

The American Lutheran Church  
Rocky Mountain District

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORICAL RECORD

GRACE Lutheran Church

Address is located via the Skaar Route, Sidney Montana 59270

Postal Address(for correspondance): P.O. Box 67; Savage, MT 59262

This church is located in the northwestern tip of Wibaux County, Montana about 100 feet from the North Dakota border. The farming community is known as Skaar.

Phone: (406)776-2218 - this rings the office phone in First Lutheran, Savage, MT.

LOCATION: Travel north on Montana State Highway #16 north from Glendive, past Savage, to an intersection of Montana State Highway #200(from the west) and highway #23(which goes to the east). This intersection between northbound #26, westbound #200, and eastbound #23 is about 2 miles south of Sidney. At the intersection, take a right and head east on highway #23. After you cross the Yellowstone River, you will travel approximately 2 miles and turn right onto highway #261 to head south. You travel approximately 20 miles and then you will turn left on Richlan county Road 101 to head east. Continue to travel eastbound 6 - 7 miles and Grace Lutheran will be on the north side of the road just before crossing a cattle guard(which happens to be the North Dakota border).

Date of organization: 1911 Member of:the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THIS CONGREGATION:

E.I.M. Synnes 1911-4	Melvin K. Frantsen 1961-6
Alexander T. Tjornhorn 1916-9	A. Robert Molldrem 1966-9
Walter T. Gigstad 1921-6	William H. Loughmiller 1969(Interim)
Wilhelm J.E. Madson 1926-37	C.C. Casperson 1969-70(Interim)
Oscar L. Olsrud 1938-43	Wayne F. Hoedt 1970-2
Stephen Dale 1945-8	Vernon Holmes 1972-5
Ole R.S. Helland 1949-55	Gary Charles Grieger 1975-80
Henry L. Erickson 1956	Jeff Jacobus 1980-4
H.A. Strand 1957-61	Kenneth E. DuVall 1984-

Brief History on back of this page.

Picture included.

Material submitted by: Pastor Kenneth E. DuVall

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (formally known as Scandia Lutheran)

Scandia Congregation of Trotters, North Dakota was organized in 1911 by Rev. E.I.M. Synnes of Beach, N.D. at the home of Halvar Brunsvold. Scandia only had monthly services (when weather and road permitted) due to Rev. Synnes serving four other parishes. As school houses were few in those early days, the services were held in the homes of the members. The services were conducted in the Norwegian language. When pastor Alexander Tjornhom took over for Rev. Synnes, the parishioners began feeling the "luxury" of pastoral calls because Rev. Tjornhom had his own car. Often the poor roads and weather limited Rev. Tjornhom's activities within the Scandia parish. When Rev. Madsen came to Savage, Scandia & First Lutheran were yoked as 2 pts.

When Pastor William Madson began serving First Lutheran, Savage; he made many difficult trips from Savage to serve the members of Scandia. There was no bridge at Sidney, so he often crossed the Yellowstone River by boat at Crane (10 miles north of Savage). The services for Scandia were often held in school houses scattered in the Skaar area.

In 1932 the bridge was completed at Sidney across the Yellowstone River which greatly aided travel to the Scandia parish (from Savage). In 1934, an "abandoned" church (that once served Blue Mountain) was moved to its present location in the northeaster tip of Wibaux County. The church is approximately 100 feet from the North Dakota border. On Dec. 23, 1934, the church building was used for services of Scandia Lutheran Congregation.

By 1938, two services were held each month as the conditions for getting to the church had greatly improved. Often because the members lived such a great distance from the church, Vacation Bible School was held at the church with the participants staying right at the church during the time VBS was held. The basement and kitchen facilities aided in allowing the children to stay right at the church.

In 1961, the name of the congregation was changed from Scandia Lutheran to Grace Lutheran of Skaar. The community of Skaar was located right at the Montana-North Dakota border by the presence of a store, post office, gas pumps, and Grace Lutheran. Presently, only the church still stands and the farming community is still referred to as Skaar. A pastor still serves the church out of Savage--the roads have improved somewhat, but the mileage from Savage to Skaar is approximately 50 miles. Grace Lutheran has continued to keep the tradition of meeting twice a month, except when there is 5 Sundays and there is services on three Sundays.