

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us," Hebrew 12:1*

For one hundred and twenty-five years, members of Nordland Lutheran Church have carved out sections of land. They removed earth and stone to build a foundation for their families grounded in a promise. Some have been married here, others baptized and confirmed here. All of us have said goodbye to loved ones here. We are a church that is marked with beginnings and endings, but it is with the promise found in Christ that we are given living water to endure.

We don't come here just to remember what once was or to shelter us from the outside world, but to renew our strength to fill our cup so that we can go back outside the walls and share our stories, to share our lives and to engage those who struggle to find meaning in the tensions of life. This is unmistakably part of who we are as a church, to bear witness to Christ and our transformation found in Him.

This Celebration bears witness to that transformation as we are called into a community which gives us meaning, beauty and strength to rise to the tensions in life, just as our brothers and sisters in Christ did 125 year ago.

Many Blessings to come through Christ our Risen Lord,  
Intern Pastor Justin Fenger

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin Fenger".



# HISTORY OF NORDLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

1885 - 2010

***"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Math 18:20.***

This must have been the belief of the early settlers of Rutland. Instilled with a strong faith from their homelands in Norway and Sweden, they were determined to have this faith nurtured in this new land.

Although they lived in poor accommodations by our standards, they enthusiastically gathered in each other's homes to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first meeting was at the home of Petter Gulleeson in May of 1884. After school houses were built about 1889, services were held at various school houses in the area. Meetings were also held in the Congregational Church building in Rutland after the town was built around 1886.

Although formal records are not available, early pioneers verified that Nordland Congregation was organized in 1885 at the home of Petter Gulleeson. The following persons and families are known to be charter members: Petter Gulleeson, Gustav Westerlund, Theodore Skaarer, Olai Knutson, Anton Wildmo, Adrian Wildmo, Jacob Jacobson Hero, David Mattson, Ole A. Jacobson, Jacob Davis, Ole J. Johnson, Andrew Miller and Jens Olstad. The first officers were Petter Gulleeson and Jacob Jacobson Hero as deacons and Jacob Davis as secretary. Later, Andrew Miller acted as secretary. The congregation was admitted into the Hauges Evangelical Lutheran Synod the same year. There were 61 members of Nordland in 1887.

Nordland congregation was incorporated under the laws of the State of North Dakota on January 16, 1900. The charter was signed by T. H. Skaarer, Ole Pederson and Ole J. Jacobson, trustees.

The earliest known Lutheran pastor to have preached here was Rev. Thomas Johnson Skjei, who lived in Horace, ND. It was under his guidance that Nordland Lutheran Congregation of Sargent County was organized in 1885 and affiliated with the Hauges Synod. Most of the pastors serving the congregation came monthly from larger communities until 1917 when Rev. K.O. Gjernes accepted the call to serve the Forman Trinity and Nordland Lutheran parishes. These two congregations formed a two-point parish until 1964 when a special congregational meeting was held and it was voted that Nordland Lutheran resign from the Forman-Rutland Lutheran Parish and have their own pastor. Rev. Roderick Anderson was the first pastor to serve Nordland Lutheran Church as a one point parish. A home at the corner of Gay and Bagley Streets was purchased from Mrs. Tena Helberg for \$7,500 for use as a parsonage.

In May of 1990, Havana Trinity approached Nordland regarding sharing a pastor one third time. This arrangement has continued to the present time.

Retaining a pastor in a rural community with declining membership is a challenge faced by many churches around the country. Nordland was no exception. Too many years followed the resignation of one pastor and the call acceptance of another. Pulpit Supply provided many wonderful retired pastors to preach on Sunday mornings and Forman Trinity provided needed Confirmation instruction with other ministers in the area providing services for weddings and funerals. But, we missed the presence of a pastor living in the community.

Nordland congregation was approached in 2007 by Hope Lutheran Church of Fargo and Luther Seminary, with the prospect of providing an internship site for the students of Luther Seminary. Hope Lutheran Church would provide the sponsorship of the intern. The congregation voted to accept this proposal even though it meant we would have a different intern pastor each year. Unfortunately, we did not receive an intern the first year, but we were lucky to have the services of an unordained minister by the name of Brett Jorgensen, who drove to Rutland each Sunday from Valley City. We thoroughly enjoyed having Brett in our midst. He readily became a part of our congregation and community even though he did not live here. He showed much caring for his parishioners and it was with sadness that his service ended after one year. At that time, we were approved for an intern and we were excited to begin another chapter in our faith journey.

We are nearing the end of our year with Justin Fenger who will go back to Luther Seminary September 1, 2010, to finish his education. We will miss his enthusiasm, compassion and friendliness. He is able to relate to young and old alike. His children's sermons are entertaining and memorable for not only the children, but also for the adults. The passion Pastor Justin has for the ministry is evident in his sermons and his everyday life.

During his time at Nordland, Pastor Justin has instituted an evening Bible study and a Wednesday evening contemporary service called G.R.I.T. which stands for Grace Revealed in Truth. This service involves a band led by Peder Gulleeson. Also in the band are Cam Gulleeson, Kathy Wyum, Justine Smith, and Rob and Lacey Wyum. Music has always been an integral part of Nordland and the G.R.I.T. band is a wonderful addition to our service. A special memory we will have of Pastor Justin is that he proposed to his girlfriend, Katie Christenson, in the church and they were married at Nordland on June 26, 2010.

We will welcome another intern on September 1.  
We are anxious to see what gifts she will bring to our congregation.

## Pastors

Thomas Skjei 1885-1886 - No picture available

K. L. Cleveland 1900-1907 - No picture available



Gustav Westerlund  
1887-1897



Hector Moe  
1897-1900



Sander Tollefson  
1915-1916



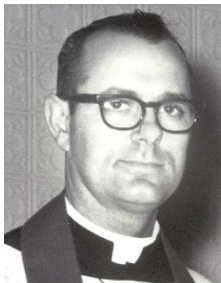
K. O. Gjernes  
1917-1954



John T. Rotto  
1955-1960



John Berg  
1961-1964



Roderick Anderson  
1964-1968



Gary Clark  
1968-1969



Andrew Boe  
1969-1973



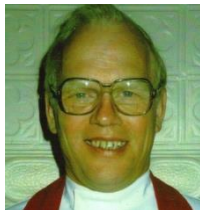
Douglas Millar  
1974-1977



Daniel Holm  
1977-1978



Harold Underdahl  
1979-1985



Dan Faust  
1986-1997



Vickie Rau  
1997-1999



Kristen Schwan  
2002-2007



Brett Jorgensen  
2008-2009



Justin Fenger  
2009-2010

## Our Church Service

Our liturgical service has become less formal over the years and we have combined old hymns with new contemporary music.

A Worship Committee was organized in May of 1986 and met monthly to discuss the worship service. Original members were Pastor Dan Faust, Penny Christensen, David Bladow, Kathy Brakke, Hilda Giske, Price Guleson, Janelle Hoistad, Marcella Kastner, Dena Nundahl, Marvin Pearson and Phyllis Wyum. Marcella Kastner was chairperson and Penny Christensen was secretary.

Our current Worship Committee consists of Pastor Justin Fenger, Pam Maloney, Peder Guleson, Dawn Mahrer, Phyllis Wyum, Diane Smith, and Carolyn Christensen. We no longer meet on a monthly basis but meet before a new church season and as necessary. We continue to work to make our worship spiritually meaningful.

## Nordland Cemetery

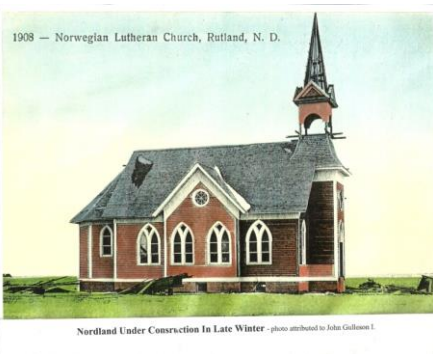
Nordland Cemetery (sometimes called the East Cemetery) was acquired and dedicated in 1887. The original tract was a gift of Jacob Jacobson Hero and was part of his homestead. It included one acre located at the NW 1/4 of Section 28, near the SW corner. This parcel of land was where Jacob and Bertina buried their 7-year-old son, Ole Benjamin, in 1884. Later, Lars Pederson gave 1/2 acre on the south and west of the road. The combined tract was given jointly to the Nordland Congregation and the Swedish Lutheran Congregation, with the provision that the congregation surviving should retain the management and the title of the cemetery. This title was made in 1900 in the name of Nordland congregation and filed at the Sargent County Court House. The cemetery was plotted according to law in 1932 and supplied with markers by Simon Pederson in 1933. Grant Guleson also donated land for the cemetery. The present sexton and keeper of the records is Lyle Erickson.

A perpetual care fund was set up in 1976 for the annual maintenance of the cemetery with an interest-bearing account of \$4,000. Directors were: Raymond Erickson, Milton McLaen and Grant Guleson with Mrs. Walter Bauman as the cemetery's Secretary-Treasurer. The cost of the upkeep of the cemetery has since exceeded the interest earned on the account as well as the principle, and donations to the cemetery fund are welcomed.



## OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Preliminary steps were taken in 1907 for the building of a church, but it was under the energetic leadership of Rev. Hector Moe in 1908 that the process took on full steam. H. L. Green donated the lots for the church. Building funds of \$2,800 were raised as follows: Nordland Lutheran Ladies Aid \$800, donations from church members, donations from businessmen and others with the balance of \$600 borrowed from Lars Pederson. The loan was repaid via an assessment on church members and funds from the Ladies Aid. Frank Ohman, Andrew Miller and Nels Gulleon were on the building committee. They procured the services of Mr. Rennix, a resident of Rutland, to build the church. Nordland Lutheran Church was dedicated at Divine Service by the Rev.



J.J. Eksem, then President of the Hauge Synod on June 27, 1909. The altar and baptismal font were paid for by the Ladies Aid and installed in the summer of 1916. A furnace was installed in 1926, an oil burning

furnace in 1940 and the present system was installed in 1998. Our beautiful art glass windows were installed in 1945. Most of the windows were given and paid for as individual memorials. One was given in memory of departed soldiers, one by the Sons of Norway and two were gifts of the Ladies Aid. The windows were installed by Ben Hensen, Mr. Evenson and C. G. Franzen. The windows have the following symbols: The Cross and Crown, Luther's Coat of Arms, The Baptismal Fountain, Rock of Ages, The Cup of Communion, The Bread of Life, Open Bible, The Lord is My Light, The Ten Commandments, A Mighty Fortress is Our God, The Lamb of God, The Dove, The Anchor Cross and Word, The Lily, Praise Ye the Lord, The Ark, and Hosannah.



The years take their toll and the need for major maintenance on the church could no longer be deferred. By the end of 2001, the church had new shingles, siding, storm windows, doors, gutters and down spouts. Jerry Sapa was hired to do the work and he did an excellent job.

Air conditioning in the church and a new cement slab in front of the kitchen entrance were major projects completed in 2002.

The church steeple was deteriorating badly and after a long search, we were able to find someone to repair it. A steel roof was put on the steeple and the wood railing was replaced with a vinyl railing for a cost of \$6,359.

Bats in the belfry (or somewhere in the church) became a problem in 2009. Bats left their evidence around the church, but we were only able to find one and get rid of it. The professional services of the Bat Man were enlisted and he hopefully took care of the areas where the bats could enter.

## The Parish Hall

Plans for constructing a parish hall began in 1952 with Nora Spande, Clara Gulleon, Hannah Christianson, Milda Gulleon, Bertha Berg, Hans Norby, Harry Nundahl and Earl W. Anderson on the Building Committee. B. F. Hensen drew up the plans and specifications. Work began the spring of 1953 under the direction of Mel Bentson with mostly volunteer labor. Total cost was \$11,500 with the Ladies Aid providing \$3,800, membership donations, \$2,810, East Lutheran Aid \$850, memorials \$426, Nordland Church general fund \$500, miscellaneous \$310 and a loan from G. E. Pearson for \$3,000. The loan was repaid with proceeds from the Ladies Aid, general fund of the church and the building fund with final payment in April of 1960. Dedication of the parish hall was held on May 16, 1954.

With a growing Sunday School population, an \$41,364 addition to the parish hall was made in 1995. It was funded by the Building Fund, donations, memorials, fund raisers and a \$20,000 loan. The addition included three classrooms, men's and women's handicap accessible bathrooms, an Altar Guild room and a storage closet. Carpeting in the narthex and church sanctuary was also installed at this time.



A severely leaking roof in 2008 and the resulting cracking walls in the parish hall necessitated a careful search for the cause of the problem. It was discovered that a valley on the parish hall wasn't sealed properly. Jerry Sapa and Russ Boutain temporarily fixed the problem but a new roof will be needed soon. We are waiting for estimates for this project.



Nordland received a generous anonymous donation of \$9,000 with which to make improvements to the parish hall. Volunteers have been busy painting, laying flooring and making changes to the floor plan.

Walls were removed between two of the classrooms and a

new wall installed further to the west inside the parish hall. This new room will be a lounge where meetings can be held, wedding attendants can get ready and grieving families can meet with the pastor. The Luther Leaguers will also use it for their activities. Having the use of this space will save on heating the large parish hall for small groups.

## LUTHER LEAGUE

From its early formation, parish pastors and adult leaders have helped to bring the youth of the Nordland congregation together to experience their own journey of faith and service. Aimed at our high school youth, Luther League, formerly known as Young People's Society, focuses on bringing the word of God



into the lives of the young men and women in our parish through community activities and service, Bible study and shared experience. Nordland families have strongly supported the Luther League program through their participation, prayers and encouragement.

Throughout the 1980s, 90s and today, adult leaders from our congregation have played an important role in assisting the pastors in leading, guiding and serving as role models for the League. Members of Nordland and Havana Trinity who have served as Luther League advisors during these years include: Pam Gulleeson - 1982-1999, Ron Tchida - 1983-1990, Glen Enderson - 1991-1996, Marc Enderson - 1996-1999, Pam Maloney and Lori McLaen - 2000-2008, Peder and Connie Gulleeson - 2008 to present.



With a focus on faith, fellowship, service and yes, fun, the League has been a positive influence on our youth. Exploring the many ways to experience and serve the Lord



through word and actions is best exemplified through the vast array of activities they participate in, from leading church services to preparing and serving soup and sandwich suppers before Lenten services to gathering food for the county food pantry and adopting a stretch of

highway along Highway 11. It has often included volunteering at Fargo area missions and shelters, as well as participating in the many activities organized within the Eastern North Dakota ELCA. We can't forget the fun, and

there has been plenty, including camping trips, skiing, picnics, horseback riding, canoeing, white water rafting, attending Christian concerts, lock-ins and much more.



Many of these activities and events are focused on our church and community, but it has been the involvement in the National ELCA gatherings which has allowed so many to experience worship, fellowship and service in the larger world outside of Rutland and Havana. This triennial experience required extensive planning, preparation and fundraising, but it has also served as a powerful way to bring people together for a common goal.

Bake sales, basket raffles, car washes and the never-ending pizza sales were all part of the drill. For many, it has meant the first trip on an airplane or a 30 plus hour bus trip. For all, it brings lifelong memories and stories of mission and service, worship and praise. We have attended National Luther League conventions in Denver, Colorado in 1985, San Antonio, Texas in 1988, Dallas Texas in 1991, Atlanta, Georgia in 1994, California in 1997 in an alternative experience, and Atlanta, Georgia in 2003.

## YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School was started in Nordland's early years and was conducted in the Norse language in connection with services. The graded Lutheran Sunday School was organized in October of 1917 and in our Centennial Year of 1985, there were 66 students in Sunday School. A number of changes have taken place since that time. Sunday School is now on Wednesday due to the lack of participation occurring on Sundays. The school bus drops the children off at the church at 3:45 and after a snack are ready for their lessons. It was a difficult change to accept, but the attendance on Wednesdays is 100 per cent. There are 19 children enrolled.

Due to several years of bad weather leading the Sunday School to change the date of their Christmas program several times, the decision was made to have the children do an Easter program instead. This has worked out very well.

A special project that the Wednesday School children are involved in is Operation Christmas Child. For the



last two years, Nordland has been participating in this project collecting toys, candy, and some personal hygiene supplies to fill shoeboxes for children less fortunate. The Wednesday School children then take one afternoon to choose the toys to fill shoeboxes. It is an amazing thing to watch as they carefully select just the right things to fill the shoeboxes.

More mothers working outside the home meant no one available to teach Bible School during the week. The last two years, Vacation Bible School was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Forman with children from all area congregations, Lutheran and non-Lutheran invited to attend. Over 60 children enjoy the week of Bible stories, music, games and worshipping. At the end of the week, family and friends enjoy the program they hold to show off all that they have learned.

Confirmation classes, or as some older parishioners would call it, reading for the minister, are held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Forman. Our intern, Justin Fenger, assists pastor Chris Gaule with this responsibility. Confirmation is a three-year program beginning in seventh grade with the last year being a mentorship program. The Affirmation of Baptism Service is held at Nordland for the confirmands.

## LADIES AID

No date can be verified as the official date of the beginning of Nordland Ladies Aid, but records available ascertain that it was holding meetings in March of 1893. Mrs. Barret (Adrian) Wildmo, Mrs. Maren Guleson, Mrs. Helen



Mathison, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacobson, Mrs. Davin Jacobson, Miss Anna Wildmo, Miss Syneve Guleson, Mrs. Anna G. Jacobson, Mrs. Jacobia Iverson,

Miss Petra Nelson, Peter Giske Sr., Peter Guleson and Jacob Jacobson Hero. The meetings were held monthly in homes and conducted with devotions, mission reading and hand work for the auction sale, followed by lunch.

The constitution was first published in the Norse language and translated into English according to the constitution of the society.

A second Aid was organized in 1916, known at the East Nordland Ladies Aid and worked exclusively for the support of work at home. A third Ladies Aid of the congregation, organized in 1925, was known as the Tewaukon Lutheran Ladies Aid. In 1956, the Young Ladies Missionary Society, which was established in April of 1893 and later called the Cheerful Workers Mission Society, disbanded and became part of the Nordland Ladies Aid. The

Nordland Ladies Aid became the American Lutheran Church Women (ALCW) in 1961 and continued with many fund raisers. With the reorganization of the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in 1988, the name was changed to Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA).

Due to dwindling membership and attendance at meetings, WELCA was disbanded on December 31, 1998.

Throughout the years, the Ladies Aid was an integral part of the financial structure of the church. They have paid the minister, provided funds for building the church and parish hall, helped send children to Bible Camp, served at funerals and other functions, made quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the Lisbon Veteran's Home and delivered boxes of goodies to shut-ins at Christmas.

Three work groups are now in place to serve at funerals, Palm Sunday Dinner or any other event affiliated with the church. The three groups rotate on a monthly basis. These work groups also have duties as Worship Assistants. Worship Assistants are involved with ushering, assisting with communion and reading during church services. They are also responsible for cleaning the church and parish hall. Chairpersons for 2010 are as follows:

Worship Group Chairperson.....	Bonnie Anderson
Funeral Work Group Chairperson.....	Diane Smith
Quilting Chairpersons.....	Renee Cramton
	Ann Erickson
Cradle Roll Chairperson.....	Renee Cramton
Altar Guild Chair.....	Pam Maloney



## Nordland's 100th Anniversary

The celebration of Nordland's 100 years of ministering was a wonderful event. The Good Lord provided us with a beautiful day and the worship service and afternoon program were well attended. Former parishioners, descendants of deceased members of Nordland, former pastors, current Nordland members and friends in the community all gathered to celebrate this milestone in our church history.

In the morning, we had our regular church service with former pastors preaching and doing the liturgy. The church cornerstone was also opened and new mementoes placed in it. The afternoon program consisted of congratulatory messages from our former pastors and from the leaders of other churches in the county together with lots of music.

We enjoyed seeing former pastors in the pulpit once again participating in the service. Phyllis Sjothun, Peder and John Gulleeson, The Flados Sisters, Nordland Luther League, Ron Tchida, Pam Gulleeson, Kathy Wyum and Janet Keifer provided us with beautiful special music with Kathy Brakke, Cheryl Zirnhelt and Sonja Gulleeson serving as their worthy accompanists.



The Flados Sisters accompanied by Irma Berg



A view of the attendance at Nordland's 100th



Sunday School Children



Pastor Roderick Anderson



Pastor Andrew Boe



Ron Tchida, Pam Gulleeson, Kathy Wyum



Pastor Harold Underdahl



Peder and John Gulleeson accompanied by Sonja Gulleeson



Luther League



Ron Tchida replaces cornerstone



Violet Wyum of Baptist Church

## Confirmation Classes Since 1985

### Class of 1986

Joel Silas Hoistad  
Lisa Ann Bladow  
Stacey Lynn Christensen  
Shannon Marie Illies

### Class of 1987

Christopher Alan Nundahl  
Jerry Lee Arneson  
Eric James Lunneborg  
Sheila Marlene Narum

### Class of 1988

Elizabeth Jean Brash  
Nicole Jean Anderson  
Stacy Lynnette Kleingarn  
Theresa Ann Erickson

### Class of 1989

John Andrew Guleson  
Peder Christian Guleson  
Tammetha Marie Erickson  
Laura Lorelle Brash

### Class of 1990

Rodney Lyle Erickson  
Bryan Scott Bladow  
Curtis Alan Olstad  
Nathan Leroy Lee

### Class of 1991

Erin Rae Christianson  
Marsha Beth Kleingarn  
Kenneth Carl Hamilton

### Class of 1992

Kelly Jo Arneson  
Rebecca Jean Erickson  
Marne Marie Lunneborg

### Class of 1993

Todd Richard Anderson  
Michael Jon Mahre,  
Krystal Lubke (Havana)  
Barry Jerome Christianson  
Patrick George Olstad

### Class of 1994

Chad Rocquen Larson  
William Roger Hoflen  
Jill Christine Bladow  
Jennifer Joe Hopkins  
Martin Ernest Brash

### Class of 1995

Derek Richard Wegener  
Nolan Peterson (Havana)  
Patrick O'Brien (Havana)  
Troy Aaron Larson  
Dustin Irving Preble  
Earl Mark Bauman Jr.,  
Heather Michelle Mahrer  
Brooke Marie Carlson  
Rebecca Ann Hopkins  
JoLyn Marie Anderson

### Class of 1996

Jon Anderson (Havana)  
Jessica Marie Hopkins  
Monica Jo Wyum

### Class of 1997

Holly Ann Erickson  
Jessica Marie Wegener  
Lance William Guleson

### Class of 1998

Mark Cramton  
Christopher Jacklitch  
Matt Cramton  
Paul Wyum  
Shaun Philip Jacobson  
Kayla Jo Christensen  
Stephanie Wyum  
Kyle Mahrer

### Class of 1999

Jordan Wyum  
Cody William Guleson  
Zachary Temple  
Brian Wayne Pherson  
James Thomas Fust  
Sarah Rae McLaen  
Bryce Robert Carlson

Garret Andrew Jacklitch

### Class of 2000

Tyler Reed Christensen  
Megan Ann Glarum  
Dena Marie Wyum

### Class of 2001

Aaron Taylor Temple  
James Robert Cramton  
Robbie Mark Wyum  
Evan Walter Fust  
Shantelle Rae Breker  
Lisa Marie Pherson  
Elizabeth Joan Hoflen  
Ashlee Elizabeth Nerison  
Taryn Christine Maloney

### Class of 2002

Brent Scott Glarum  
Daniel Dale Temple  
Deven Bruce Wegener  
Christopher George Kann  
Jacob Dean Breker  
Cameron Harris Guleson  
Shawn Allen Breker  
Sarah Kristine Huckell  
Anna Marie Weber

### Class of 2003

Nicholas Edward McLaen  
Valerie June Pherson  
Kylee Kay Hambek  
Brienne Cathlene Maloney  
Adrienne Calene Jacobson

### Class of 2004

Chad Daniel Anderson  
Sheena Ann Breker  
Ryan Mark Weber  
Chelsey Marie Rohrbach  
Krista Jean Mahrer  
Ashten Sena Breker

### Class of 2005

Zachary Lynn Jacobson  
Jesse Obed Wyum

Holly Marie Huckell  
Samantha Lorae Hambek  
Paige Elizabeth Marquette

### Class of 2006

Kalisha Neashell Satcher  
Travis James Peterson  
Shelly Jean Pherson  
Brady Lee Haussler

### Class of 2007

Chase Logan Christensen  
Tanner Alan Hambek  
Jared James Huckell  
Julian Alexander Jacobson  
Justin Alon Jacobson  
Jordan Rene Kann  
Jarrod Allen Marquette

### No Class of 2008

### Class of 2009

Tracy Haussler  
Allyson Ann Peterson

### Class of 2010

Gregory Ralph Breker  
Adam James Weber