



December 2022

906 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445

...from Pastor Brandon

Hello Church Family,

If you're anything like me you get really excited about the Christmas season and you put a lot of energy into it. For me, it's so much so that I feel exhausted when it's all said and done. Anyone else? But, truthfully... it shouldn't be that way, should it? I mean, this is the most wonderful time of the year, isn't it? Why should we get to the end of it feeling like we've given it everything we have and it hasn't given back even more in return?

Here's what I want to propose to you... What if it was possible to make a few minor changes in the way that we think, in the way that we act, in the way that we engage with this season... so that rather than ending this season feeling like we're running on empty... What if this year, after the last present has been opened and the last family gathering closed, you actually felt like you had more energy? What if you felt like you had a bigger vision for what God was up to in this world and in your life? What if, 4 weeks from now, after all the exciting



holidays have passed and it's just January and cold outside, what if you were more excited for what was coming in the future than you are right now, and felt passionate about getting involved? I think that's what God wants to do in our lives over the next few weeks.

This Advent we're starting a series that we're calling "Filling Up Christmas." Because we all fill up Christmas, don't we? We just sometimes fill it up with the wrong things. I want to point us back to the Scriptures. And over the next few weeks, I want to point us back to the way of Jesus, in hopes of really, painting for us a different

picture of what Christmas could and should look like.

Because Advent isn't about cramming as much excitement as we can into as little time as possible. Advent is about remembering God fulfilling His promise to Israel by sending down His son at Christmas, and it's about believing that He will fulfill His promise to us by coming once more. May we find true hope in His Word this holiday season.

Blessings,
Pastor Brandon Dunham



Pastor
In Office
Tuesday &
Thursday
Mornings

Friday
Day Off



3rd Grade Bibles in Groton

were received by: Jaela Spanks, Kaelee Morehouse, Huntley Overacker, and Tigh Fliehs on October 23rd.



Conde MISSION STATEMENT

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

Journey Through Advent with John Wesley's Means of Grace.

“The season of Advent offers time and space for Christians to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas through reflecting on the story of salvation.

In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. Each chapter guides participants through one of the four weeks of Advent by reflecting on biblical pas-

sages in light of an aspect of Wesleyan means of grace highlighted by illustrations and stories. In this season of Advent as we await the birth of the Christ child remember and know God's goodness and love for us.”

Pastor Brandon will lead a study in in Groton on Monday nights at 6pm 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!

Church Information

Pastor Brandon Dunham
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Secretary Email: grotonumc@nvc.net
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Facebook: facebook.com/grotonsdumc/
906 N 1st St Groton, SD 57445

Sunday School shares music during worship.



- December 4 – Sunday School 9:30 (Lesson & Christmas Program)
- December 11 – Sunday School 9:30-11:30 (We will go into church for children’s sermon and have a snack, then continue practicing.)
- December 18 - Sunday school Christmas practice 9:30
- Sunday School Christmas Program (10:30 during church)
- December 25 – No SS

UMYF Food Collection



CHRISTMAS



PROGRAM





Hello Church family!

Can you believe it? Christmas time is right around the corner!

This season can be a time of wonder and joy, but it can get pretty busy too! Halls to be decked, apparel to be donned, yules to be...tided? It's so easy to let the entire month of December pass by and totally forget *why* we celebrate Christmas. So to help us remember Christ this Christmas, we're hosting an event called "Gingerbread Bash!"

This is a fun and interactive experience designed for the whole family! We're going to build a gingerbread nativity while celebrating the birth of Jesus. More than that, you'll hear the Christmas story from the Bible, sing songs, play games, and discover the good news of Jesus through candy canes. It's a truly sweet way for your family to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

We'll be hosting this event on December 14th from 5-7pm. (Food will be served)

You are absolutely not going to want to miss out on the fun, but we need you to register! You can do that by telling Meri Erickson or Pastor Brandon how many kids you are bringing or by messaging us through our church Facebook page.

We can't wait to see you there!

Christmas Caroling

Our youth group is teaming up with Emmanuel Lutheran Church's choir and Youth to spread some holiday cheer this Christmas. We are going to be caroling on December 14th. Starting at 6:30pm in the church's fellowship hall we will fill up on hot chocolate and then take a bus around town to various residents.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN.

If you would like us to stop by your house this year, please sign-up on our sheet in the fellowship hall prior, or let Pastor Brandon know!



Trunk or Treat 2022 Photos





New Bishop

Bishop Lanette Plambeck has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area effective January 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Before her election, she served as the Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Clergy and Leadership Excellence in the Iowa Annual Conference.

Bishop Plambeck, in her pastoral service, has served as a local church pastor in four different pastoral settings including urban, county seat and town and country. She has experience as a college chaplain and a licensed counselor in family systems and chemical and substance abuse. She is a veteran of the US Army and was deployed to Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

She says the measure of her leadership is three questions she asks herself at the end of each day: *Did I glorify God? Did I point people to Christ? Did I love?* She describes herself as “unapologetically Wesleyan and so in love with Jesus and his ministry marked by compassion, grace and justice.” A gift she brings as a leader is “to inspire others to live lives of significance as we work for ‘kingdom on earth as it is in heaven’ through active discipleship as we respond to the suffering in the world. I am committed to devel-

oping leaders (clergy and laity) to grow into the very best versions of themselves so that they can be at their very best for God.”

Bishop Plambeck has one daughter who lives in the Washington DC area.

The North Central Jurisdiction’s Episcopacy Committee is responsible for assigning bishops—a process that begins immediately after all bishops are elected. The committee includes two people from each annual conference. The announcement of the assignments of all nine bishops was made on Saturday morning at the end of the consecration service for the three new bishops. Their assignments take effect on January 1, 2023. Bishops are normally assigned for a four-year term, but this will be a shortened assignment as the Jurisdictional Conference is scheduled to meet in its regular sequence following General Conference, in July 2024 to elect and assign bishops for the 2024-2028 quadrennium.

Rev. Sara Nelson and Beata Ferris represented the Dakotas Annual Conference on the committee. About Bishop Plambeck’s assignment to the Dakotas-Minnesota Area they said:

“The work of the Episcopal Committee is holy work of making assignments. It was exciting to be a part of that process,” said Nelson. “It will be a pleas-

ure and honor to work with Bishop Plambeck.”

Ferris said, “My role as a lay delegate on the committee afforded me the opportunity to be in the room where it happens. It is exciting work to examine the needs of the annual conferences and to match those needs with the gifts and graces. Bishop Plambeck is a great fit for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area.”



Groton Family Committee - January 2023

Linda & Jay Johnson

Brenda & Tony Madsen

Kristi & Lance Hawkins

Traci & Dale Kramer, Emma

Anita & John Lowary

Chris & Tyke Nyberg

Justin Olson

Jesse Overacker, KayLynn, Emily

Marjae & Dan Schinkel, Emma

Jenna & Nick Strom

June & Mark Thompson

Kim & Craig Weber

Honorary Members

Ida Hannon

Marie McClintic & Larry Schnaidt

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 this 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 tables 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 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	31				



A Christmas Harvest

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love. —Helen Keller



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 Joyce Haskell
- Dec 4 Greg & Stacey Bonn
- Dec 17 Pastor Brandon**
- Dec 27 Richard & Dorothy Sander-
son



A prayer to the Christ-child

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

—Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

If Church is Cancelled due to weather - Groton

If church is called off due to the weather, we put out a one call. So if your number has changed and you haven't received any this past year, please contact Kay Daly to do an update. If you have a telemarketer block on your phone, you will NOT receive the calls so have someone else call you when one happens.

You have a James Valley number? There are problems with the phone calls not always going through on this caller but I can have it sent to your email. So please update your information with Kay and figure out what works for you. Pastor Brandon will post on Facebook as well.



Groton Ad Council - Nov

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman Lars Hanson. Those in attendance were Marjorie Overacker, Allen Walter, Lars Hanson, Val Baker, Carna Pray. AM Mitchell, Jane Johnson. Pastor Brandon Dunham arrived after the food drive.

Carna Pray opened with a prayer. **Agenda:** The agenda was approved on a motion by Marjorie Overacker and 2nd by Allen Walter.

Minutes: The previous minutes were approved on a motion by Marjorie Overacker and 2nd by Carna Pray.

Correspondence: Marjorie Overacker received quarterly statements from the Foundation Endowment and Edward D Jones. She is going to check to see how the Endowment funds can be used.

Committee Reports:

Pastor Parish: Chair Carna Pray reported Pastor Brandon Dunham’s salary was increase by 3%.

Trustees: None

Church Treasurer: Marjorie Overacker reported she hasn’t received the check that was reissued from the United Methodist Endowment Fund. She paid the insurance bill which covers the building.

Financial Secretary: Allen Walter reported the Fall Dinner proceeds were approximately \$808.00.

Pastor/Parish Treasurer: None

Bills: Pastor Brandon Dunham had received a bill for the Dakota Annual Conference for \$60.00. This is the registration fee for Pastor Brandon Dunham and Carna Pray. It was determined this bill needed to be given to Meri Erickson.

Administrative Report: Pastor Brandon Dunham had been at a food drive tonight. There is a special session of the Annual Conference. He and Carna Pray chose to attend the session in Fargo this Saturday the 19th. There would be no Youth Group next Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday/vacation. Advent starts November 27th. The Angel tree will wrap up on December 7th. There will be caroling on Wednesday, December 14th. Sunday School Christmas program is the 18th. A meal will be served after the program. Christmas Eve service in Groton will be at 5:00 pm. Pastor Brandon Dunham will be doing a service at the nursing home the morning of the 24th. Pastor Brandon Dunham mentioned Christmas Eve is on a Saturday and Christmas is on Sunday. He wanted to know how the board felt about having 2 services or just the Christmas Eve service. Carna Pray made a motion to do the Christmas Eve service and not a Christmas Day service. 2nd Lars Hanson. All approved.

There will be no Ad Council meeting in December.

Old Business: Lars Hanson reported the apportionments will stay at 25% for now.

New Business: Lars Hanson asked about the “all call” as some people got left off the call regarding the Fall Dinner. Pastor Brandon Dunham will mention it during church for the next couple of Sundays for people to contact Kay Daly if their information has changed or give it to her again. Carna Pray mentioned there needs to be a walk through of the parsonage annually in May. Pastor Brandon Dunham suggested keeping a ledger for the parsonage indicating when things were replaced or updated.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm on a motion by Allen Walter and 2nd Val Baker .

Secretary Pro Tem
Jane Johnson

Groton Stewardship Report Oct 2022
Average Wkly Giving \$4,210
Needed Wkly for Church Mission \$2,353
Average Weekly Attendance Sunday 55
Total Building Fund Donations for Repairs \$105

From Trashed to Treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of

faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave mankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured. —Heidi Hyland Mann



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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Our Church Happenings... more inside!

- Dec 7 Groton Confirmation & UMYF Angel Tree Shopping 6 pm
- Dec 14 Groton UMC Gingerbread Bash! 5-7 pm RSVP required**
- Dec 14 Christmas Caroling at Groton UMC 6:30 pm**
UMYF Caroling - All are Welcome to Join Us!
- Dec 17 Happy Birthday Pastor Brandon
- Dec 18 Groton Sunday School Program during worship**
with noon meal



Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
Groton at 5 pm
Conde at 7 pm

Dec 25 No Worship Service in Groton or Conde