John Erickson

Marva & Lon Gellhaus

Melissa & Neil Gilbert, Carly

Paula & JR Johnson, Ryder

Laurel & Monte McNickle

Justin Morehouse

Rebecca & Randy Padfield

Marc Sippel

Sue & Randy Stanley

Tom Strom

William Zoellner

### Honorary Members

\* Susan Odland

\* Rose Tewksbury

### December 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
- 1 Greeter for each Sunday
- Straighten the Sanctuary Pews
- Change the banners as needed as per schedule in back of this book.
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Help decorate church with

### November committee

- Prepare Candle table for Christmas Eve Service
- Setup table and lay out candles for Christmas Eve and put them away after the service.
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Serve at Avantara Nursing Center – 4th Sunday
- Potluck 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - give church secretary details for bulletin
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday may buy donuts and give bill to church treasurer



## United Methodist Student Day - Nov 26

United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday founded by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund. Today, United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith. Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one op-

portunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – **yes 100%** - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future. Currently, there are over 70 scholarships available for undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral United Methodist students. Financial support for all General Board of Higher Education and Ministry scholarships come from five primary sources: 63% from endowments; 22% from wills and annuities; 13% from United Methodist Special Sundays and 1% from online

gifts and fiduciary income. All donations received empower and encourage our students that we are investing in them and our future. We are blessed to support thousands of students through scholarships, but we would like to do more. Our funds are limited, and every awards cycle we end up with a large pool of qualified candidates who we are unable to help because there was no money left to give. You can help us change that! [Donate now](#) and help more students answer God's call to higher education.





# Our Church Celebrations...

### Groton

- Nov 2 Andrea Eisenbeisz
- Nov 3 Jon & Gayleen Voss
- Nov 7 Marva Gellhaus  
Susan Odland
- Nov 8 Kodi Hinman
- Nov 11 Doug Sippel
- Nov 13 Lindsey Tietz
- Nov 14 Sydney & Trent Kurtz
- Nov 15 Fred & Elaine Wolken
- Nov 17 Delaney Atherton
- Nov 18 Luverne Strom  
Roman Bahr
- Nov 19 Crystal Strom  
Garrett Heitmann  
Michael Krueger
- Nov 21 Pastor Rob Moorlach**  
Ava Strom  
Trey Tietz
- Nov 22 Calli Wilkinson
- Nov 23 Dwight & Eugenia Strom  
Francine Sippel
- Nov 24 Ian & Karen Rose  
Ian Rose
- Nov 25 Kari Hanson  
Raven Bahr

### Conde

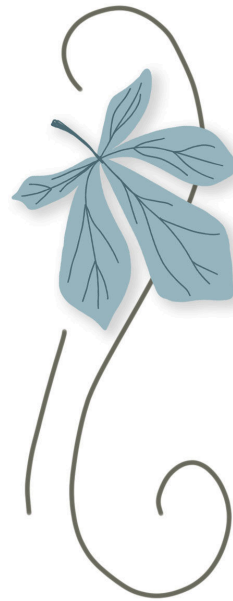
- Nov 8 Dorothy Sanderson
- Nov 21 Pastor Rob Moorlach**
- Nov 25 Bud Bruckner  
Betty Geist



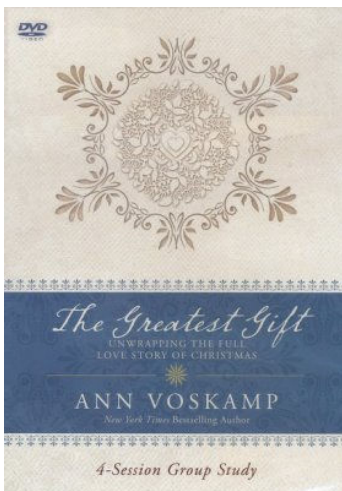
Susan Odland  
400 Parkwood Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

Luverne Strom  
5702 E Lockwood St  
Mesa, AZ 85215

Pastor Rob Moorlach  
9 E 9th Ave  
Groton, SD 57445



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



Tuesday 10 am Bible Study will begin our Advent Study on November 7th. Why so early? We break starting in December so that everyone can enjoy all the Community Christmas Events.

We are listening to Ann Voskamp in this DVD study with each week Love, Peace, Joy, and Hope.

Come and be a part of this 4 week study!



### Groton Stewardship Report Sept 2023

- Average Wkly Giving \$1,216
- Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,393
- Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 56
- Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$5

## Groton Ad Council - October

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, AM Mitchell. Those in attendance were AM Mitchell, Pastor Rob Moorlach, Anita Lowary, Tyke Nyberg, Lon Gellhaus, Roger Rix, Linda Thurston, Carna Atherton-Pray, and Jeanne Wanous. Pastor Rob shared a prayer prior to the opening of the business discussion.

The agenda was approved on a motion from Anita Lowary.

The previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Lon Gellhaus. Correspondence: none

### **Committee Reports:**

Membership: Anita shared a proposed letter to all current Groton UMC members to confirm their desire to continue to be on our membership list so that we can have an accurate membership count. In addition, the letter explains how an accurate membership account will help us in planning for all future activities in our church. The council was pleased with the letter and Tyke Nyberg motioned to authorize Anita and the membership committee to send out the letter as written. The motion was approved.

### Memorial Committee:

Linda Thurston, committee chair, shared that Chuck Padfield will mow the church grounds again next year. However, he is concerned about how long the mower he currently uses will last and the 2<sup>nd</sup> mower is broken. Tyke offered to take a look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> mower.

Nov. 5 is our annual Service of Remembrance. Current designated Memorial Funds equal \$14,257.54.

Trustees: Tyke Nyberg stated that some

electrical issues were identified by Locke Electric and fixed. In addition, Tyke had Locke's install some new LED light bulbs.

Tyke shared information on our current church building insurance that will expire on Nov. 20. There was some discussion whether or not our policy needs to be enough to cover the replacement of the building & contents or current actual value of the building & contents. Pastor Rob will be investigating this question to see what our conference expects versus the general denomination. Tyke did receive quotes thru Grinnell Mutual via JR Johnson Agency who can offer a policy for actual value at slightly less than our current policy cost.

Church Treasurer-Anita Lowary: Anita stated that our current donations are less than our expenses.

Financial Secretary-Allen Walter: no report

Pastor Parish-Meri Erickson: Roger Rix presented the 2024 budget adopted by the Pastor/Parish committee that will be presented at the Annual Charge Conference on Nov. 12. Roger reminded everyone that the new budget still shows us paying only 15% of our conference apportionments for 2024.

Administrative Report: Pastor Rob reminded everyone about the Truck or Treat event in our parking lot on Oct. 31. Also, the Nominations Committee will be meeting soon. Pastor Rob stated that he ok'd a request to combine the Hospitality Committee with the Membership Committee.

### **Old Business:**

- CPR Classes: Carna noted that she is still working on scheduling classes.
- Insurance notice of renewal—see above
- Nominations Committee Update—see above

### **New Business:**

Camping 2024, percentage payment & other details. After discussion, Roger Rix motioned to pay 75% of camping costs for children & family members who are currently active in our church programs. The motion was approved.

Interfaith Federal Credit Union Account. An explanation of the account was given and stated that there had been no activity for years and that there was \$20 in savings in the account. Carna Atherton-Pray motioned to close the account. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Thurston: Linda asked the council to 1) Consider ways to increase Sunday morning attendance; 2) Think about ways to encourage & welcome new members who have recently transferred their membership to Groton UMC. Pastor Rob said the church office would send out a welcome letter to those new transfers; and 3) Pointed out that our sanctuary windows are really in need of cleaning. Tyke said he would look into services to get the windows cleaned.

We acknowledged a gift from bequest to the church.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Jeanne Wanous





November 2023						
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		



## *Our Church Happenings...*

Nov 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov 5 All Saints Sunday during worship

Nov 7 Groton Tues 10 am begins Advent Study

Nov 7 Groton Nominations Committee Mtg 7 pm

Nov 8 UMYF participating in food drive at GHS

**Nov 12 Groton Fall Dinner 11 am - 1 pm**  
**Groton Worship & Sunday School at 10 am**

Nov 12 Groton/Conde Charge Conference 2 pm

Nov 15 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Nov 19 December newsletter deadline

Nov 21 Happy Birthday Pastor Rob

Nov 23 Community Thanksgiving Dinner  
 at Community Center 11:30 am - 1 pm