

## Reading the Signs

The website has a couple new interesting items.

1. Pastor Rob's Ponderings can be read and is updated randomly so check back often!
2. Missed Church? You can now listen to the sermon online with high-speed internet.

Fall has arrived according to the calendar, but the signs of Fall have been seen for weeks. My challenge is trying to read them. Before I go further, I should mention I have never been good at reading signs.

One of the signs of Fall has been the preparations for the Fall Bazaar put on by the church in Groton, especially by the women's group. I missed this sign when I walked into the church kitchen and saw a group of people boiling potatoes and then squashing them through a "strainer-type" tool. When I asked what they were doing, they looked at me as if I had arrived from Saturn! Being Dutch, how was I supposed to know how *lefse* was made?

Another sign of the season came in the form of signs. I received a large package of political signs from my favorite presidential campaign. When I gave one of the signs to a good friend, she announced, "Now I have something to burn to keep me warm." After we laughed with the group of friends standing around us, another friend said, "Rob, didn't you know you are in a definite minority around here?" With the exception of 1972, the State of South Dakota (my home state) has voted the same way in every presidential election since 1964. How was I supposed to know that sign?

The sign I should have read immediately was the one I finally

saw a couple of days later. I arrived in church on Sunday to see (or not see) many of my farm families missing. Each of these families had been in church services almost every Sunday, even in the Summer. Why were they missing on this particular Sunday? It bothered me for days, even though I heard the rain fall heavily on Sunday night. Why would faithful, wonderful Christians miss out on the fellowship and worship on a Sunday morning?

When I finally asked another church member, I was asked, "Didn't you hear the rain on Sunday?" The question was accompanied by one of those looks as if I just arrived from Saturn.

I finally "caught the sign" two days later when I was visiting someone and saw what looked like a thousand combines in the bean fields. It's harvest!

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not writing about "taking the Sabbath day in vain." I know there would be people saying, "We never worked on Sunday when I was young." If you never worked on a Sunday when you were young, God bless you. And if you worked last Sunday before the rain fell, God bless you too. Why the blessings? You were reading the signs and took the opportunity given to you to support your family and fulfill your responsibility.

Those folks who read the signs are a good example to all of us. Watch for the people around you. Be aware that people are reading your signs as well. As one of my favorite lyric lines goes, "You're the only Jesus some will ever see."



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Congratulations  
Harry & Gloria  
Pharis  
October 26th  
50th Wedding  
Anniversary**



## Groton Screen/ Projector Project

Wouldn't it be great to have the new system installed for our Christmas Season? We have had several generous donations and words of support, but still need additional funds to complete the project. Please place your pledge or donation in the offering plate any Sunday, or talk to Anita about your commitment to helping bring this great addition to our church.



# Our Church Celebrations

### Groton Birthdays

- Oct 2 Winifred Fawcett
- Oct 4 Fred Wolken  
Josh Atherton
- Oct 5 Brent Swenson  
Jeanne Wanous
- Oct 7 Allen Walter
- Oct 8 Gloria Pharis
- Oct 13 Carna Atherton-Pray
- Oct 14 Grady O'Neil
- Oct 15 Brad Morehouse  
Jaymie Overacker  
Russell Davison
- Oct 21 Gary Heitmann
- Oct 24 Karla Davidson
- Oct 25 Lars Hanson

- Oct 26 Imojeanne Oliver
- Oct 29 Connie Nilsson
- Oct 20 Holden Sippel
- Oct 31 C J Barton

### Groton Anniversaries

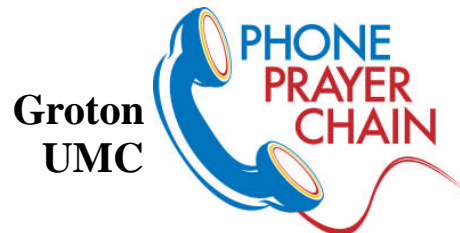
- Oct 8 Lars & Kelli Hanson
- Oct 10 Dan & Marjae Schinkel
- Oct 12 Marc & Jane Johnson
- Oct 26 Harry & Gloria Pharis

### Conde Birthdays

- Oct 9 Joseph Smith
- Oct 21 Tony Lyren
- Oct 22 Janice Hanson  
Marsha Murphy
- Oct 29 Marcene Bruckner
- Oct 31 Andee Geist



Mackenzie Jo Atherton  
Baptized September 28th



- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Marlys Rodman      | 397-4570 |
| Audrey Thurston    | 397-8493 |
| Gert Ruden         | 397-8211 |
| Pat Dahlquist      | 397-2616 |
| Florann Norris     | 397-2638 |
| Mary Swisher       | 397-8337 |
| Gloria Pharis      | 397-2375 |
| Mary Jane Schott   | 397-8588 |
| Doris Zoellner     | 397-2417 |
| Marjorie Townsend  | 298-5221 |
| Darlys Kampa       | 395-6996 |
| Marvel/Bob Johnson | 397-2425 |
| Mary Ann Whede     | 397-8330 |

\*Currently 70 on email prayer chain.  
If you are not on this list or the email list,  
please notify the church office.

# Conde UMW September

CONDE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met September 17 at 2:00 PM in the church.

Pat Siefken presented the lesson "For the Love of Children" involving public education and how we can contribute. All were involved by naming their favorite teacher, discussing schools as we knew them.

A note of thanks from Marlene Nogle was read with a donation in memory of her mother.

Lois Trapp read the devotion from the Conference Booklet.

Roll called showed six members present, followed by reading of the minutes and treasurer's report.

Roetell Home visit was reported with a suggestion to go there again before Christmas with a similar program, taking a plant or a gift with us.

There was a small attendance at the Alumni Lunch, but all were pleased they had an opportunity to relax and have a light

lunch. Jane Worlie was in charge of the lunch that afternoon.

District meeting report was given by Betty Taylor. Ivy Nogle was remembered in the Memorial Service. Reports were given by officers, with new officers being elected and the budget being approved.

Warm clothes for children are to be taken to the Annual Meeting in Jamestown on October 2 and 3. Also pop tabs are to be weighed and money sent to District Treasurer.

InGathering kits are being assembled with donations from the church to purchase supplies needed to complete some kits. It was moved to purchase flood buckets and send a check to InGathering to pay for toothpaste for health kits.

Next meeting will be October 15 at 2:00 PM. with the lesson focus on Palestine/Israel led by Donna Hearnen. Patty Knoll will be hostess for the day.

## Janitor Needed

The Conde Ad Council and Trustees are looking for a church janitor. Contact Cindy Smith or Jane Worlie for more info.

### Conde UMW Meeting October 15th at 2 PM

Program Focus - Palestine/Israel "Made in the Image of God"

Leader - Donna Hearnen and Hostess - Betty Taylor

## Giving Our Hearts



### Groton UMW Meeting October 15th at 2 PM

Program is "Breast Cancer Awareness"

Leader is Kelli Hanson



Hostesses are  
Michele Kramer &  
Rose Tewksbury



Lefse Making

## Camp Thank You

Dear UMC,

Thank you so much for paying for part of the church camp I attended this summer! I went to a camp at Lake Poinsett called "Sand, Surf, and Son" It was a blast! We did a lot of fun things like playing games, having campfires, singing songs, lots of water activities, and lots more! I met tons of new people!

Thanks again! Sydney Erickson

Dear UMC,

Thank you for paying for part of my church camp, it was really fun. I went to Lake Poinsett and met tons of new friends. It was a great experience and I would love to return. Thanks for your generosity.

Camille Sippel



## Voter's Guide

The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church has published a voter's guide based on the Social Principles (non-binding upon individual United Methodists and individual United Methodist congregations) and how these principles compare to the platforms of the two major parties in the United States election this November. This voter's guide also contains website addresses for all political parties appearing on the ballot (in most states). To see the voter's guide, go to [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org) If you would like copies of the voter's guide, get one from Pastor Rob

## Grief Support Group

I write to inform you of a Grief Support group starting up in October 2008. Non-denominational and open to all, there is a group already in conversation that desires to meet regularly at a Groton location.

For now, the group will be meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran, and every first and third Monday Evening sessions will begin at 6:30 pm.

This is an opportunity for anyone who desires companionship and encouragement during the journey through grief. All are welcome. You see below that the group has chosen a name for itself, stemming from the Old French for 'heart', and also at the root of courage and encouragement.

For starters, the group plans to be with a book by Nancy Markworth Brown, entitled "Suddenly Your world Falls Apart: A Guide

to Grieving Well". Other guides will include "Room of Marvels" by James Bryant Smith and helps and inspirations that come along the way.

Contact is Melinda Eikamp  
Or Pastor Rob can also help

**SORROW  
AND LOVE  
FLOW  
MINGLED  
DOWN**

**'COEUR'**  
Grief Support Group now  
meets in Groton  
Current Location =  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Days = First & Third  
Mondays @ 6:30pm

# Groton UMW Bazaar - Oct 1st





**Groton**

**OCTOBER:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sing in Church
- 12<sup>th</sup> No SS
- 19<sup>th</sup> SS
- 26<sup>th</sup> SS

**NOVEMBER:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> SS
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sing in Church
- 16<sup>th</sup> SS
- 23<sup>rd</sup> SS
- 30<sup>th</sup> No SS


**DECEMBER:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> SS
- 14<sup>th</sup> SS
- 21<sup>st</sup> SS Christmas Program
- 28<sup>th</sup> No SS

**January:**

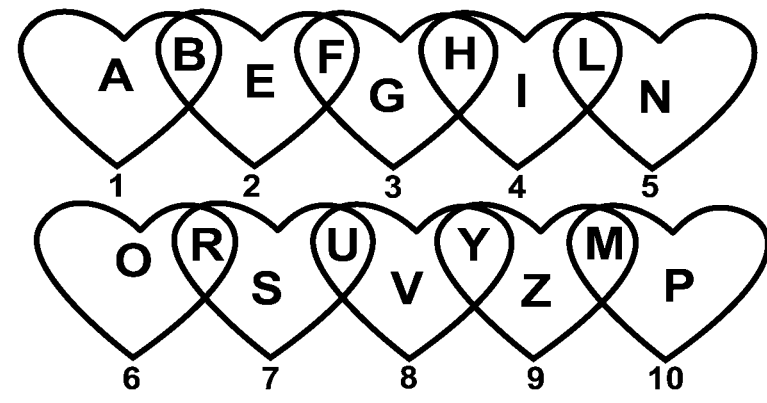
- 4<sup>th</sup> No SS

Sunday School time line: 10:15-10:30 am is music in the chapel. 10:45-11:15 am is lesson in the classroom. 11:15 am the children will go into church as a group for the children's sermon and then they will sit down for church. If your child will not be going to church that Sunday, Please let their teacher know and have them picked up by 11:10 am.



## THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV). Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



“L

4,5	6	8	2	8,9	6	7,8	6,7
5	2	4	3	3,4	1,2	6	6,7
			1	7			
8,9	6	7,8	6,7	7	2	4,5	2,3

”

*Matthew 22:39, NIV*

Answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

## Groton UMYF

The Groton Youth Fellowship kicked off its year with a couple of meetings and a successful effort at winning the "Best Church Float" in the Groton Homecoming Parade.

The Groton Youth Fellowship meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

We are looking forward to the Groton Youth Rally in November and a possible "Surprise Fund Raiser" in November-December.

Set aside the weekend of February 13-15 for the "Official Youth Ski Trip to Storm Mountain."

# World Communion Sunday - Oct 5th

**World Communion Sunday** is a time to be in communion with Christians all over the world and to enable us to "press on toward the goal" of serving God in life-changing ministries.

When churches take the offering for this special Sunday, the proceeds provides ethnic scholarships for international and United States racial and ethnic minority graduate students and scholarships for racial and ethnic minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

Fifty per cent of the special offering goes to the [World Communion Scholarship Program](#) of the General Board of Global Ministries. These scholarships enable persons from churches in nations other than the United States and from ethnic and racial minorities in

the United States to prepare for leadership in mission in church and society.

From Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East, as well as from racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, Crusade scholars are committed to the life and

mission of the Church, as well as to its ministry to society and the world. Since the inception of the program in 1944, the Crusade Scholarship Program has funded nearly 4,000 students.



Paul Jeffrey

## Cub Scouts

The Groton United Methodist Church is the Charter Organization for the local Cub Scout Program. They meet often in our church. This month they will be selling popcorn as a fundraiser to earn money for their pack. Please help support these young folks raise funds to continue their adventures. All are invited to attend the pack meetings and watch the cub scouts learn and have a good time.

Kay Brandt - Local  
Church Coordinator



## Cub Scouting Ideals

Apart from the fun and excitement of Cub Scout activities, the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto, and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging.

**Cub Scout Promise:** *I, (name), promise to do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country,  
To help other people, and  
To obey the Law of the Pack.*

**Cub Scout Motto:** *Do Your Best.*

**Tiger Cub Motto:** *Search, Discover, Share.*

**Law of the Pack:** *The Cub Scout follows Akela. The Cub Scout helps the pack go. The pack helps the Cub Scout grow. The Cub Scout gives goodwill.*

**Colors:** The Cub Scouting colors are blue and gold. They have special meaning, which will help boys see beyond the fun of Cub Scouting to its ultimate goals. The blue stands for truth and spirituality, steadfast loyalty, and the sky above. The gold stands for warm sunlight, good cheer, and happiness.

# Conde Ad Council - Sept

CONDE AD COUNCIL met September 24 at 8:00 PM with Betty Geist presiding in the absence of Chair Patty Knoll. Pat Siefken led in prayer, followed by unison reading of the Purpose of our church.

Motion was made that third graders in the Community Church School be given Bibles with the format to be chosen by Cheri Kurtz, leader.

Darrel Haskell, Trustees chair, reported there will be an inspection of the church furnace system on Friday to prepare for usage in the winter.

Betty Jensen, Memorial Committee Chair, presented a report on the Memorial Committee to the present time.

Suggestions were made as to memorials to be purchased from the fund. Among items proposed: LCD projector, laptop computer and printer, tree skirt, stage lights, erasable board.

Donna Hearnen, Mission chair, reported

that kits were assembled and ready to be taken to the InGathering in Mitchell on Saturday. The UMW had donated money for Flood Buckets and toothpaste to be included in the Health Kits.

The youth group will be meeting again this year, scheduled for every week. Cheri Kurtz also displayed materials that will be used for Church School, among them the One Room literature.

The decision was made to advertise for a janitor for the church, with a committee being appointed to set guidelines. This would also include some care of the grounds.

Charge Conference will meet at Groton church at 7:00 PM on November 2. All committees will meet before that time to report at the Conference.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 22 at 8:00 PM. at the church.

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



# Men's Fall Dinner is November 2nd

Serving a Roast Beef Dinner with homemade pie is being planned. Dinner will be served from 11 am - 1 pm. Chairpersons for the dinner are Brad & Diann Morehouse and Alan & Jolene Townsend. Make plans to attend today!

**Laity Training** is being offered through Video Conferencing System October 24-25th. Six locations are available: Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Piedmont, Bismark, Fargo, and Jamestown. The church office has more information if you wish to attend.

# Groton Ad Council - Sept

News letter items for Admin Council on Sept. 10

Approval for the purchase of a projector and screen for the Groton sanctuary has been given by the Trustees and Administrative Council. It is hoped that installation could be complete before Christmas.

The annual Men's Dinner was discussed along with concerns about finding a chairperson for this year's event. No decisions could

be made until the men get together and make recommendations.

Jolene Townsend stated that the UMW was asked and has agreed to provide lunch for the Margaret Bladder auction sale on October 11.

Much work is being done to prepare the budget and committee assignments for the annual Charge Conference on November 2 which will be held at the Groton church.



## Groton Mission Statement

*"Enriching Spiritual lives through Christ."*

## Who's Email?

grotonumc@nvc.net is read by ALL office staff  
 robmoorlach@nvc.net is read ONLY by Pastor Rob  
 kay@kayscomputing.com is read ONLY by Kay  
 Hope this helps on the confusion of who reads what emails!

# Groton Monthly Family Committee - November

**Joyce & Alan Walter**

**Darlys Kampa**

**Twila Ruden**

**Kim & Craig Weber**

JoAnn & Richard Krueger

Michelle & Chuck Padfield

Ruby Luce & Pauline Luce

Kay & Ben Brandt

Crystal & Doug Sippel

Pat Dahlquist

Jay & Linda Johnson

Marge & Russell Townsend

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

Rodney Boehmer

**Honorary Members**

Eugene Luce

Ruth Thompson

Richard Voss

Vernon Walter

**Extra Responsibilities**

- Nov 2nd hang communion banners and change altar cloths to white for this Sunday only
- Nov 9th change altar cloths to green and hang the monthly banners
- Nov 30th change altar cloths to purple
- Arrange to order Poinsettias
- Put up church indoor and outdoor decorations Nov 25th with December committee and all church members (check date with pastor)
- Clean Pastor and Secretary's Office
- Men's Fall Dinner - no potluck



November 2008						
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						

October 2008						
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

- Oct 5 World Communion Sunday
- Oct 5 Groton Bible Presentation to our 3rd graders
- Oct 5 Groton Cub Scouts Popcorn Fundraiser Starts
- Oct 5 Groton Sunday School Mtg 6:30. Planning upcoming events!
- Oct 8 Groton Finance Committee Mtg 6:15 pm for the budget
- Oct 8 Groton Ad Council at 7 pm
- Oct 11 Margaret Blade Auction - UMW Serving
- Oct 12 Groton Sunday School singing at the nursing home
- Oct 15 Conde UMW Meeting 2 PM
- Oct 15 Groton UMW Meeting 2 PM
- Oct 15 Groton UMYF 7 PM
- Oct 22 Conde Ad Council 8 PM
- Nov 2 Charge Conference 7 PM in Groton
- Nov 2 Groton Men's Fall Dinner from 11 am - 1 pm.
- Nov 2 Worship times for Conde and Groton will switch for this Sunday only

