



Groton & Conde UMC

Newsletter

January 2024

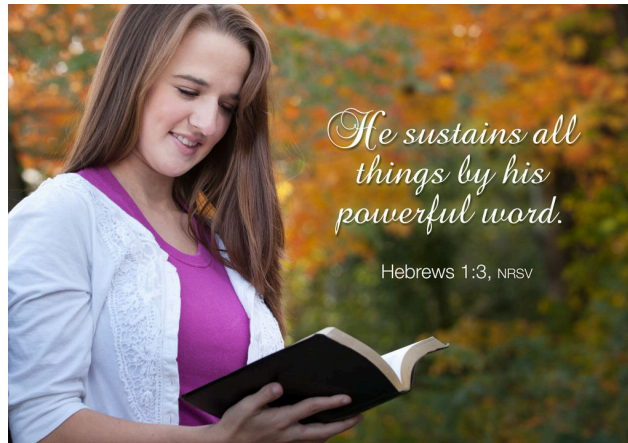
906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

Pastor Rob's Ponderings...

Last month I discussed my love for Christmas music. I play favorite Christmas tunes throughout the year, including the Summer months. One of the consequences of listening to this music so much is I start thinking about the lyrics. What is actually being said by the singer(s)?

A common refrain heard by congregations I have led is "to listen to the words" of the songs and hymns we sing. I believe most people are guilty of falling in love with the "tune" of the music we hear long before we understand the words being conveyed in the song. I'm guilty of recognizing tunes and enjoying the "sound" of the music even after I've forgotten the lyrics. One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Christmas will Return" from the original Santa Clause movie starring Tim Allen. It's a wonderful song continuing the spirit of the movie as the ending credits roll. However, I've been rethinking the lyrics. Here are the lyrics for the chorus which is repeated at least three times: Christmas will return/ And joyful hearts like candles burn/With love for all the little ones/In countries far and near/And if we live and learn/ To show the world our real concern/Then Christmas will return every year.

Seems like a nice sentiment? And the music makes it "feel" even better. Heading



He sustains all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:3, NRSV

into January and the heart of winter, it's nice to remember Christmas, right?

Except, where is the focus, or should I ask, who is the focus on in this song? It's on us. "If we live and learn;" "If we show the world our real concern."

Now, I like giving and receiving gifts and great food and drink as much as the next person. I love checking out all the lights and receiving Christmas cards and letters, especially family pictures of friends I rarely visit.

But is taking part in all these things and remembering them in the depths of January and then putting into practice the good feelings really going to make Christmas return?

John 1:8 describes the real "power" behind Christmas: "The One who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world."

Hebrews 1:3 describes

what this "Light" does: "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command."

If it depended on my good intentions for our Christmas celebrations to be remembered and celebrated, we wouldn't "have had Christmas" for decades, and I'm willing to guess it would have been gone much longer. In other words, it's not about us – it's about Jesus. Always has been, always will be.

I was listening to a comedian whose slogan was, "It's a great day for America!" He said that was what he'll be saying for the rest of his life. I think my slogan for 2024 and beyond is going to be: It's not about us – it's about Jesus. Always has been, always will be. Hebrews 1:3

See you in church!

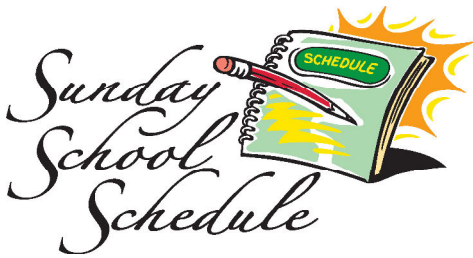


OFFICE HOURS



Pastor Rob
In Office
Tuesday &
Wednesday
Mornings

Monday
Day Off



- Jan. 14 – SS 10:30
- 21 – SS 10:30
- 28 – SS 10:30
- Feb. 4 – SS 10:30
- 11 – SS 9:30 / Sing in church 10:30
- 18 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
(President’s Day weekend)
- 25 – SS 10:30
- Mar. 3 – SS 10:30
- 10 – SS 10:30
- 17 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
(Spring Break)
- 24 – SS 9:30 / Sing in church
10:30 (Palm Sunday)
- 31 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
(Easter)
- April 7 – SS 10:30
- 14 – SS 10:30
- 21 – SS 10:30
- 28 – SS 10:30
- May 5 – SS 10:30
- 12 – Last Day of SS – Carnival 9:30
Sing in church 10:30 (Mother’s Day)

Sympathies to the family of Carolyn Snyder who passed away Dec 2, 2023 in Grand Forks ND at the age of 91.

Condolences may be sent to

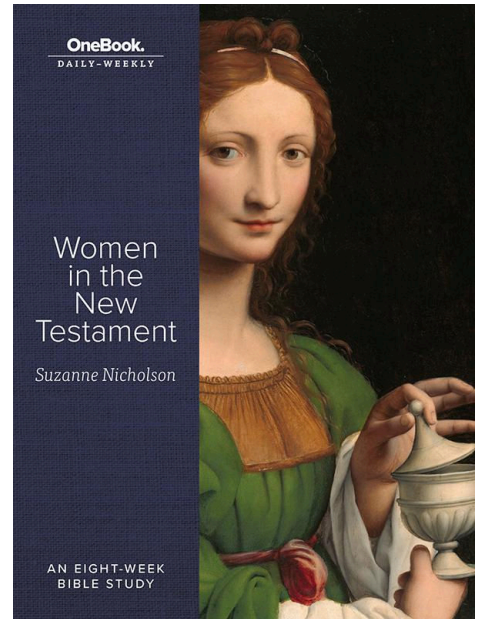
Barbara (Snyder) Luna
4879 Opal Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901



Tuesday 10 AM Bible Study J.O.Y. Group

resumes on January 23rd with Women in the New Testament. Please join us at DQ and get a book to join our study each week! Something new for the New Year!

January 16th we are meeting at DQ for lunch at 11 am and to receive the new study book and visit. Join us as we catch up on news from Christmas and families.



The new caring team is responsible for designing and implementing ministries which care for members, persons new to the church, and inactive members.

This team is also responsible for encouraging all church members to be a part of the church family caring for each other. Assistance will also be given to funeral families as needed, and coordination for blessing showers, confirmation, and graduation. He goal is to initiate care and comfort practices for the church family. Team Chair is Jolene Townsend along with Anita Lowary, Carol Strom, Marva Gellhaus, Sara Hofer, Kay Daly, and all members and friends of our church family.

Church Information

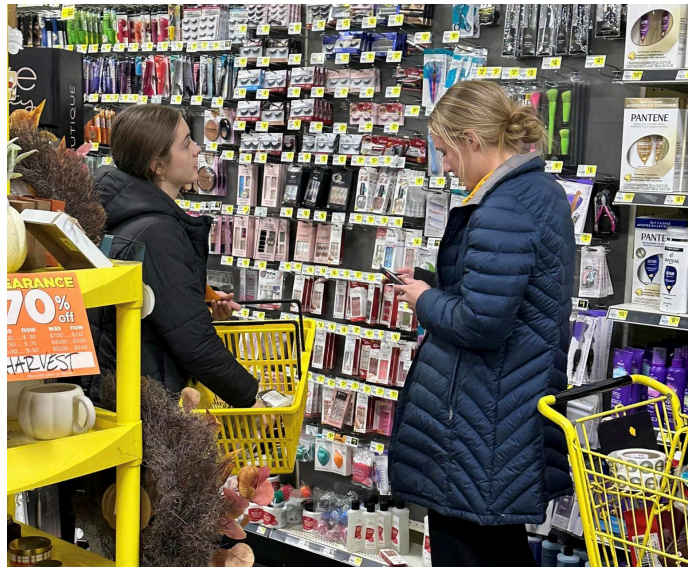
Pastor Rob Moorlach
Office Phone 605-397-8270
Parsonage Phone 605-397-4538

Pastor Email: pastorrob@nvc.net
Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net
Website: www.grotonumc.org
Facebook: facebook.com/grotonsdumc/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



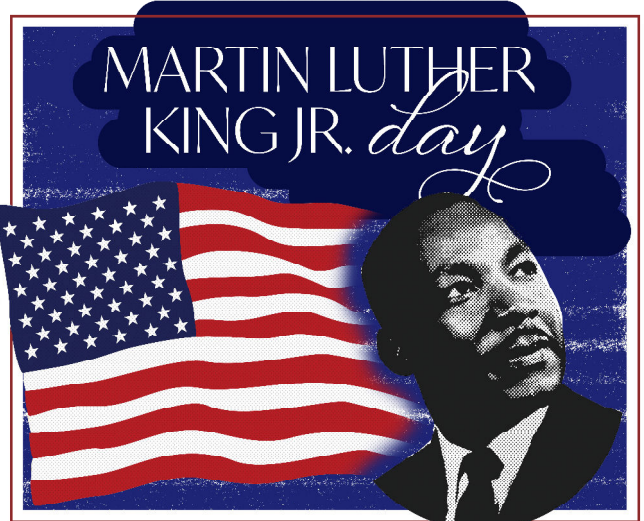




The Heart of our Faith

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Groton Church Security

Several months ago a keypad lock was put on the North door to the church. We have been sharing the code with our church family so that the church is available to all of us. Here are some instructions in case you are not familiar with this type of lock. To get in just press our number. There are phone numbers of people to contact or the office if you do not have the code.

When leaving, Since this is a deadbolt lock you have to go outside the church and then lock it on the keypad. ***If you lock the doorknob, no one has a key and you cannot get in unless you go through the office around the church.*** The doorknob lock was not very secure so thus the deadbolt. Any question, feel free to ask.

When we have a public event or a day where people are dropping things off, there should be a note on the door to leave it open and the person in charge of the event will stop by and lock it later. Sometimes this involves the community so leaving unlocked is the easiest.

Thank you for making our church secure.

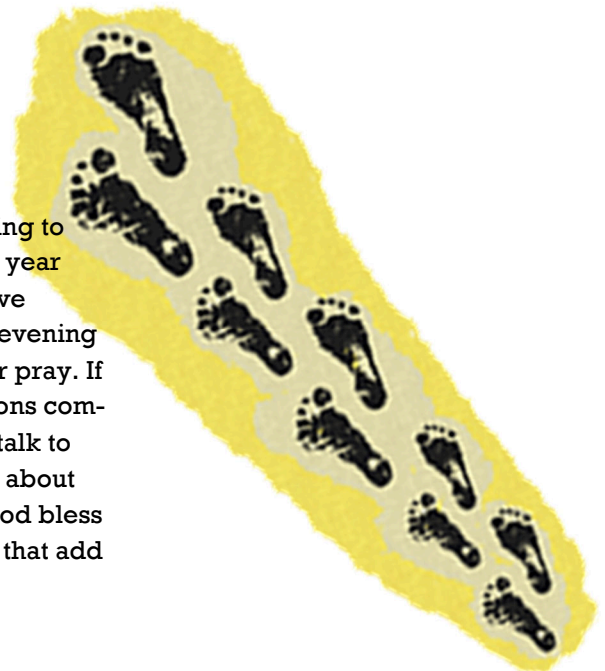


Resolve to go micro

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be help-

ful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!



Groton Family Committee - January

Cliff & Carna Pray

- Doris & Ron Anderson
- Kim & Craig Weber
- Pernell Graf
- Charity & Scotty Hinman
- Karsten, Breslyn
- Nancy Hinrichs
- Sara & Rick Hofer
- Linda & Jay Johnson
- Yvonne Lorenz
- Tim Olson
- Roger Overacker
- John Padfield
- Eugenia & Dwight Strom

Honorary Members

- Caralee Heitmann
- Sharon Wheeting

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 committee book
- Maintain the Altar Flower Arrangements
- Change decorations on tables in fellowship hall with the seasons
- Shovel snow from doorways before Church
- Potluck 2nd Sunday—give church secretary details for bulletin
- Take down Christmas decorations with all church helping
- If tree lights need replacing, do so before putting them away

Family Committee books will be printed soon!



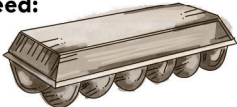




New

INSIDE


Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these “rocks” to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton 
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue 
- Paintbrush 

What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.




Groton Family Committee - February

Karla Pasteur

Sue & Randy Stanley

- Amber & Adrian Daly, Levi
- Kay & Doug Daly
- Lucy Daly
- Angela & Perryn Dobbins, Jaden
- Kristen Dolan
- Adrienne & Tigh Fliehs
- Marc Johnson
- Yvonne Lange
- Shelly Lerew
- Jessica & Brent Morehouse
- Jayme Overacker
- Karen & Ian Rose
- Linda & Gary Thurston
- Todd Thurston

Honorary Members

- Jean Walter
- Darlys Kampa

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February 2024						
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		



Our Church Celebrations...

Groton

- Jan 2 Holly Walter
- Jan 3 Caroline Graf
- Jan 5 Jeremy & Samantha Weber
Treyton Diegel
- Jan 6 Samantha Bahr
Zachary Townsend
- Jan 7 Karla & Russel Davidson
- Jan 9 JoAnn Krueger (80)
- Jan 10 Melissa & Neil Gilbert
Neil Gilbert
- Jan 11 Huntley Overacker
Myndi Kampa
Randy Padfield
- Jan 13 Lance Hawkins
Monte McNickle
- Jan 14 Isabella Daly
Jay & Linda Johnson
- Jan 15 Alissa Gellhaus-Wells
- Jan 16 Hunter Bahr
Laurie Mitchell
Ryder Johnson
- Jan 18 Cheryl Graf
- Jan 19 Tim Graf
- Jan 21 Taryn Thompson

- Jan 23 Jed Morehouse
- Jan 24 Doris & Ron Anderson
- Jan 26 Trinity Smith
- Jan 27 Kristi Hawkins
- Jan 28 Ruby Luce
- Jan 30 Major Dolan
- Jan 31 Daniel Townsend

Conde

- Jan 3 Bruce Herman
- Jan 10 Donna Hearnen
- Jan 11 Norman Smith
- Jan 31 Kevin Hanlon



80th Birthday January 9th

JoAnn Krueger
918 Arbor Lane #50
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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




Three Powerful Prayers

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), an Irish Protestant missionary, served in India for 55 years. Much of her work was with children, especially rescuing them from sexual slavery. Carmichael wrote 35 books and many articles about her mission work. The Church of England remembers her on January 18, the anniversary of her death.

- May thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.
- Holy Spirit, think through me, till your ideas are my ideas.
- God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.

The following brief but powerful prayers are attributed to Carmichael:





Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the

Holy Spirit

who is in you,
whom you have received from God?
You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20, NIV

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Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store 

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PRAYING

YOU'LL SEE THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PLANS THIS

NEW YEAR



Groton Stewardship Report Nov 2023	
Average Wkly Giving	\$3,021
Needed Wkly for Church Mission	\$2,393
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday	47
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs	\$5



January 2024						
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...

Jan 10 Groton Confirmation Class 6:30 pm weekly

Jan 16 Groton J.O.Y. Bible Study at DQ 11 am

Jan 17 Groton Ad Council 7 pm

Jan 23 Groton J.O.Y. Bible Study begins new study at 10 am

Jan 25 Newsletter Deadline for Feb/Lent

Groton Community Coffee Hour every Wednesday at 9:30 am