

Churches – Logan County, North Dakota

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[Note to the Researcher: My research on the churches in this county comes in two parts. This document contains the denominational names of churches, their locations and historical information. This is an alphabetical listing of churches. If the church is a rural church, use the name by which it was known to locate it on these pages. If it is a church in a town, go alphabetically to the town and then find the denomination listed in alphabetical order within that town. I have also put together a file of photos. If my research came across a picture of a specific church, you will find that information listed as Photo Available within the information of that church. The reference will be a two letter code for the county, the name of the church, followed by a number in parenthesis which was my photo identifier. Click on the photo album link to see these photos. The bold capital letter within a history article is used to indicate a new paragraph in the original document that has been transcribed. The symbol [o—o] is used to indicate that a portion of an article in the original was not transcribed. Sometimes there is more than one history listed under a church. Although some duplication of information may be present, the articles were entered because some provided information that others may not have had. If you know of other churches not listed in this document, have access to the histories of those churches, or discover errors in this document, please feel free to contact and share that information with Allen Konrad.]

1. Assembly of God Church – Lehr
 - Location: 11 miles N of Lehr along Highway 30
 - See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church
2. Burnstad – Baptist Church
 - Location:
 - See Wishek – First Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)
 - Closed in 1935
3. Burnstad – Mission of Saint Clare's Catholic Church
 - Location: Village of Burnstad
 - See Napoleon – Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church
 - Church Records as of 29 June 2007:
 - Information provided by Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church Napoleon, ND 58561
 - Baptism Register 20 Feb 1952 to 14 Nov 1998
 - Confirmation Register 14 Jun 1953 to 13 Apr 2002
 - Marriage Register 14 Jun 1961 to 18 May 2002
 - Death Register 24 Oct 1975 to 31 Oct 2000
 - Records kept at Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church Napoleon, ND 58561
 - [Photo Available: Lo-Burnstad Saint Clare's Catholic Church \[3941\]](#)
 - See Saint Boniface Catholic Church
 - Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – Centennial 1884-1984*, p.241. The Mission Church of St. Clare's at Burnstad was to have been built in the early 1900's—possibly in the area of 1910—no records were kept. The new St. Clare's Church was built in 1960 under the supervision of Very Rev. Louis G. Veit, with much of the labor being provided by the parishioners. It was dedicated on June 12, 1961 by Bishop Leo F. Dworschak of Fargo Diocese. The mission church had also been a mission of St. Boniface of Kintyre until 1950 and since has remained a mission of St. Philip Neri of Napoleon. Pictured are exterior and interior views of the new church. Celebrant of the dedicatory Mass was Father Louis G. Veit, pastor. Total cost of the new building was \$41,750. The work was done by parishioners of St. Clare's except for electrical and mechanical work, and the laying of the blocks. The church has a full basement, choir loft,

cry room, and is 80x32 feet, with a 16x16 sacristy. The altar, sanctuary furniture, sacristy cabinets, and candlesticks were made by Mike Sperle. Following the dedication, the ladies of the parish served a dinner. A grant of \$10,000 from the Catholic Church Extension Society assisted in the construction of the new church.

4. Burnstad – First Lutheran Church

- Location:
- See Napoleon – Peace Lutheran Church
- Church Records as of July 2007:
 - Kept at Trinity Lutheran Church – Napoleon [Information given by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Book 1 Baptism 1922-1943
 - Book 1 Confirmation 1928-1943
 - Book 1 Marriage 1929-1943
 - Book 1 Death 1927-1943
 - Book 2 Baptism 1944-1962
 - Book 2 Confirmation 1944-1962
 - Book 2 Marriage 1944-1958
 - Book 2 Death 1944-1962

5. Christ Lutheran Church

- Location: 3 miles north of Fredonia in Janke Township, SW ¼ Sec 34-T134-R67
- Also known as Evangelische Lutherische Parochie
- Also known as Christus Parish
- Church History Source: *Fredonia, ND – History for Evangelisch Lutherisch Johannes Church – Christus Parish – Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 2001*. This Parish was organized earlier, but the previous minutes cannot be found. The minutes in the available book begin in March of 1914. Several congregations belonged to this Parish at various times. The available list included: St. Johannes located 3 miles north of Fredonia; Jakobus located about 11 miles north of Fredonia; Immanuel or Emanuel located northwest of Fredonia; Trinity located near Jud; Martin Lutheran of Fredonia; Paulus of Lehr; and Peace of Merricourt. The officers of the Parish elected in 1914 included John Buerley treasurer; John Wolf secretary; Christoff Janke and John Haag as trustees for 1 year; Friedrich Wagenast and Christian LaBrenz as trustees for 2 years. The minutes include instructions to build a windmill by the parsonage as soon as possible. The parsonage was supposed to be redone inside. They were supposed to put a feed bin and make room for the buggy in the bar. The minutes do not indicate where this parsonage or barn were located.) Jacob Lux of the Trinity congregation was elected as a delegate to the Synod Assembly. **1915** Each member was assessed \$2.00 for the cost of the windmill. Confirmation was supposed to be on Palm Sunday preceded by 6 weeks of instruction. Gottlieb Janke and Edward Krueger were appointed to audit the treasurer's book. Immanuel Congregation was expelled or dismissed from the Parish over some dispute. They were on probation and if they corrected their mistake, they would be reinstated into the Parish. The minister was instructed to charge \$5.00 for a marriage and \$2.00 for each confirmand. Each member was assessed \$14.00 for the minister's salary. Jacob Gutschmidt from the Jakobus Congregation was elected to the synod assembly in Aberdeen. In November Pastor Kaatz had a call, but there was a motion that he should stay. **1916** At the yearly meeting Johann Buerkle (the spelling for the names continued to change depending on who the secretary was) was elected treasurer again; Rudolph Schultz was elected secretary; Johann Haag and Christoff Spiedel as trustee for 1 year; Jacob Gutschmidt and Gottfried Zundel as trustee for 2 years; Jacob Erlenbush as delegate. At the April meeting the minister was given 4 weeks of vacation. On June 12 they had a special meeting to call a minister. Pastor Kaatz left because of his health. Pastor Wilmar of Wishek would be the interim pastor. **1917** The January meeting was postponed because the weather was bad and no one from the other congregations could come. The plans were started to form a congregation in Fredonia. The postponed meeting was held February 19. They planned to have the examination of the confirmands a few days before confirmation. They reinstated the Immanuel

Congregation. In November they insured the parsonage with the Evangelical Lutheran Independent Fire Insurance Company of Madison, WI. They reelected the same officers as last year by unanimous vote. They set up a committee for starting or establishing a parochial school. Then a motion was made to go ahead with a school and a parsonage in Fredonia. A motion was made that if someone needs a minister they should get him and bring him back again. **1918** The Christus Parish was reorganized into the St. Johannes Parish, which included Johannes, Immanuel, and Martin Luther. Peace Congregation from Merricourt asked to be a part of the parish. They were supposed to pay \$300.00 for the parsonage, church school, and other expenses. They would not accept this responsibility so they were not accepted into the Parish. A parsonage and parochial school were established in Fredonia. **1919** They still had a debt of \$72.00 from moving the parochial school to Fredonia and obtaining a parsonage. (It does not state whether they built or purchased a parsonage in Fredonia). The coal and wood needed for the school was to be paid for by the Parish. **1920** Several members were behind on paying their share of the pastor's salary. They were given a certain amount of time to pay this, or it would be turned over to the sheriff to collect. They wanted to lower the pastor's salary to \$1,500, but he wouldn't agree and handed in his resignation for December 1, 1922. (This was Pastor Baetke). During the meeting on November 22 the Parish asked the minister to extend his resignation to July 1, 1923. They would pay him the \$1,500, but would only assess the members for \$1,200 and collect the rest with free will offerings. **1923** In May the pastor was granted his release for July 1, 1923. In June they sent a call to several pastors including J. Schmitt of Tuttle, ND. The salary was set at \$1,200 to be paid on a monthly basis. (Previously it had been paid every 6 months). Pastor Baudler filled in until a pastor come. At the October 23 meeting they discussed repairs that were needed for the old barn at the parsonage. **1924** They voted to pay Pastor Schmitt's traveling expenses. **1931** The Merricourt congregation applied to join the parish again. They were accepted. **1936** Emmanuel threatened to leave the Parish. All members 65 and older were exempt from the assessment for the pastor's salary and could donate a free will offering. **1937** At the October meeting the discussion was held about Peace Lutheran continuing to have services from this Parish. In November Peace Lutheran of Merricourt sent a letter saying they no longer wanted services from Pastor Peter. **1938** The Parish dissolved and they transferred all the Parish property to Martin Luther. o—o **Pastors who have served our church:** Henry Nagel (1901-1907); G.G. Hanselman (1907-Spring of 1912); Samuel Nicolaiske (Fall of 1912-Winter of 1913); E. Kaatz (May of 1914-1916); C. Stadler (1916-1919); Conrade Baetke (Jan of 1920-July of 1923); John Schmitt (Fall of 1923-1933); Phillip Peter (June of 1935-July 28, 1940); Carl Braecker (Sept. of 1941-1942); John G. Bunge (Dec 1, 1943-Oct. 1950 and 1951 {May to Oct.}); Reinholt Hintz (Oct 0f 1950-1951); Richard Schwarz (July 1952-Aug. 1953); Hans Senft (Jan. 1954-Feb. 28, 1957); Ernest Theilen (May 1957-Nov. 1959); Ray Heidtke (June 1960-March 1963); Russel Hunter (July 1963-April 1966); Lee Mentink (June 1966-Aug. 1967); Marvin Lapp (Jan. 3, 1968-Fall 1970); Larry Vigen (Sept. 1971-Aug. 1974); John Olson (Sept. 1974-June 1977); John Fick (June 1977-Feb. 1981); Tim Stoa (July 1981-Dec. 1983); Steven Rueckel (Sept. 1984-Feb. 1986); Gary Bertsch (Aug. 1986-Sept. 1992); Annette Crickenburger (Feb. 1994-July 8, 2001).

6. Ebenezer Evangelical Church

- Location: Logan County, Arvada Township, NE ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 02-T133-R70**
- See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

7. Emmanuel Congregational Church

- Location: 12 miles S of Gackle; Logan County, Moos Township, SW ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 23-T135-R68**
- See Gackle – First United Church of Christ
- Church Records: Recorded in Gackle – First United Church of Christ Register

8. Emmanuel Evangelical Church

- Location: King Settlement, Logan County, Hillsburg Township, NW ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 07-T134-R69**
- See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

9. Emmanuel Lutheran Church

- Location: Logan County, Nathan Township, NE ¼ NE ¼ of **Sec 23-T134-R68**
- Church Records as of July 2007:

- Kept at Napoleon – Trinity Lutheran Church [Information provided by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
- Book 1 Baptism 1907-1941
- Book 1 Confirmation 1909-1940
- Book 1 Marriage 1910-1934
- Book 1 Death 1909-1948
- See Napoleon – First Lutheran Church (reference might be to this Emmanuel)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.44-45. The Kirchen Buch is on file at the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church at Monango. It has a visible church seal on its front page. The early start up of this mission congregation began in the early 1900's according to information gathered from its records. The first services were held in the family homes on a rotational basis. The church was officially organized September 1, 1909. Members adopted the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Services and Catechism instruction were conducted in the German language. The members of this parish were mostly from German-Russian Descent. Parents were responsible for their children to be baptized, instructing them in the Christian doctrine through confirmation from the Lutheran Catechism. Others joined this small band of Christians, the growth of the congregation made it imperative to provide more room. A committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility to build or to rent a building. After considerable study, the committee decided it would be better to rent, then build. It was thought the future of the congregation could not afford the cost of purchasing a building. The committee made an agreement with the Nathan District School. Services were held in the schoolhouse for years. As more pioneers settled in the area, it became necessary for the school board to find other space to house the children. It was decided to build a new school and auction off the old school building. Johannes G. Burkle submitted the high bid and was declared the owner of the schoolhouse. It was moved to his farm site, which was only ¼ mile down the road. A number of years passed and eventually the building was dismantled, the lumber was used to construct the home on the Victor Burkle farmstead. Church services, in the new schoolhouse, were continued until the late 1930's, when it was decided by the congregation to disband. Some of its members joined St. John's Congregation three miles north of Fredonia and others joined Martin Luther Lutheran Congregation at Fredonia, ND. The pastors were hired on a rotational schedule and served 3 or 4 and sometimes 5 different congregations throughout the month. The Emmanuel congregation was served every third or fourth Sunday in the month. The duties of the pastor were to baptize the babies, instruct the confirmation class, visit the sick, bury the dead and preach the gospel in truth and divinity. Reading services were conducted in the absence of the pastor. The following is a list of some of the ministers who served this congregation: G.F. Hanselman, E. Kaatz, C. Stadler, C. Baetke, John Schmitt, Philip Peter, and Pastor Von Gemmingen. At the early stages of the congregations existence transportation was mostly by horse drawn buggy, sled, trailer, and wagon. Some of the families walked. Raymond Burkle recalled, "I can't recall when my dad ever used the family car to take us kids to church, we always walked." Custodial care or duties that must be performed in a rural church were mostly voluntary work. Someone was appointed to be in charge of the details. The family living closest usually did it. During the winter months they fired up the old wood and coal heater and had the building warmed up before the parishioners arrived. They also wiped dust off the benches, swept the floor, and greeted the people coming to church. Johannes G. Burkle usually did these chores as long as he lived on the family farm. The following is a list of members and associate members or families: Christian, Samuel, Gottfried, Rudolph, Simon and Daniel Labrensz; Johannas and Fred Schulz; John J. Speidel; Johannas G. Burkle; Christoph, Jakob, Andreas and Eduard Krueger; Christian and John Dallman; Christian, Johann and Friedrich Wolf; Jakob Heller; John Goltz; Johannas, Gottfried and Adam Obernauer; Samuel Hach; Gottfried Schweitzer; Friedrich Schott; Lolud Wollan; Salomon Mueller; Christian Zeiser; Julian Moltsam; Michael Borth; David Hach; Andreas Widmer; Buchholz; and John Roloff. The cemetery associated with this congregation was registered November 1, 1931 as a Lutheran Cemetery. One of the last services held at the schoolhouse was the funeral for Christ Dallman in 1939. The church was affiliated with the King Lutheran Church north of Lehr and St. John's Missouri Synod Lutheran of Fredonia. The school in which services were held is now located on the Wayne Burkle farm.

10. Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church

- Location: 7 miles S of Gackle; Logan County, Gutschmidt Township, SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 08-T135-R67**

- [Photo Available: Lo-Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church \[3871\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.38. On July 28, 1907, a group met at the home of Andrew Erickson for the purpose of organizing a board of trustees and other church officers. They also discussed ways and means of raising funds to build a church building. The first board of trustees elected were: John Isaacs, Matt Tomperi, August Elgland, Matt Lahti, John K. Saari, and Andrew Erickson. Officers were: Walter Isaacs, president; Isaac W. Selvala, secretary and Thomas Poykko, treasurer. The first membership consisted of 15 families, namely: Thomas Poykko, Andrew Erickson, Jacob Mackey, John K. Saari, Christian Koskineimi, Christian Isaacs, Walter Isaacs, John Isaacs, Matt Tomperi, August Elgland, John Rosendahl, Isak W. Selvala, Matt Lahti and Jacob Pakkala. In February 1908, it was decided to build a church on Sec. 8-135-67 before the farmers went in the field. The land for the church was given by William Saari. Pastors of the church have been Christian Isaacs, Isak Selvala and Rev. Walter Isaacs. There has been no local pastor since Mr. Isaacs moved away in 1930. Pastors from South Dakota and Minnesota have come occasionally to hold services. There is a record of 157 baptism though they are not all recorded. The same holds true of confirmations and funerals. The Saari Cemetery is located east of the church grounds. It was enlarged in 1939 and replotted. If any of the original members have been overlooked it is not intentional as this was all that was in the church record.
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.60. The Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church located seven miles south of Gackle is now closed after many years of activity since its beginning in 1908. Until two years ago, Rev. Werner Visto of Hecla, S.D. came to hold services once a month. The last confirmation was held in June of 1961 conducted by Rev. Oscar Wilson, Kimball, Minnesota. The church and the Saarie Cemetery are still kept in very good condition.

11. Fredonia – Baptist Church

- Location: Village of Fredonia
- [Photo Available: Di-Fredonia Baptist Church \[4125\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*. Fredonia Baptist Church was built in 1916 and dedicated in October of the same year. Rev. S.F. Fuxa who was a visiting minister from Lehr, North Dakota held the Dedicatory services. The Berlin and Fredonia Congregations employ the same minister. The following ministers have served the two congregations. Rev. B. Matzke, Rev. M. Domke, Rev. J. Golling, Rev. J. Reichert, Rev. J. Burgdorff, Rev. H. Bens, Rev. A.L. Tilgner served only the country congregation. Rev. S.F. Fuxa, Rev. E. Huber, Rev. A. Krombein, Rev. Wm. Jaster, Rev. P.T. Hunsicker, Rev. V. Prendinger served the congregations both in town and country.
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.42. The Fredonia Baptist Church was built and dedicated in October of 1916. Rev. S.F. Fuxa held the service. The Fredonia Baptist Church shared the same ministers as the Berlin Baptist Church. Many of the early members were farmers who had retired and moved into town. A parsonage was built in 1948. The Ladies Aid was organized on January 27, 1920 with the following members: Caroline Miller, Lulu Fuxa, Marie Miller, Katherina Miller, Rosina Geiser, Magdalena Schlaps, Rosina Wolf, Julia Messner, and Emilia Meidinger. The Aid was dissolved in 1948.

12. Fredonia – Congregational Church

- See Fredonia – Nazareth Congregational Church

13. Fredonia – Martin Luther Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: Village of Fredonia
- [Photo Available: Lo-Fredonia Martin Luther Lutheran Church-1 \[4124\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Fredonia Martin Luther Lutheran Church-2 \[4124\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*. In 1901 the German Lutheran people felt they were in need of a church, so a small church building was built about 3 miles north of Fredonia. Rev. Henry Nagel was the first minister. Services were held there for several years when a church school was built in town. Soon this became too small so a larger church was built in 1924. Rev.

John Schmidt was the first minister. The following ministers have served this congregation: Rev. H. Nagel, Rev. G.F. Hanselman, Rev. Sam Nicolaiske, Rev. E. Kaatz, Rev. C. Stadler, Rev. C. Baetke, Rev. John Schmitt, Rev. Phil Peter, Rev. J. Broecker, Rev. John Bunge, Rev. R. Hintz, Rev. R.W. Schwarz, Rev. H. Senft

- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979 – 75 Years of Prosperity*, p.273-274. Rev. and Mrs. Hans Senft were the first residents of our new parsonage which was built just north of the church in 1954. The church was able to continually grow in numbers and to progress. In 1963, it became apparent that a larger educational unit was needed, so the north wing of the church was annexed. In the basement several Sunday school rooms were added and the kitchen was enlarged. These units were dedicated in 1964. During 1975 and 1976 the original church basement was renovated. It received extensive repairing, paneling, and painting. When the 1947 Hammond electric organ malfunctioned, it was replaced with a new Allen electric organ in 1973. The funds for the organ were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Geiszler. Emma Geiszler was one of the church's most devoted organists. She served as organist from 1930 to 1970. However, after 1967, until her retirement in 1970, Emma and Mavis Weispfenning shared the work. It was in 1964, during Rev. Russel Hunter's pastorate, that Raymond Burkle, chairman, presented Mrs. Geiszler with a certificate of appreciation for her dedicated service. On August 3, 1975, Randall Schlecht, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schlecht, was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church. Ordination services were held at Martin Luther Lutheran Church at Fredonia by Rev. Carl Klein. Rev. Schlecht is the first member of Martin Luther to be ordained into the ministry. On June 27, 1976, Martin Luther celebrated its 50th anniversary. Members and friends from far and near enjoyed the memorable event that started with an anniversary banquet and program the night of June 26. Sunday was a full day with a communion service in the morning, dinner at the church, and another service in the afternoon. A pictorial directory was made. For many years Martin Luther was affiliated with Zion Two, which was located south of Fredonia. Zion Two dissolved in 1977, but a segment will continue to maintain the cemetery. Pastors who have served Martin Luther Lutheran Church since 1954, and in later years at Zion Two are: Rev. Hans Senft, Rev. Ernest Theilen, Rev. Ray Heidtke, Rev. Russel Hunter, Rev. Lee Mentink, Rev. Marvin Lapp, Rev. Larry Vigen, Rev. John K. Olson, and our present pastor, Rev. John H. Fick. Organists at the present time are Leona Janke, Mavis Weispfenning, Naomi Schlecht, and Kathy Fick. It has a Sunday school of 33 members and 6 teachers. The present auxiliary of Martin Luther is the ALCW (American Lutheran Church Women). They meet for Bible study and fellowship, and help plan and execute certain activities carried on by the church. Martin Luther also has an active Luther League, and senior and junior choirs. The church has a baptized membership of 225 and a confirmed membership of 172.
- Church History Source: *Fredonia, ND – History for Evangelisch Lutherisch Johannes Church – Christus Parish – Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 2001*. About 1917 or earlier a group of five men began working to form a Lutheran Church in Fredonia. The first worship services were held in the Fredonia Public School. The first minutes recorded were in 1920. The Gackle, Wishek, and Billigmeier Land Company donated the lots for a church, parsonage, and school. **1920** This is when the first recorded minutes began. A meeting was held on January 4, at which time the constitution for Martin Luther was accepted. The members present were John Wolf, David Haag, John J. Haag, Nathaniel Haag, John Kinzler Jr., John Kinzler Sr., Ferdand Krueger, John Lux, Michael Rasch, and Karl Krueger. William Jans, Jacob Heller, and William Friederick were accepted as members. Another meeting was held in January at which time Gottlieb Janke and Gottlieb Leischner were accepted as members. The income was \$72.00 and the expenses were \$48.00. The pastor would be paid through the Parish. They discussed building a church, but decided they could not afford it. **1922** The meeting was held to discuss accepting a family into the congregation. It was decided they would if there were no bad reports from his previous Parish. **1925** The articles of incorporation from the State of North Dakota were signed on May 21 by William Jans, Karl A. Krueger, and Johannes A. Kinzler. Jan. 18 they voted to build a church. Twenty-six people were present with 22 voting for and 4 voting against building. The building would be 32 by 50 feet. At the March meeting the building committee reported that \$4,500 was pledged for a building. It was decided to have a choir loft. The steeple would be 70 feet high with a cross on top. May 28 they reviewed the bid from the contractors. The bid for \$6,600 was selected from Roedel. He would be building master and contractor. Salzer Lumber Company had the bid for material at \$3,150. At the July meeting they ordered an 800 lb.

Bell for \$354.00. In August they ordered the benches and altar. The altar cost \$360.00. The statue of Christ for the altar was ordered and donated by Pastor Schmitt. **1926** At the January meeting they ordered light fixtures and other things needed to finish the building. The contractor was instructed to finish by July. The dedication was held on June 13, 1926. A picture taken the day of the dedication is shown on the front cover of this book. At the July meeting the insurance on the building was set at %5,600 and \$1,000 for the furnishings. Each member was assessed an additional \$57.00 to pay off the debt on the church. A committee was appointed to examine the expenses of the church pertaining to bills already paid and those still outstanding. The entire cost of the church building was \$9,842.82. **1929** The Martin Luther Church agreed to accept the Johannes congregation as members. **1939** Sunday School students listed were as follows: Magadelina Lux, Esther Sukut, Phylis Doctor, Adeline Irion, Harold Haag, Ervin Wolf, Arthur and Herman Sukut, Raymond Wolf, Herman Krueger, Kennet Mund, Herman Munsch, Raymond Krueger, Isador Sukut, Lorenz Haag, Eugene Kinzler, Roland Buerkle, Erna Sukut, Adeline Skukut, Mavis Eisenbeis, Kora Haag, Elda Schultz, Else Sukut, Alva Eisenbeis, Florence Irion, and Lilly Munsch. **1940** Sunday School students added to the 1939 list were as follows: Viola and Edna Munsch, Florence Sukut, Ella Fuchs, Shirley Eisenbeis, Dell Wolf, Konrad Buerkle, Eugene Irion, Paul Ziebart, Richard Rasch, Roland Rossman, Adeline Mund, and Anna Rossman. **1941** The discussion was about whether they should sell the old parsonage and find another place for the pastor or continue to have him live at the parsonage. The janitor, Jacob Heller, was paid \$75.00 a year. **1942** A pension plan was started for the minister. The New Year started with a balance of \$155.27; the income was \$876.42; the expenses were \$903.23; and the ending balance was \$128.45. Emma Geiszler was elected organist. In the early 1940's Rev. John Bunge had the ability to preach in the English language. Now there were three services in German and one in English each month. As time went by more English services were held. **1944** The janitor was paid \$125.00. **1946** They started writing the minutes in English. A new Hammond organ was purchased. The organists and Sunday school teachers were elected at the annual meeting along with council members. **1950** The pastor's salary was set at \$30.00 per member. **1951** The 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the church building was held on Sunday, July 1. There were three services. The morning service was in German while the afternoon and evening services were split between English and German. The pastors taking part in the services included G. Bunge, J. Schmitt, and P. Peter. The choir, Sunday school, Ladies Aid, and Mission Society, provided special music. At that time the congregation consisted of 66 voting members, 11 widows, 200 communicants and 273 baptized souls. **1952** The pastor's salary was set at \$30.00 per member with free living quarters. A motion was made to have offering every Sunday there are services. Anyone wanting to join the church needed to give two weeks notice to the congregation. Then the congregation held a meeting and was asked to accept them as members. **1953** The Fredonia and Kulm congregations agreed to end their obligations and become independent. **1954** The congregation voted to build a new parsonage for an estimated cost of \$6,700 (this did not include the labor, a well, or wiring). The ground breaking for the new parsonage was on March 21. The confirmation class and pastor went to Jamestown to take a class picture. While there the whole group went sightseeing. They saw the Lutheran Church, the Catholic Church, the School for Crippled Children, and the Insane Asylum. The girls were reminded that the 'green' light was for crossing the street. (Who knows the story behind that?) For the Golden Jubilee in Fredonia the church furnished 2 floats and a walking group. "The wedding in 1904" was made up of members of the congregation. The Luther league's float was titled "Soo-Line 1904-1954", and the Brotherhoods float was a "Sod-Church". This float was given first prize of \$25.00. The new parsonage went up fast with the 'architect', Gerhard Geiszler, who only employed men who hit the 'nail' and not the 'thumb'. The dedication of the new parsonage was October 3. This was the most modern parsonage in the territory and the congregation was proud of that. All members who got water from the well at the parsonage had to pay \$.50 per tank for electricity. The membership dues were set at \$70.00 for each member. An auction sale was held for the old parsonage and misc. items. They didn't accept the bid for the parsonage. At the end of the year the congregation consisted of 250 souls with 172 confirmed members. There were 64 families and 15 single persons. Forty-five children were enrolled in Sunday school. Holy Communion was held 9 times; 5 times in English, 4 times in German. 270 persons communed. (39 once; 36 twice; 21 three times; 15 four times; 4 five times; 40 didn't go at all) The organizations donated \$1,220.00 to special purposes such as the Crippled Children's School, Old People's Home at Arthur, etc. **1955** August 25 lightning struck the church and parsonage at 3:00 A.M. and caused a strange odor in the study-room and hall of the parsonage. The wire of the antenna was cut. It also did enough damage to the bell tower of the church that repairs were needed. **1956** The Congregation voted to order 3 dozen English hymnals. Bookracks for the pews were dedicated in November. **1957** It was

decided that the new pastors services would be half English and half German. They also decided not to hold Easter Monday services. Raymond Burkle was elected to read for the English services and Richard Geiszler was to read for the German services during the absence of a pastor. The Council agreed to allow Pastor Theilen to serve the 1st Zion Church located south of Fredonia. A list of the contributions for the new parsonage was published. **1959** The Congregation voted to have 3 English services and 1 German service each month. Church dues were kept at \$75.00 per member. After Pastor Theilen left many calls were made, but none were successful. The congregation then called Pastor Heidtke and this was the end of German services. The new bulletin board for outside the church was ordered. **1960** Herman Munsch, Raymond Burkle, and Raymond Krueger were chosen to help Rev. Heidtke prepare a new constitution. It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Gerhard Gieszler remain organist and Mavis Weispfenning would be assistant. Nov. 20 the congregation voted in favor of changing to the Eastern North Dakota District. New flags were purchased. It was moved to convert the organ in the balcony into a bookcase. **1961** The new flags were dedicated January 29. The proposed new constitutional changes included changing the name to Evangelical Lutheran Martin Lutheran Congregation Geminde. The Congregation approved a voting change so all baptized and confirmed members of legal voting age could vote. The annual meeting was changed to the month of January. A quorum for conducting business at the annual meeting shall consist of 10% of the voting members. In November a committee consisting of Ray Schlecth, Herbert Hehr, Gerhard Geiszler, William Nitschke, and Raymond Burkle were appointed to study new Sunday school facilities. **1962** On October 21, it was voted to build a Sunday school facility. Raymond Haag, Ervin Wolff, and Ernest Krueger were appointed to serve on the finance committee. They will organize a fund drive. **1963** The envelope system was started in January. The congregation accepted a bid from Elmer Kapp for the old parsonage for \$750.00. Memorial money was used to purchase individual cup communion ware. This was dedicated Easter Sunday. The majority of the voters selected the bid from Salzer Lumber Company in Kulm for the new addition for \$20,334.84. A loan for \$12,000 was obtained from the Gackle Bank for the new addition. A chicken dinner was served to pay for the cabinets in the kitchen. The budgeted Pastor's salary for 1964 was \$4,500.00. Sunday school began in the new addition on October 6. The Sunday school enrollment was 89. **1964** Art Wolf resigned as janitor and Adam Kaseman was hired for \$420.00. The duties included ringing the church bell, pumping the sewer tank, cleaning the side walks, restrooms, church, classrooms, halls, and basement. The council decided to have an auction on May 23 to sell the old material in the kitchen and whatever needed to be sold. The dedication of the new addition was held on May 24, 1964, with Pastor Ray Heidtke speaking. The morning service was attended by 240 people, and 165 attended the afternoon service. The altar cross was dedicated in July. Barbara Nitschke was appointed organist for the remainder of the year with Mrs. Hunter as assistant. An additional 50 bulletins were to be ordered for passing to the churchwomen on Sunday morning. The Sunday school enrollment was 80. **1965** Ervin Wolf was appointed Sunday School Superintendent to replace Ray Burkle. A railing was put on the front church steps. Letters were mailed to all members reminding them of what their contributions have been and what was needed because there was a general fund balance of \$239.23, and many outstanding bills. **1966** The proposed pastor's salary and pension was \$5,500.00. The Sunday school enrollment was 86. **1967** Harris Krueger painted the church steeple for \$300.00. Rodney Buchholz was hired as janitor. A motion was made to charge inactive members \$50.00 for the use of the church for weddings or other occasions. The church was painted in October. A committee was set up for a fund drive. Following this only \$1,000 was left on the loan for the addition. **1968** Richard Geiszler, sexton, asked for an assistant. Ted Weispfenning was appointed. **1970** A new furnace was installed for \$1,200. The vote on a merger with the Kulm congregation was turned down. A new well was dug. **1971** A motion was made to have communion at least 6 times a year. The church membership was brought up to date with 183 active members. **1972** The average attendance was 133 people per Sunday with 127 participating in Holy Communion. Sunday school attendance was 53. Thirteen members were gained during the year. **1973** Richard Geiszler retired as sexton after 40 years of service. Ted Weispfenning was elected as his replacement. The new organ was dedicated on November 4th with Mr. Gary Oman of Jamestown as our guest organist. Richard and Sophie Geiszler donated it. The records showed 252 baptized members and 184 confirmed members (78 households). **1975** A fund drive to finance repairs for the basement brought in \$5,352.00. The repairs included new cement for the floor and paneling for the walls. On August 3, Randall Schlecht was ordained at Martin Luther Church. Services were held by Rev. Carl Klein. Rev. Schlecht has been the only member of Martin Luther to be ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church. **1976** On June 26th and 27th, Martin Luther celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the church building. The first church directory was made. **1977** A motion was made to have

Holy Communion once a month. A new worship book committee consisting of Mavis Weispfenning, Leona Janke, Ray Krueger, Tina Irion, and Ervin Wolf was formed. A motion was made to put in the bulletin that the church needs \$6,000 in the general fund before calling a pastor because there are still outstanding bills to be paid. A fund drive collected \$3,775.00. Zion II decided to disband and Martin Luther decided to support the pastor by itself. A motion was made to pay the Luther league \$15.00 per cutting for 3 cutting a year at the cemetery. **1978** A motion was made to buy 200 new hymnals. **1979** Two lots were donated to the church for a parking lot. A motion was made to have Holy Communion twice a month. **1980** A motion to lower the Holy Communion age to the 5th grade did not pass. A vote to allow women to serve on the church council did not pass. **1984** A motion was made to buy a new piano for the church. **1985** New front doors were installed in the church. **1986** Ceiling fans were installed. Lightning struck the church steeple, but it was discovered on time and with the aid of the fire department, the church was saved. **1990** It was decided to put both cemeteries into one plot. It was voted to remove 2 of the evergreen trees in front of the parsonage. After a joint council meeting with Zion of Kulm it was decided to split the pastor's salary and expenses with Kulm under a new Parish agreement. **1991** Marie Vogel was the first woman elected to the church council as secretary. **1993** A motion was made to build a handicapped ramp out of steel. (It was completed in June of 1994.) **1994** It was decided to rent out the parsonage since the pastor decided to live at Kulm. **1996** Ascension Day, May 25, the church was hit with lightning. It sustained a considerable amount of damage to the steeple, roof, ceiling in the church proper, and more. The church's interior and exterior were painted and repaired with fire insurance claim money from the lightning damage and money received from a quilt raffle with matching funds from Lutheran Brotherhood. **1997** At the annual meeting the congregation voted to form a Cemetery Association. Ardella Buchholz resigned as janitor. Irene Entzi became the new janitor. Since our church was left without an organist, in October the Ted Weispfenning family purchased a digital hymnal for the church. **1999** The parsonage was sold to Boyd and Kristi Entzi for \$7,000 with a stipulation that the church receives water from the well. o—o **Pastors who have served our church:** Henry Nagel (1901-1907); G.G. Hanselman (1907-Spring of 1912); Samuel Nicolaiske (Fall of 1912-Winter of 1913); E. Kaatz (May of 1914-1916); C. Stadler (1916-1919); Conrade Baetke (Jan of 1920-July of 1923); John Schmitt (Fall of 1923-1933); Phillip Peter (June of 1935-July 28, 1940); Carl Braecker (Sept. of 1941-1942); John G. Bunge (Dec 1, 1943-Oct. 1950 and 1951 {May to Oct.}); Reinholt Hintz (Oct Of 1950-1951); Richard Schwarz (July 1952-Aug. 1953); Hans Senft (Jan. 1954-Feb. 28, 1957); Ernest Theilen (May 1957-Nov. 1959); Ray Heidtke (June 1960-March 1963); Russel Hunter (July 1963-April 1966); Lee Mentink (June 1966-Aug. 1967); Marvin Lapp (Jan. 3, 1968-Fall 1970); Larry Vigen (Sept. 1971-Aug. 1974); John Olson (Sept. 1974-June 1977); John Fick (June 1977-Feb. 1981); Tim Stoa (July 1981-Dec. 1983); Steven Rueckel (Sept. 1984-Feb. 1986); Gary Bertsch (Aug. 1986-Sept. 1992); Annette Crickenburger (Feb. 1994-July 8, 2001).

- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.51-52. About 1917 or earlier a group of 5 men began working to form a Lutheran church in Fredonia. The first worship services were held in the Fredonia Public School. The first minutes were recorded in 1920. The Gackle, Wishek, and Billigmeier Land Company donated the lots for a church, parsonage, and school. The constitution was accepted January 4, 1920. Among some of the first members were John Wolf, David, Nathaniel, and John J. Haag, John Kinzler Jr., John Kinzler Sr., Ferdinand Krueger, John Lux, Michael Rasch, Karl Krueger, William Jans, Jacob Heller, Gottlieb Janke, Gottlieb Leischner, and William Friederich. The articles of incorporation from the State of North Dakota were signed on May 21, 1925. That same year they voted to build a church. The material was purchased from Salzer Lumber Company in Fredonia. The church was dedicated June 13, 1926. In 1940 they began having one English church service each month. In 1959 German church services were discontinued because there was not a pastor available to continue preaching in German. In 1954 the church built a new parsonage for \$6,700.00. It was considered the most modern parsonage in the area at the time. The parsonage was sold in 1999. Zion II Lutheran (located about 20 miles south of Fredonia) joined the congregation to share a minister in 1959. They shared a minister until 1977 when Zion II disbanded. In 1990 Martin Luther joined with Zion Lutheran Church of Kulm to share a minister. At the present time there is not a full time pastor to serve Martin Luther. Due to the number of students attending Sunday school, a new educational unit was built in 1963. It was dedicated on May 24, 1964. In 1975, Randall Schlecht was ordained into the ministry. In 1991, Marie Vogel was the first woman elected to the church council. The church has been struck by lightning three times. Each time the damage was more severe.

The last time it was hit was Ascension Day, May 17, 1996. The steeple, roof, and ceiling of the church sustained considerable damage. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1924 and disbanded in 1959. They were a very active organization. They helped pay for many of the improvements made in the church kitchen and actively donated to many funds and charities. The Women's Missionary Federation was organized in 1949. The name has changed several times. It is now known as the WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). In 2001 Martin Luther celebrated their 100th anniversary for Martin Luther and St. Johannes Lutheran Church. The following is a list of the pastors who have served at Martin Luther and the years they served: Henry Nagel (1901-07); G.G. Hanselman (1907-12); Samuel Nicolaiske (1912-13); E. Kaatz (1914-16); C. Stadler (1916-19); Conrade Baetke (1920-23); John Schmitt (1923-33); Phillip Peter (1935-40); Carl Braecher (1941-42); John G. Bunge (1943-50); Reinholt Hintz (1950-51); Richard Schwarz (1952-53); Hans Senft (1954-57); Ernest Theilen (1957-59); Ray Heidtke (1960-63); Russel Hunter (1963-66); Lee Mentink (1966-67); Marvin Lapp (1968-70); Larry Vigen (1971-74); John Olsen (1974-77); John Fick (1977-81); Tim Stoa (1981-83); Steven Rueckel (1984-86); Gary Bertsch (1986-92); Annette Crickenburger (1994-2001)

14. Fredonia – Nazareth Congregational Church

- Location: 1 block E of Main St
- [Photo Available: Lo-Fredonia Nazareth Congregational Church-1 \[4123\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Fredonia Nazareth Congregational Church-2 \[4127\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*. In 1906 the First German Congregational Church was built and dedicated in the fall of the same year. John Eslinger and Gottlieb Durr were the deacons, and Fred Strobel and Gottlieb Durr were the first Sunday school teachers. Rev. Albert Vogel of Kulm delivered the first service. The church was sold in later years and moved to Lehr, North Dakota. After twenty three years of services in the old church, a new house of worship was erected in 1929. This church was built on the same lot and block of the old church, with Henry Huether of Ashley, N.D. as the contractor. Rev. Henry Hoersch was the first minister in the new church. The following ministers have served the Congregation since 1906. They are: Rev. Albert Vogel, Rev. Frederick Berghoefler, Rev. G.A. Marz, Rev. Louis Ebertz, Rev. Theodore Pfenning, Rev. Ferdinand Zissler, Rev. Paul Hediger, Rev. John Meer, Rev. Henry Hoersch, Rev. M.H. Grosz, Rev. R. Roemmich, and Rev. Emanuel Gackle who is the present minister.
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979 – 75 Years of Prosperity*, p.275. In 1954, the Nazareth Congregational Church was under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. Emmanuel Gackle. He served until 1958. Rev. and Mrs. Jonathan Knecht was the next minister, serving one year. Rev. and Mrs. Christian Martin served from 1959 to 1963. In the spring of 1963 Rev. and Mrs. Fred Heydel came to serve this church and also the Kulm Congregational Church. They have served both churches for a period of 16 years. Numerous improvements have been made in recent years. In 1967 a water and sewer system were put into service. In 1972 an amplifier system was installed. In 1973 the church interior was painted and preparations were made for the 75th anniversary which was celebrated June 19-July 1, 1973. Improvements have also been made in the lower auditorium. The following have become ministers out of this church: Rev. Edward Eslinger, Rev. Hugo Flaig, and Rev. Wilbert Hiller. Ministers wives are: Mrs. George Kuhn (nee Emilia Eslinger), Mrs. Emil Klein (nee Martha Eslinger), and Mrs. Emmanuel Gackle (nee Katherine Eslinger). The present deacons are Reinhold Dittus and Fred Hiller. Sunday School Superintendent is Clifford Dittus. Treasurer is Mrs. Ella Kleingartner. Organist and pianist is Mrs. Clifford Radke. Trustees are Fred Dittus, Leveorn Dittus and Rudolph Ruff. Secretary is Richard Gutschmidt. The ushers are Elmer Schlecht and Henry Fehling. This church stands as a monument to the trust in God for which its members have committed themselves to the task of the furtherance of God's Kingdom.
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004*, p.42

15. Friedenstal Congregational Church

- Location: Logan County, Janke Township, NW ¼ NE ¼ of **Sec 08-T134-R67**

- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.45. In the early 1900's a few families started worship service in the home of Johann and Caroline Schlecht eight miles north of Fredonia in Janke Township. They went by the name of Friedenstal German Congregational parish. In 1910 they built a church on section 4. About 25 families were members. Since it was quite a ways to drive by horse, buggy or sled the church was moved to section 8 so it would be more centrally located for the members. Here a cemetery was established next to the church, a horse barn was built, along with an outhouse. This church was incorporated on March 11, 1911. Sunday school Christmas programs were held every Christmas Eve, children were baptized, and weddings and funerals were held. The pastors were shared with the Fredonia and Wishek Congregational churches, so the pastors were not available more than one Sunday of the month. On the other Sundays, the deacon had to lead worship. As transportation improved more of the members left and joined the Fredonia Congregational Church. By 1934 there were only a few members left so they disbanded. There are not any old records that could be found. The same year (1934) the church building was sold for \$300.00 to a group of people who formed the St. John's Missouri Lutheran Church. The church building was moved on the north side of Martin Luther Cemetery three miles north of Fredonia. More history for the church building is listed under St. John's Lutheran Church.

16. Gackle – Assembly of God Church

- Location: 407 1st Ave E
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Assembly of God Church \[3877\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.42. The Streeter and Alfred German branch of the Assembly of God Church met for a meeting in Gackle July 2, 1973 when it was decided to rent a building for the summer months. In September of 1973, the congregation agreed to purchase the church building from Mr. Rueben Remboldt and to join the English District. The first service was held July 15, 1973 with Reverend G.L. Riffe as pastor. Rev. and Mrs. G.L. Riffe, Hi-Acre Manor managers of Jamestown, served the Gackle church for one year. Rev. Paul Davidson, instructor at Trinity Bible Institute, Ellendale, assisted Rev. Riffe. Rev. and Mrs. Mick Hessler of Bend, Oregon accepted a call on July 14, 1974 and served the Gackle church for two years. Present pastor is Reverend and Mrs. Tom Haynes. They came from Findlay, Ohio in December of 1976. The parsonage was bought in 1974 and is located at 318 2nd Ave. West.
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.56-57. Gackle Assembly of God Church traces its roots back to July 2, 1973 when the Assembly of God Churches in neighboring Streeter and Alfred met together and decided to merge congregations choosing Gackle as the central location. The Streeter Bethel Assembly of God Church began in 1942, and the Alfred Assembly of God Church began in 1958, and both belonged to the German District of the Assemblies of God. Both churches met in Gackle on July 2, 1973, and decided to join together and rent the Church of God building in Gackle. The first service was held on July 15, 1973 with Rev. G.L. Riffe of Jamestown (former Hi-Acres Manor Manager) serving as pastor. Rev. Paul Davidson, instructor at Trinity Bible Institute in Ellendale assisted Rev. Riffe. Both served one year. On September 2, 1973 the Gackle Church joined the English District of the Assemblies of God, and the Church of God building was then purchased from Rueben Remboldt. Rev. and Mrs. Michael (Mick) Hessler of Bend, Oregon accepted a call to serve the church as the first resident pastor July 14, 1974 and served the church two years. In 1976, the parsonage at 318 Second Avenue West, Gackle, ND was purchased. Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Haynes from Findlay, Ohio served from November 1, 1979 to August 3, 1980. Rev. and Mrs. Brad Keller served from November 2, 1980 to April 21, 1982. Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Williams served from August 29, 1982 to October 10, 1986. Rev. and Mrs. David Reese served both the Gackle and Napoleon, ND Assembly of God Churches from February 4, 1987 to August 5, 1990. It was decided to rent the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 407 First Avenue East, Gackle, ND for Sunday services beginning March 25, 1990 until February 1993. The building was purchased in February of 1993 and is the current location of the Gackle Assembly of God Church. Rev. and Mrs. John Vantrease served from June 2, 1991 to April 17, 1994. Rev. and Mrs. James Hatch served from August 7, 1994 to June 1996. During this time the parsonage was sold, and a different parsonage was purchased at 410 Second Avenue East, Gackle, ND. Revs. Nick and Joanne Geffre began serving both the Gackle Assembly of God Church and Full Gospel Assembly in Napoleon, ND on August 25, 1996 through September 19, 1999. In 1997, a church office was built; in 1998 the basement was

renovated. On October 25, 1998, the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary with a Dedication Service of the church building and its recent building projects. In 1999 the sanctuary platform area was remodeled. Rev. and Mrs. McDowell from Trinity Bible College in Ellendale served as interim pastor from October 1999 to June of 2001. Pastors Nick and Joanne Geffre returned to serve the Gackle congregation on July 15, 2000 and are the present pastors. In 2002 the front door entrance was remodeled. The schedule of services includes Sunday School for all ages, Sunday Morning Worship Service, Wednesday evening Kids Club and Youth Group, and special Christmas and Easter musical/drama programs.

15. Gackle – Church of God

- Location: Town of Gackle
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Church of God \(7th Day\)-1 \[3875\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Church of God \(7th Day\)-2 \[3880\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.42. It was in early 1920's that a Church of God congregation was first started in Gackle. A place of worship was provided for by purchasing a rural school house in the community and moving it into Gackle. Rev. M.B. Brown then residing at New Rockford, N.D. helped the congregation along in their services on occasional visits. Rev. Julius Boettcher became the first resident pastor. He was followed by Rev. Jonas A. Ratzlaff. During the 30's when times were hard and people were moving about, regular services were discontinued for a time. In 1940, Rev. Samuel Nachtigall took charge of the work, and served as pastor for a period of time. In the years following the little church building was sold. In the fall of 1951 the North Dakota State Mission of the Church of God purchased the former Presbyterian Church to re-open services again in Gackle. The opening and dedication service was held in early September of 1952. Last fall the congregation observed its first anniversary and Harvest Mission Festival Service in the month of September. Regular services are being conducted under the leadership of the present pastor, Rev. David Blaskowsky.

16. Gackle – Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 117 W Spruce St
- In Possession of the following Records:
 - Emmanuel Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death 1919-2007
 - Neudorf Lutheran Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death 1900-1957
 - St. James Lutheran Church Records: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death 1915-1955
 - Information provided by Darla Reed, church secretary June 2007
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Immanuel Lutheran Church-1 1935 \[3873\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Emmanuel Lutheran Church-2 1961 \[3909\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.39-40. The Immanuel Lutheran Church had its beginning back in 1915 in the old school house located at that time where Peter Muller, Sr., now lives. Seven families made up the original membership with Rev. E. E. Muller as pastor. The first church officers included: Frederick Weispenning, Edward Nathan, Henry Jenner, Salomon Mueller, and John Borth. The next location of the church was at the site now known as the Gackle Cleaners during the pastorate of J.F. Doyan. The old Baptist Church was purchased by the Lutheran group and remodeled, the dedication was held in 1935 and is the present meeting place of the congregation. Present church officers serving with Rev. Frederick Heupel as pastor include: Peter Muller, Sr., R.R. Bender, Martin Baer, Jack Dixon, Edgar Geiszler, Jacob Gienger, Jacob Gums, Jack Remboldt, Jr., Albert Geiszler, Herbert Muller, Gustav Muller and Fred Miller. Since its beginning in 1915, Rev. E.E. Muller, Rev. J.F. Doyen, Rev. Walter Hummel, Rev. Marcus Baudler, Rev. G.A. Schmidt, Rev. Henry Meske, Rev. John Hoyer, Rev. Arthur Duminsch and Rev. Frederick Heupel have served the Lutheran Church in Gackle. In the absence of a resident pastor, Student Pastor Martin Obst, served during the summer of 1950; Rev. Lawrence Sailer of Medina served in 1953 and Student Pastor Arthur Schmidt of Wishek, filled the vacancy during the summer of 1953. The present membership of the church is approximately thirty-five families. The enrollment of the Sunday School is 86 with Mrs. R.R. Bender, superintendent, and Mrs. J.M. Hummel, secretary-treasurer. The Sunday School teachers include: Mr. and Mrs. Victor Solheim, Mrs. Martin Baer, Carl Morlock, Mrs. Herbert Muller, Mrs. John Labrenz and Grace Naatus, Mrs. Jack Remboldt, the first

superintendent and Elsie Borth served the Sunday School from its beginning in 1936 up through 1953. Geo. Hummel, Jack Dixon and Elizabeth Borth, now Mrs. Geo. Stern, also served for a long period of time.

- Church History Source: *Gackle, ND - Dedication of Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ALC), 1961*. Since 1939 the American Lutheran Parish of Gackle, N. Dak. included Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Gackle, Neudorf Lutheran Church, six miles southwest of Gackle, and St. James Lutheran Church, twelve miles south of Gackle. Before that time Neudorf Lutheran Church had been a part of the Streeter Lutheran Parish, and dating back to the time of 1915, Emmanuel Lutheran and St. James Lutheran had been a part of the Jud, N.D. Parish, the Pastor living in Jud. The beginnings of Emmanuel Lutheran Church go back to the year 1915 when Pastor F.W. Mueller, who lived in Jud, came to minister to a few Lutheran families living in and about Gackle. The first services were conducted in private homes and then in the Gackle Public School. No records of the organization meeting are available, however, it is certain that the congregation was organized in 1915, but the date has not been preserved. One report states that seven families made up the original membership. Another early report dating back to 1916 shows the following signatures to a constitution which was adopted: John Borth, Fred Weisfenning, Salomon Mueller, George Geigle Jr., Gust. Ammon, John Speidel, George Hummel, Henry Jenner, Edward Nathan, J.M. Hummel, Jacob Pleinis, Earnest R. Meisenhoelder, John Thum, Johann H. Geigle, Johann G. Geigle, Christoph Stickel and Fred Borth. In the year 1920 Pastor F.J. Doyen became the Pastor of the Jud Lutheran Parish. The first church of the Emmanuel Congregation was built under his leadership. Pledges in the amount of \$760.00 was secured. Four lots were donated by Mr. Geo. Elhard, who also donated building sites to other local churches. These lots were located where the present Emanuel Remboldt home is located. However some of the members did not approve of this location. So the church was built on some lots offered the congregation by Mr. A.F. Lehr, near the present city park, where the present Gackle Cleaners are located. All of the members as well as the Pastor donated their labor so that the project might be completed. The new church was dedicated on the last Sunday of November in 1920. With the passing of the years the congregation grew, and so in 1935 the old Baptist Church was purchased and served as a larger place of worship until July 30, 1961, on which date the last service was conducted there with an attendance of 178, which strained the seating capacity to the limit. The next Sunday, August 6, we conducted our first church services in the new church, the schedule was as follows: German Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., English Service 11:00 a.m. The German service was attended by 84, the English Service by 240. The very first church officers of Emmanuel Lutheran included: Fred Weisfenning, Edward Nathan, Henry Jenner, Salomon Mueller and John Borth. Since its beginning in 1915 the following Pastors have served Emmanuel Congregation: Rev. F.W. Mueller, Rev. F.J. Doyen, Rev. Walter A. Hummel and Rev. Marcus Baudler, all residing in Jud, and also serving St. James Congregation. Rev. G.A. Schmitt served as interim pastor. The first resident Pastor in Gackle was Rev. Henry Meske, who came in 1939. At this time the Parish also purchased a parsonage in Gackle. Pastor Meske was followed by Rev. John Hoyer, Rev. Arthur Dumins, Rev. Fred Heuple, Rev. Otto W. Schmitt and Rev. J.F. Mertz, who came in 1958. Two student pastors served for short terms during vacancies, namely Martin Obst and Arthur Schmitt. Emmanuel Lutheran has one son in the ministry of The American Lutheran Church, Pastor Alton Zenker, presently serving at Flasher, N. Dak. In August of 1939 the Neudorf Lutheran Church was added to the Gackle, N.D. Lutheran Parish. Before that time this congregation was a part of the Streeter Lutheran Parish. The earliest beginnings of this congregation go back to the year 1900 when Pastor Henry Nagel extended his missionary activities from Kulm northwest into this area. The first services were held in private homes. In a meeting held on May 5, 1903 the members decided to build a church. The lumber was hauled from Kulm, N. Dak. The carpenter Christian Retell was also from Kulm. The building committee consisted of Christian Ackermann, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. A happy and thankful congregation assembled with their Pastor on Sunday September 20, 1903 to dedicate the new church. The membership at this time consisted of the following: Christian Ackermann, Jacob Adam, George Bentz, Fred Borth, Christian Deg, John Deg, Gottlieb Gienger, Adam Kuebler, John Mayer, Frederick Miller, Jacob Muller, John Muller Sr., Ludwig Muller, Carl Morlock, Christian Retell, Johannes Rath, John Schlenker, Jacob Schlittenhard, Conrad Schmidt, John Steiger, Valentin Steiger, Dewald Veil Sr., Jacob Veil Sr., John Veil Sr., and William Zenker Sr. The first deacons were John Muller Sr., and Dewald Veil Sr. The first trustees were Christian Ackermann, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. Rev. Henry Nagel, who organized the congregation, served until June 1930. In appreciation of the faithful services rendered by Pastor and Mrs. Nagel the congregation observed the 25th ordination anniversary of Pastor Nagel in 1925. Rev. John Grill became the pastor of this congregation in August 1930 and served until September 1939. It was at this time

that Neudorf Lutheran Church became a part of the Gackle Lutheran Parish and was served by the same pastors serving Emmanuel Lutheran Church. St. James Lutheran Church, located about eleven miles south of Gackle was also organized by Rev. Henry Nagel in the year 1902 with the following charter members: Michael Gumke, Christian Gumke, John Gumke, John Schlecht Sr., Friederich Kleingaertner Sr., John Wacker, John Heck, Jacob Gutschmidt, Gottlieb Presler, Christoph Janke, Samuel Heller, Christian Geiszler, George Meyer and Christian Speidel. The church was built in 1902 and for some time this congregation also owned a parsonage located next to the church. On Sept. 28, 1952 the members of St. James observed the 50th anniversary with appropriate church services. However with the passing of the years farms increased in acreage and farm population decreased to such an extent that in September 1956 St. James Lutheran Church dissolved and most of the members transferred to Emmanuel Lutheran of Gackle. Prior to 1920 the following pastors served the members of St. James: Rev. Henry Nagel, Rev. G.F. Hanselmann, Rev. Kaatz and Rev. Stadler. Since 1920 the same Pastors who served Emmanuel Lutheran also served this congregation. In the year 1957 the first attempts were made at merging Neudorf Lutheran Church with Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The necessary resolutions were adopted. However due to the limited seating capacity of the town church separate church services were continued and all business was conducted separately. At this time a joint church building fund was started, and as the funds accumulated planning for the new church was begun. Building operations got under way in July 1960. Early in 1961 the merger resolutions of 1957 were strengthened by the adoption of legally drawn merger resolutions and thus the merger was completed. The name of the merger congregation is Emmanuel Lutheran Church and consists of the membership of the former Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the former Neudorf Lutheran Church. On Sunday July 30 the combined membership was permitted to worship together for the first time in the new church. It is interesting and profitable to study the past, but it is far more challenging to look into the future. The task our Lord has assigned to Emmanuel Lutheran Congregation of Gackle is not yet finished. Equipped with God's Word and the Sacraments, and a new and functional church, also endowed with a generous measure of God's Holy Spirit, we shall go onward and upward, unafraid and with determination, to ever greater accomplishments in the building of God's kingdom here on earth. Many more souls must be won for Christ. Many more sacrifices of time talent and treasure must be made. Many more difficulties will be encountered and must be overcome. Many more material improvements will have to be made. Though we will be perplexed at times, we shall not be afraid. In Christ's Name and in His strength we must and will move forward. Only in this way will the future history of Emmanuel Lutheran be written to the glory of God and the eternal welfare of many immortal souls.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.48-49. The Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Gackle, had its beginning in 1915 in an old school house building located in Gackle. From there it was moved to what is now the Gackle Cleaners. In 1935 the old Baptist Church was purchased and this was remodeled and was used until a new church structure was started in 1960 and was completed in 1961. The first church service was held in the new church on July 30, 1961. The dedication service was held October 8, 1961. Seven families made up the membership of Emmanuel Lutheran back in 1915 when the church was started and in later years with the merger of St. James Lutheran south of Gackle, and Neudorf Lutheran southwest of Gackle, the membership has grown to 385 baptized members as of January 1978. The members of Emmanuel Lutheran saw a need for a new parsonage to house the Pastor and his family and in 1970 this became a reality and a new parsonage was built on the property west of the church. In 1975 stained glass windows were installed in the nave of the church. The symbols of the Word, Peace, Creation, Trinity and Sacraments added much to the appearance of the church. The former Neudorf Lutheran Church sent one son into the ministry of the church. He is Pastor Edwin Schmidt, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt. Emmanuel Lutheran has sent one son into the ministry of the church. He is Pastor Alton Zenker, son of Christina Zenker and the late August Zenker. Since 1954 the following Pastors have served Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle. Rev. Fred Heupel (1953-1954); Rev. Otto Schmidt (1955-1958); Rev. John Mertz (1958-1969); Rev. Lloyd Miller (1969-1975); Rev. Milbert Kurtz (1975) and is presently serving Emmanuel Lutheran. The present officers of the church are as follows. President-Edwin Remmick; Secretary-Elmer Zenker; Treasurer-Quentin Mertz; Deacons-Adam Kaseman, Dean Entzminger, James Zenker; Trustees-Lenhardt Morlock, Marvin Miller, Paul Gienger; Financial Secretary-Milton Wentz; Sunday School Supt.-JoAnn Janke; Sunday School secretary-Dotty Dahl; ALCW President-Lu Remmick; Luther League President-Scott Remmich; Office Secretary-Marcene Veil; Organists-Bonnie Meyer, Jeannette Meyer; Choir Director-Henry Remboldt, Janet Kurtz; Custodian-Paul Meyer, Marie Miller. The Lord has done great things for us at Emmanuel Lutheran for which we are thankful and glad.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.57-58. The Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Gackle, had its beginning in 1915 in an old schoolhouse building located in Gackle, ND. From there it was moved to what is known as the Gackle Cleaners. In 1935 the old Baptist Church was purchased and this was remodeled and used until a new church structure was started in 1960 and completed in 1961. Seven families made up the membership of Emmanuel Lutheran back in 1915 when the church was started. In later years with the merger of St. James Lutheran south of Gackle, and Neudorf Lutheran southwest of Gackle, the membership was grown to 292 as of January 2003. The members of Emmanuel Lutheran saw a need for a new parsonage to house the Pastor and his family, and in 1970 this became a reality. A new parsonage was built on the property west of the church. In 1975 stained glass windows were installed in the Nave of the church. The symbol of the Word, Peace, Creation, Trinity and Sacraments added much to the appearance of the church. The new Lutheran Book of Worship was dedicated in 1979. Emmanuel celebrated this fact in the form of special music and concerts. In addition to the new church books, thirteen banners, two albs, communion linens, flower vases and stands, a candle lighter, and crimsons were dedicated. The new books were used for the first time at regular service on December 10, 1979. During 1980 a new organ was purchased for the church. It has been a welcome addition to our church. In 1981, we were able to have choir loft doors installed. In 1983 the ELCW at Emmanuel Lutheran had a goal to encourage each woman's fulfillment in Christ, expanding our ministry of caring, and care for our earth and it's people. Gifts were created, clothes collected, the ALCW Convention was hosted, and many hours of congregational service were provided by the ELCW. There was a sense of strength as a congregation. One might say, "Life is not fair, but God is good" to summarize the attitude of our fellowship in 1983. An issue that developed in 1986 was the possible uniting of the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Differences between the churches were primarily minor regarding church government. (In 1988 the Churches united as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). Year by year Emmanuel works on adding modest but very necessary elements to the church. In 1986 the Church Council decided there would be no summer Sunday School. The council approved the purchase of pew cushions, and three hearing units were purchased for the hearing impaired. In 1987 a light was installed in the parking lot, and a ceiling fan was installed in the choir loft. A soloist microphone was also ordered. There was a certain energy flowing in 1988. Members of the congregation, young and old, were working to sustain our immediate fellowship. Support was shown through donations of time and effort. The church served many people beyond its immediate congregation. Nursing home residents and local shut-ins were remembered. In 1989 the bookmarks for the hymnals were placed and dedicated. And after sixty years of service, Gust Muller resigned from the cemetery board. The year of 1990 included new lighting and paint for some of the Sunday School classrooms. And a new sidewalk at the rear of the church was installed. 1991 brought the thirtieth anniversary celebration for Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The ELCW prepared a cookbook and the church pictorial book was created. Many celebrations were enjoyed. A new piano was dedicated in 1992 and a new roof was installed on the Narthex. Changes were occurring each year. In 1996 a Community Bible School was formed for all the children (and grandchildren). In 1997 Emmanuel Lutheran Church participated in the Community All-Churches Picture Directory. This was a wonderful blending of all community churches. Emmanuel Lutheran Church purchased and incorporated new songbooks in 2000 entitled "With One Voice". These are used as an additional volume of resources for Lutherans at worship. It supplements the contents of the Lutheran Book of Worship. In 2001 new carpet was installed in the narthex, hallway, Pastor's office, and in the sanctuary. 2002 brought a request by the Centennial Committee to use Emmanuel Lutheran as the site of a German Supper and a turkey supper as fund-raisers. The request was granted and the first supper's results were delicious, as well as profitable for the Centennial Committee. The church bell was repaired and is in working order. A ballot was used to determine the relocation of the bell, and it was decided to install the bell on a tall and stately column in front of the church building. The year 2003 brought several Pastors to Emmanuel to interview with the Call Committee. Thank you to those who have served us previously: (1915-1920) Rev. F.W. Mueller; (1920-1929) Rev. F.J. Doyen; (1929-1932) Rev. Walter A. Hummel; (1933-1936) Rev. Marcus Baudler; (1927-1938) Rev. G.A. Schmidt (interim); (1939-1941) Rev. Henry Meska; (1941-1949) Rev. John E. Hoyer; (1950) Martin Ost (student); (1950-1952) Rev. Arthur Dumins; (1953 Jan-May) Rev. Lawrence Sailer; (1953 summer) Arthur Schmitt (student); (1953-1954) Rev. Fred Heupel; (1955-1958) Rev. Otto Schmidt; (1958-1969) Rev. John Mertz; (1969-1975) Rev. Lloyd Miller; (1975-1979) Rev. Milbert Kurtz; (1980-1989) Rev. Arthur Meether; (1989-1991) Rev. Paul Gammelmin; (1991-1992) Rev. Ray Heidtke (interim); (1992-2002) Rev.

David Winterfeldt; (2002-2003) Rev. Ray Heidtke (interim); (2003-present) Rev. Russell Pollock. As we near the 2004 Gackle Centennial, let it be said that Emmanuel Lutheran has remained focused on our Lord Jesus Christ. May we all remind ourselves that God will have the last word, and it will be wonderful!

17. Gackle – First Congregational United Church of Christ

- See Gackle – First United Church of Christ

18. Gackle – First German Congregational Church

- Location: Town of Gackle
- See Gackle – First Congregational United Church of Christ
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle First Congregational Church \[3868\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.34-35. On December 2, 1906, a small group of devout and faithful Christian people met in a church council to organize the First German Congregational Church of Gackle. The council consisted of Reverend A.J. Vogel, George Gackle, and Andrew Elhardt. A small building was erected in the southwestern part of town and dedicated. Reverend Vogel gave the dedicatory address. The first officers of the church were: Joseph Flaig, and Johann Brosz, deacons; Jacob Knopp, Michael Moos and John Hasz, trustees, and John Elhard, secretary. During the years following its origin, this little church was destined to grow into the largest church in the Gackle community. As in every growing church many problems arose and had to be met with staunch and enduring faith by the leaders and members of the church who sought to know God's ways in building His Kingdom for time and eternity. The following pastors have served in the Gackle church: E.J. Eckhardt, from (1906-1907); F.J. Wackner (1907-1910); Theo. Pfenning (1910-1914); H.M. Baumann (1914-1919); E. Schroeder (1920-1923); H. Dietrich (1923-1927); K.K. Meier (1927-1934); R. Kirschenmann (1935-1941); Walter Kranzler (1942-1946); Elmer Bettenhausen (1947-1952); and M.H. Grosz since 1953. In the year 1945 the need for a larger church building was felt more and more to accommodate the increasing number of people choosing the Gackle Congregational Fellowship as their Church Home. At a special business meeting, held on the eighth day of June 1945, the congregation voted to build a new church. This a momentous decision and required the united faith and prayers of all the members. Only those who have undertaken a similar task can understand the patience and endurance as well as tremendous sacrifice necessary to succeed in building a new church at a time when prices were at the peak and building material nearly impossible to be had. The building committee consisted of Reverend Walter Kranzler; Peter Ochsner; Rheinhold Ruff; Balzer Kleingartner; Fred Kirschenmann and Emanuel Kleingartner. These men drew up many plans before the final blueprints were accepted and work began. After two years of relentless effort, the patience of the congregation began to bear fruit. Their church was completed and they were proud of the new edifice, measuring eighty-eight feet in length and forty-four feet in its entire width with a full basement. The floor is on an inclined plan and has a seating capacity of four hundred people. As a result of the willingness on the part of members who did most of the work they have a completed church with no indebtedness, valued at \$68,000. The present officers of the church, which is now at a new location, two blocks north of the old place, are trustees: Christian Brosz, Herbert Kinzler, and Philip Meyer. Board of deacons: David Sommerfeld and Balzer Kleingartner; Secretary: Fred Brosz; Treasurer: Emil Schaffer; Sunday School Superintendent: Jacob Schaffer; Assistant superintendent: Christian Jerke. Sunday school pianist is Ruth Batsch; pianist for the services is Mrs. David Schlittenhard. Ushers: Alfred Rankinen, Christian Brosz, Herbert Kinzler, and John Klundt.

19. Gackle – First German Congregational Church United Church of Christ

- Location: Town of Gackle
- See First German Congregational Church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle First Congregational Church \[3868\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.57. The church was organized in 1906. Pastors who have served the church since 1954 are: M.H. Grosz (1953-57); David B. McCurdy (1973-76); and George O. Butz (since 1977). In the year 1958 a new parsonage was built and dedicated. Then in 1978 steel siding was put on the church building. The following organizations of the church are: The Church Board, Christian Endeavor, Guiding Light, Ladies Aid and the Choir.

20. Gackle – First Presbyterian Church

- Location: Town of Gackle
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.40-41. About 1904 or 1905 Rev. S.P. Doty, of Oakes, a Sunday School missionary, came into this section of the state and began work among the settlers. After several trips here he was successful in arousing enough interest in Gackle to organize an English Sunday School in the spring of 1906, with George Griffin as superintendent. Sunday School met in the school house pool hall, harness shop or depot as the room was available. It thrived with more or less success under a number of superintendents with Rev. Doty coming back to encourage and assist them. In 1922, Rev. Doty again reorganized the Sunday School as the need for an English speaking Sunday School increased. Mrs. George Elhard was elected superintendent at this time. Classes met in the German Congregational Church later moving to the school house in the southwest part of the village. It was at this time that a ladies aid was organized which was a great financial help. During the early winter of 1926, Rev. Doty and Rev. Cory of Edgeley conducted a series of meetings after which an application was made to the Oakes Presbytery for the privilege of organizing a church unit. In April 1926 these ministers came and completed the organization of the First Presbyterian Church with the following officers: H.H. France elected and ordained as Elder; E.E. Heffelfinger, treasurer; J.M. Hummel and E.A. Teigen as trustees; and Mrs. J.M. Hummel as Sunday School superintendent. On June 16th, Roy Smith, a student minister and Rev. Cory directed the laying of the corner stone of the new church. It was finished and dedicated on Nov. 14, with Rev. and Mrs. Doty, who had been such faithful workers, assisted by Rev. E.J. Meyer, resident pastor; Rev. Boyd of Jamestown and Rev. Snider, executive secretary of Fargo. The church and Sunday school functioned for 20 years, but as the time passed, the other churches started English in their Sunday schools and many of the members moved to other places, so the few remaining members found it impossible to maintain the church properly. It was discontinued in 1952 with church memberships being transferred to Jamestown and the building sold to the Church of God. The trustees at the time of closing were: G.E. Sommerfeld, Mrs. M.W. Miracle and Mrs. William Naatus. The Sunday School was an effective agency in the spiritual instruction of many children and adults through all the years.

21. Gackle – First United Church of Christ

- Location: 130 Elm St W
- See Gackle – German Congregational Church
- Church Records (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage & Death 1906-2007), as of July 2007, are kept at Church office. [Information provided by Karen Kleingartner (701) 485-3565 & Brenda Krause (701) 485-3465
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle First United Church of Christ \[3876\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.55-56. A brief history of First UCC Church dates back to 1904, when a group of faithful Christians attended the Dreienigkeit parish of Kulm, ND, which was located in the country south of Gackle, ND. On August 10, 1906 this same group met and decided to build their own church. A contract with Gottlieb Elhard was made for a church for \$2,200 and a parsonage for \$2,300. On Sunday December 2, 1906 the dedication services were held, with Pastor A.J. Vogal officiating. On the same evening a meeting was held to organize the German Congregational Church of Gackle. The following people were charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Flaig, Mr. and Mrs. John Brosz, Mr. and Mrs. Johann Elhard, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Knopp, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Meier, Mr. and Mrs. John Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Elhard, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Moos. In 1947 the present church building was built and in 1958 the present parsonage was built. The church continued to grow, and was also enriched by the members of two churches which eventually joined with the congregation: Emmanuel Church, which was twelve miles south of Gackle, and the First Congregational Church of Alfred, ND. For many years Gackle First UCC and Jud Trinity UCC were a two-point parish, sharing a Pastor. In 1987, Streeter joined the two churches and The ladies [??] are now the Gackle-Jud-Streeter United Church of Christ Parish, sharing one Pastor. During the years following it's origin, with the faithful guidance of the former Pastors and the Christian fellowship of its members through their faith in God, continue to be a viable church in the community. In 1981 the Church celebrated 75 years of serving God in the Gackle community. Since 1979 the following Pastors have served this congregation: (1977-1979) George Butz; (1981-1987) Charles A. Kurtz; (June, 1987-August, 1987)

Tamera Toepke (interim); (1987-1999) (husband and wife) Scott Curfman; (1987-2000) Jane Millikan. In 2001 Pastor Gordon Moen served as an interim pastor and beginning Feb. 1, 2002, He became our full time Pastor until August of 2003. Pastor R.J. Stohler is currently serving as interim pastor. The following organization of the church are: The Church Board, The Guiding Light Society (ladies), The Christian Endeavor (youth group), a church choir and three women's serving groups.

22. Gackle – German Congregational Church

- Location: Town of Gackle
- See Gackle – First United Church of Christ

23. Gackle – Grace Baptist Church

- Location: 204 Spruce St W
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Grace Baptist Church \[3913\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.35-36. The present Grace Baptist Church had its beginning August 8th in the summer of 1897 under the guidance of Rev. Johann Reichert and on September 12th they were recognized as the Blumenfeld Congregation. Among the many German immigrants from South Russia were devout Christians who felt the need of a place of worship. They met at each other's homes and a country school house until the year 1899 when a church was erected in this vicinity and this now became their house of worship eight miles northeast of Gackle. Fifteen members comprised this group with Rev. Johann Reichert as pastor. Mr. Ernest Remboldt as deacon, and Mr. Peter Seidel as secretary and treasurer. There is one charter member, Mrs. Jacob Remboldt, Sr., still active in the Baptist Church of Gackle. Gradually the group increased and when Gackle was founded a new church was built here, in 1906; which was the church home until 1930. The membership increased and a new church was erected across the street. The former building was sold to the Lutheran congregation. The present building was built in 1930 and dedicated in 1931 as The Grace Baptist Church with Rev. B.W. Krentz as pastor. The new church is a very beautiful building, the main auditorium seats over three hundred people has seven class rooms, a choir loft and Baptistry. Full basement, housing the kitchen, furnace room, dining room, and rest room. The church was newly decorated in 1953 and a beautiful picture of "Jesus in Meditation" was added. A parsonage was purchased in Gackle, was sold in 1948 and a beautiful new parsonage was built on the church property. For many years Blumenfeld, Gackle, Streeter, Medina, and Alfred were united and the minister traveled between the five towns until 1930 when Gackle and Alfred formed a unity and still are served by the same pastor. The organizations working with the church are the Ladies Aid, Baptist Gleaners, King's Daughters and the Mixed choir. The following ministers have served during the years 1897 to 1953: Rev. Johann Reichert (1897-1900); Brother J. Rott (1900-1901); Rev. George Bonnschleger (1903-1907); Rev. H. Klempel (1911-1912); Rev. Heinrich Schmit (1913-1915); Rev. A. Auch (1917-1920); Rev. E. Wolf (1921-1922); Rev. Leo. Gassner (1923-1928); Rev. B.W. Krentz (1929-1922); Rev. H.G. Braun (1934-1936); Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1937-1943); Rev. J.J. Abel (1943-1945); Rev. R.A. Klein (1946-1948); Rev. John Reimer (1948-1950); and Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1951-1953). The present pastor is Rev. Manuel Wolff. Present church officers are: Harry DeWitt, deacon-at-large; R.R. Remboldt, church clerk; J. Anderson, and R.R. Remboldt, trustees; Conrad Rivinius, church treasurer; Conrad Rivinius, Sunday School superintendent; Mrs. E.J. Remboldt, Sunday school secretary and treasurer.
- Church History Source: *Gackle, ND – 30th Anniversary – Grace Baptist Church, 1961*. Early beginnings of Baptist work in the Gackle & Alfred area date back to 1897 when Rev. John Reichert organized the Blumenfeld Baptist Church northwest of Gackle. The first Baptist church in Gackle was dedicated in October, 1905, and still stands across the street from the present Baptist church. Until 1931, Gackle and Alfred were a part of a five-church circuit which included Streeter, Flat, Blumenfeld, Alfred and Gackle. One pastor served all five churches. Names of early pastors include Rev. Leo Gassner, Rev. John Schmidt, Rev. August Auch, Rev. J. Rott, Rev. George Borschleger and others. On December 2, 1931, the Grace Baptist Church of Gackle and Alfred was born. Their first pastor was Rev. B.W. Krentz who had come to the circuit in 1929. During his time, the present buildings were constructed – Alfred in 1929 and Gackle in 1930. Alfred charter members numbered nearly 30, while Gackle had nearly 50 on its roll. About 89 members were added in the circuit during Rev. Krentz's ministry from 1929 to 1933. In 1927 the Ladies

Aid of Gackle was organized and in 1930, the Alfred Women's Society was established. The Gackle group, largely German, completed its work in 1959, and the Alfred group disbanded in 1960. Rev. H.G. Braun served the congregations for a period of about two years as the church continued to grow and develop. In October 1937, the G.W. Rutsch family came to serve the churches. The first Youth organization was organized, in the Gackle and Alfred churches. Today there are two groups, Junior and Senior, in Gackle. Early in 1937, the S.S. class taught by Sam Ruff was organized into the Gleaners Society. Among the 19 members were Clara Ruff (now Grenz), and Lillian Remboldt (now Mueller). The Gleaners will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary in January. Rev. Rudolph Klein followed the six-year ministry of Rev. G.W. Rutsch. He was with the church for almost two years when he took a position with the Baptist Home for the Aged of Bismarck. International relations were involved in 1948 [50 written in] as the churches negotiated to secure the passage of Rev. John Reimer from Canada. During his two year ministry, the new modern parsonage was built. Returning to serve a second time in 1950, Rev. G.W. Rutsch ministered until 1953 when ill health necessitated his resignation and retirement. During this period, the King's Daughters were organized by Mrs. Rutsch and Mrs. E.J. Remboldt, in November of 1951. This group is still active today. Rev. Manuel Wolff, newly graduated from Seminary, followed Rev. Rutsch. The Men's Fellowship was organized in 1957, which has proved to be a strong arm of the church. Rev. Wolff maintained a well-organized and progressive ministry. The Rev. Bernard Edinger family came to serve at Gackle and Alfred in July, 1958. With further emphasis on the importance of the Sunday School, rooms have been added to accommodate the growing school. The Family Bible Hour, held Thursday evening, has proven to be a time of inspiration as whole families attend and study the Word of God together. About one year ago, after a financial struggle resulting from a number of families having moved away from the area, the Alfred Congregation voted to discontinue services. Numerous factors contributed to bring this about. Though a number had joined other Baptist churches in Jamestown and elsewhere, there was still a good number who were welcomed into the Gackle congregation at a special recognition service. The present membership, after the adjustments have been made, stands at 115. It represents healthy condition, in that our attendance is larger than the membership by quite a margin, since our average attendance for worship service is 125 to 140. No doubt, this church has suffered no more – and possibly no less – than most churches. Depression and prosperity have come and gone, but the church goes on. Pastors – and people – have come and gone, but the church goes on. Times of great trial, and times of great blessing have come and gone, but the church goes on. We have our disgruntled members, & we have our faithful ones. The church goes on because God is working. The Gospel of Calvary is preached at every service and every service is a blessing. We look forward to many years "Laboring Together" for God!

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.61. Grace Baptist Church had its beginning August 8, 1897 under the guidance of Rev. Johann Reichert and on September 12 they were recognized as the Blumenfeld Congregation. When the city of Gackle was founded a church was built in 1906 (presently the Catholic Church). In 1930 a new church building was erected across the street and the old building sold to the Lutheran congregation. This building was dedicated in 1931 with Rev. B.W. Krentz as pastor. A parsonage was purchased in Gackle, was sold in 1948 and a beautiful new parsonage was built on the church property. For many years Blumenfeld, Gackle, Streeter, Medina and Alfred were united and the minister traveled between the five towns until 1930 when Gackle and Alfred formed a unity. Later the Alfred Church was sold and the members of Alfred attended services in the Gackle building. The organizations working within the church are the Gleaners, Mixed Choir, Sunday School, the BYF, and the Scripture Memorizers. In 1976 and 1977 a new building was built under the leadership of Rev. E.R. Oster. The Solinger Lumber Co. of Nortonville was the contractor with Bob Steel as head carpenter. The new church is located on Spruce Street, three blocks south of the old site. The dedication of the new building was held July 10, 1977. The following ministers have served during the years: Rev. Johann Reichert (1897-1900), Rev. J. Rott (1900-1901), Rev. George Bonnschleger (1903-1907), Rev. J. Klempel (1911-1912), Rev. Heinrich Schmit (1913-1915), Rev. A. Auch (1917-1920), Rev. E. Wolf (1921-1922), Rev. Leo Gassner (1923-1928), Rev. B.W. Krentz (1929-1933), Rev. H.G. Braun (1934-1936), Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1937-1943), Rev. J.J. Abel (1943-1945), Rev. R.A. Klein (1946-1948), Rev. John Reimer (1948-1950), Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1951-1953), Rev. M. Wolff (1953-1958), Rev. Bernard Edinger (1958-1965), Rev. R.C. Stading (1966-1973), Rev. E.R. Oster (1973-1977), Rev. M. Falkenberg (1977-). The present church officers are: Deacons-Ervin Wolff, Dennis Docktor, Jalmer Anderson; Trustees-Alvin Hummel, Harold Zimmerman, Ervin Becker; Church Clerk-Mrs. R.L. Metz; Church Treasurer-Emil Zimmerman;

Sunday School Supt.-Dennis Docktor. We pledge ourselves anew to continue to be faithful to the task that God has given us to do and to carry on where others have done so well.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.55. Grace Baptist Church had its beginning on August 8, 1897 under the guidance of rev. Johann Reichert and on September 12 was recognized as the Blumenfeld Congregation. When the city of Gackle was founded, a church was built in 1906 (presently the Catholic Church). In 1930 a new church building was erected across the street and the old building sold to the Lutheran congregation. The new church building was dedicated in 1931 with Rev. B.W. Krentz as pastor. A parsonage was purchased in Gackle at this time and sold in 1948 when a new parsonage was built on church property. In 1984 this parsonage was sold and the present parsonage was purchased from the Ted Wegner family. For many years, Blumenfeld, Gackle, Streeter, Medina and Alfred were united and the minister traveled between the five churches until 1930 when Gackle and Alfred formed a unity. Later the Alfred church was sold and the members of the Alfred attended services in Gackle. In 1976 and 1977 a new building was built under the leadership of Rev. E.R. Oster. The new church is located on West Spruce Street, three blocks south of the old site. The dedication of the present day Grace Baptist Church was held on July 10, 1977. The organizations working within the congregation are the Gleaners and Sunday School. The Gleaners meet on the second Monday of the month and Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10:00 am followed by worship service at 11:00 am. The following ministers have served during the years: Rev. Johann Reichert (1897-1900), Rev. J. Rott (1900-1901), Rev. George Bonnschleger (1903-1907), Rev. J. Klempel (1911-1912), Rev. Heinrich Schmit (1913-1915), Rev. A. Auch (1917-1920), Rev. E. Wolf (1921-1922), Rev. Leo Gassner (1923-1928), Rev. B.W. Krentz (1929-1933), Rev. H.G. Braun (1934-1936), Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1937-1943), Rev. J.J. Abel (1943-1945), Rev. R.A. Klein (1946-1948), Rev. John Reimer (1948-1950), Rev. G.W. Rutsch (1951-1953), Rev. M. Wolff (1953-1958), Rev. Bernard Edinger (1958-1965), Rev. R.C. Stading (1966-1973), Rev. E.R. Oster (1973-1977), Rev. M. Falkenberg (1977-1987), Rev. Clem Auch (1988), Rev. Roger Monson (1988-1994), Rev. Jim Dick (1994-1995), Rev. Harvey Motis (1995-2001), Rev. Jim Dick (interim) (2001-2003), Rev. Graham Kern (interim) (2003-2004), Rev. Timothy Blackman (2004-present). We pledge ourselves anew to be faithful to the task that God has given us to do and to carry on where others have done so well.

24. Gackle – Immanuel Lutheran Church

- See Gackle – Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA)

25. Gackle – Saint Ann's Catholic Church

- Location: Town of Gackle
- See Jud – Saint Cajetan's Catholic Church (LaMoure County, ND)
- Closed in 1934 – Source: *Marion, ND – Centennial 1900-2000 – A Legacy Remembered*, p.56
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Saint Anne's Catholic Church \[3914\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.36-37. The first services of which we have any recollection was held in 1906, when Rev. John Duffy came by train to say Mass for the three families that congregated in the furniture display room of Haut and Marckel's store. Gackle was one of many widely scattered missions, served by Rev. Duffy of Ellendale. There was no regular schedule due to poor traveling facilities and unpredictable weather. Whenever he came we were grateful and hastened to notify families or persons we knew who were of our faith. Services were rotated among the homes of the parishioners and when this proved difficult for some, we finally secured a room in the school house. Later the furniture room of Haut & Marckel's again then the home of A.H. Haut. About 1914 or 1915 due to ill health, Father Duffy was relieved by several priests. In 1914, Rev. Victor Long became our regular pastor, who served the missions from Edgeley until his death in April 1950. As the years went by traveling was made more convenient by the use of cars, and we had Mass oftener and on Sundays and Holy Days. Because of the work connected with the care of vestments, procuring of seats etc. and the advancing age of Mr. and Mrs. Haut, Mass was held in the Thompson Yard office until a better place could be found. Thru the efforts of Father Joseph Hylden who became our pastor in July, 1950, after the death of Father Long, we obtained the church building used by Nortonville. Work was begun on excavating, a basement on lots 17 and 18 Block eight of Zellmers addition. This is the former site of the John Fode residence, one of the pioneers of Gackle. The building from Nortonville was moved in on the new foundation and work began

on it. This entailed complete interior renovation, with replacing of new windows, a small new addition for vestibule, complete re-shingling and painting. Father Hylden and assistant, Father Victor Schill worked along with the others. To Father Schill we owe the building of the sacristy, confessional, pulpit and pedestal for a statue. The altar and pews came with the building. Our church was named St. Anne's at the request of Anora Agatha Maul of Philadelphia, Pa. who kindly donated \$1500 for the financing of the church. Help was received from the Bishop's Fund and many of our friends and neighbors, who willingly gave cash donations and of their time and labor. A lovely statue of St. Anne and child Mary was given by Norbert Haut in memory of his wife, Maleta. He also gave an organ. Thru the kindness and efforts of Father Hylden we have also received gifts of vestments, altar linens, and various vessels and six candle holders made by himself while attending the seminary. Though not entirely finished, St. Anne's was blessed and dedicated the 12th of October 1952 by the Most Rev. Leo F. Dworschak, Auxiliary Bishop of Fargo. With grateful heart we thank and pray for God's blessings on all who have truly shown themselves good neighbors by in any way making St. Anne's Church a reality.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.67. St. Anne's Catholic Church is located at the corner of West Cedar and Second Ave. West in Gackle and serves the Gackle and Streeter area. The pastor is Rev. Andrew Roehrich from Windsor and the Bishop is Bishop Justin A. Driscoll, Diocese of Fargo. Mass is held on Sundays and Holy Days. Other services include Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Matrimony, Burial of the Dead, Catechism Instruction, and Bible Study Group. Trustees are Everett Brunner, Streeter, Treasurer; Dwight Wiest, Gackle, Secretary; President of the Church Council, Alcuin Scheet, Streeter. Former pastors were Father Francis Grow (1962-1963); Father John Kalenberg (1963-1970); Father Hilary Bitz (1970-1973). For more history of St. Anne's see Golden Jubilee section, Page 36.
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.59. The first services were held in 1906, when Father John Duffy came by train to say Mass for the three families that congregated in the furniture display room of Haut and Marckel's store. Gackle was one of many widely scattered missions. There was no regular schedule due to poor traveling, facilities, and unpredictable weather. Services were held in homes of the parishioners and several business places until 1950, when Father Joseph Hylden helped move the church building from Nortonville to Gackle. Saint Anne's was named at the request of Anora Agatha Maul who helped finance the church. In 1952, the church was blessed and dedicated Saint Anne's Catholic Church. Then in 1961, the congregation moved into the present church building located at the corner of West Cedar and 2nd Avenue West in Gackle. This building was originally the Grace Baptist Church, and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The church is served by a priest from Windsor, ND and the Diocese of Fargo. Mass is held on Sundays and Holy Days. Other services include Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Matrimony, Burial of the Dead and Catechism Instruction. Former priests were Father John Duffy, Victor Long, Joseph Hylden, Francis Grow, John Kalenberg, Hilary Bitz, Andrew Roehrich, Antholy Stammitti, and Joseph Okogba.

26. Gackle – Seventh-Day Adventist Church

- Location: Town of Gackle
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Seventh-Day Adventist Church-1 \[3866\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Gackle Seventh-Day Adventist Church-2 \[3907\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.33. The first meeting of the Seventh Day Advent faith were held in 1908, under the leadership of John Seible, who also was the first pastor of the church. In 1909 the church was organized with 18 members. John Seible was the pastor. Carl Heinrich Sr. was the church elder and Valentine Lang the deacon. In the spring of 1910 a new church building was erected six miles northeast of Gackle, and dedicated in June 1910. The dedication address was given by Pastor John Seible. For 36 years after its origin the church grew and prospered until it was necessary to have a larger church building. In the year of 1944 a new church was built in the city of Gackle and on May 27, 1945 the present Seventh Day Adventist Church was dedicated. The present membership is 51. The following pastors have served in the Gackle Seventh Day Adventist Church: J.J. Reiswig, F.F. Schwindt, D. Kurtz, A.A. Dirksen, G. Geade, G.A. Theiss, J. Brown, D.W. Osgood, A. Kuchne, A.A. Bouer, I.A. Anunsen, L.H. Netteburg and Bruer. The present church pastor and officers are Pastor M.C.

Torkelson; Jake Schmerier, church elder; Roudolph and Emil Remboldt, board of deacons; Mrs. Fred Schmerier and Mrs. Carl Hehn, deaconesses. Mrs. Fred F. Lang, church clerk; Art Heinrich, treasurer; G.E. Beglau, missionary leader; Lloyd Hass, Sabbath school superintendent; Mrs. Jake Schmerier, young people's missionary volunteer leader; Mrs. Marvin Lang, Sabbath school pianist and Mrs. Ezra Hehn, pianist for church services. The Gackle Seventh Day Adventist congregation has sent four sons into the ministry of this faith. They are Ben and Sam Reille, Oscar Heinrich and Rueben C. Remboldt.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.47. The Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized in 1909. For early history see page 33 in Golden Jubilee section. On April 16, 1966 the members decided to build an addition to the church. Elder Howe was pastor at the time. After Elder Kanna came he drew up the blueprints and the addition was built accordingly with the members helping. Elder Kanna was the carpenter and decorator. He painted the beautiful picture in the church. The dedication was held May 12-13-14, 1967. Pastors Oscar Heinrich, Ervin Remboldt, Elder Harvey, Elder Traut, Elder Heisman, Elder Geinger and Elder Sam Riele were present for the dedication. Pastors Oscar Heinrich, Ervin Remboldt, Emanuel Heinrich and Rueben Remboldt are sons of the local congregation. Present Pastor is R.R. Patzer, Elder is Art Remboldt, Deacon, Jacob Schmierer, Deaconess, Rose Schrenk, Church Clerk, Mrs. Jacob Schmierer, Treasurer, Mrs. Ezra Hehn, Lay Activity Leader, Emil Remboldt, Lay Activity Secretary, Hulda Schmierer, S.S. Supt., Ezra Hehn, S.S. Secretary, Mrs. Art Remboldt, Dorcas Leader, Mrs. Emil Remboldt, Religious Liberty Leader, Oscar Remboldt, Pianist, Mrs. Ezra Hehn, Pauline Beglau and Mrs. Art Heinrich. Pastors serving the Gackle church since 1954 have been Elder Cash, Elder Soper, Elder James, Elder Howe, Elder Kanna, Elder David James, Pastor Orvie Bell, Elder Bob Depuy, Elder R.R. Patzer.

27. George Baptist Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

28. German Baptist (Flat) Church

- Location: SE ¼ of SE ¼ **Sec 32**-T136-R70 (German Township)
- See Gackle – Grace Baptist Church

29. German Baptist (Lautt) Church

- Location: Logan County, Lautt Township, SE ¼ SE ¼ of **Sec 34**-T133-R68
- Discontinued 1934 – Source: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004*, p.46

30. Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: NW of Lehr
- See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church (McIntosh County, ND)
- A merger of Emmanuel & Ebenezer Evangelical Churches

31. Jehovah Lutheran Church

- Location: Logan County, Hollandsworth Township, SW ¼ of SW ¼ **Sec 03**-T134-R70
- See Wishek – Saint Luke Lutheran Church (McIntosh County, ND)

32. Johannesthal Reformed Church

- Location: 6 miles NW of Wishek in Logan County, Johannesdale Township
- See Salem Reformed Church (McIntosh County, ND); Wishek – United Church of Christ (McIntosh County, ND)

33. King Lutheran Church

- Location: Logan County, Hillsburg Township, SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 13**-T134-R69
- See Lehr – Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS) (McIntosh County, ND)

- [Photo Available: Lo-King Lutheran Church \[3719\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.28. In 1957 King congregation voted to join with Grace thus making it easier for the pastor who had to serve three congregations. The King Church had celebrated its 49th year as a separate church when it voted to merge with Grace.
- Church History: *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church—King, Hillsburg Township, Logan County, ND Church Records – Chronik*, p.235-236. The old church record book states that the congregation was chartered Sept. 5, 1909, but pastor W. Schmook who was pastor of the Kulm church at the time. Tcongregation was associated (*sic*) with the Lutheran (*sic*) Church Iowa-Synod, but asked for a release and the same was granted by the Iowa Synod. The newly organized congregation named itself (The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation in the King Settlement, Logan Co. N. Dak). Their first pastor to serve them in word and sacrament was Pastor W. Schmook. Their first elders were John Essig and Phillip P. Mueller, the later also serve as secretary. July 10, 1910 the newly build church was dedicated in the name of the Lord. Both Pastors E. E. Schwecke and W. Schmok preached at the deciation service. Prior to the new church building services were held at the homes of the members. After Pastor W. Schmook accepted a call to California, the King congregation was united with the Napoleon Congregation as a parish. The following Pastors serve this parish. J.E.A. Mueller, M.W. Riedel, A. Horn, and W. Zemke. After pastor W. Zemke moved to Minnesota in the summer of 1928, the King Congregation was out of need (Through the Missions Commission of the North Dakota District) united with the Kulm congregation as a parish, and has since been served by the undersigned. In the year 1930 the King congregation became a member of the Evangelical Luthern Missouri Synod who had since their organizing given them support. Their first delegate to the synod was Daniel Rath. Through the 25 years (1909-1934) there were 89 children baptised, 64 were confirmed, 10 couples were married, 475 persons received holy communion, and according to the death register there were 11 Christian burials. The present officers of the congregation are as follows: Elders, John Essig, Daniel Rath, and Fred Roesler. Treasurer, Walter Essig, chairman and secretary, Pastor H. vonGemmingen. Sunday school teachers Arnold Gutschmidt and Gust. Feichtner. Sunday school teachers chairman Wm. Feichtner Jr. Sept. 23, 1934 the King Congregation celebrated their 25th jubilee. The undersigned preached the jubilee sermon. At present the church has 116 members, 73 communicant members and 22 voting members. May God protect and guide us and keep us steadfast in his word and sacrements (*sic*). Blessing to all. (signed): H. von Gemmingen, Pastor. Pastor H. Kuring was installed Apr. 23, 1944. There were a number of members missing at this meeting due to the disagreement, pertaining to the splitting of the parish. In 1946 the congregation lost a number of members by moving out of the community and some left to join the Grace Congregation in Lehr. This trend continued that by 1950 there were only 10 members left. (signed): H. Kuring, Pastor. Trinity Luthrn merged with Grace Lutheran of Lehr, N. Dak. On Apr. 7, 1957 at a special meeting. John Feichtner and Christ Dallmann refusing to go to Lehr. (signed): E. Pankow, Pastor.
- Church History Source: *Lehr, ND – History of Grace Lutheran Church, 1959*, p.5. King Trinity Lutheran Church was founded on the 5th of September in the year of 1909. Seventeen members made up this first group of members. Seventeen members made up this first group of members. They were: Phillip P. Mueller, Ferdinand Kurtz, John Essig, George Ziegenhagel, Nathaniel Koenig, Christian Mutschler, Fred Roesler, John Kanenwischer, John A. Koenig, Henry Nathan, George J. Essig, Karl Singer, Carl Ziffle, George Scharf, Fred Essig, J.P. Eichhorn and Gott. G. Sperling. The first pastor to serve was Rev. Schmoek. Elders of this first congregation of King were John Essig, Phillip P. Mueller and Ferdinand Kurtz was Sunday School teacher and treasurer. Trustees were Fred Mutschler and Fred Roesler. Eight pastors served this church. They were: Rev. Schmoek, Rev. Mueller, Rev. Reidel, Rev. Horn, Rev. Zemke, Rev. Von Gemmingen, Rev. Kuring and Rev. E. Pankow. For many years this congregation enjoyed a healthy growth and its members were many. However, since the group organized in 1909 a membership of older people seemed to dominate, with few children attending Sunday School. This led to a discontinuance of Sunday School and members began to move to new locations, others joined where their children could have Sunday School taught to them, so that by 1957 it was voted to merge with Grace in Lehr. Last officers to serve King Church when it merged with Grace Lutheran were: Gust Fiechtner, Emil Roesler and John Fiechtner as elders and Albert Roesler as secretary-treasurer. John Essig served his church as organist and teacher for many years.

34. Napoleon – Baptist Church

- Location: Town of Napoleon
- See Wishek – First Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Baptist Church-1 \[3717\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Baptist Church-2 \[3941\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.131
The Napoleon Baptist church was organized in 1919 as a station church of Wishek. This organization began with nine charter members, who met in one of the rooms of the high school building. Meetings were conducted in that place for two years. In the fall of 1921, the present church building was dedicated and services have been conducted here since. From 1919 to 1941, the Napoleon church was continually served by pastors of the Wishek Baptist church. Following pastors served in this united capacity: Rev. August Herringer, 1919-1928; Rev. C.P. Knapp, 1928-1934; Rev. B.W. Krentz, 1934-1938 and Rev. Albert Itterman, 1938-1941. In the spring of 1941, the Napoleon Baptist church organized into a separate church with 59 members. A parsonage was purchased and Rev. Edward Kary was called to become the first active pastor here. He served here from 1942-1945. Rev. Theodore Frey served the church from 1946-1952. The present pastor, Rev. Henry Lang, came here in August 1952. All services were conducted in the German language until Rev. Frey came, at which time some services were conducted in the English language. Since 1952, all services have been in the English language, with the exception of some occasions as need arises. The church has Sunday school, morning worship service and evening services every Sunday. Mid-week Bible study and prayer services are conducted every Wednesday evening. Other organizations of the church are: Young People's Society, Ladies Missionary Society and Men's Brotherhood.
- Church History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 50th Anniversary – Napoleon Baptist Church, 1969*. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" I Samuel 7:12 This is the theme which is being used, as we as a Baptist Church congregation assemble here today to commemorate fifty (50) years of love, understanding and labor in the vineyard of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In the year of 1919 and during the month of February, three people who knew and loved the Lord very deeply, decided to take some action and show each other what could be done. So they contacted Rev. August Herringer, who was the minister at the Wishek Baptist Church at that time. He came to Napoleon, and had one week of special revival meetings in the home of Jake Rott; living in the house which is now occupied by George Burgads. People came to hear, and were saved, because they had a longing for God's Word. Another week of meetings were held with Rev. Fuchs. In these two weeks seven souls accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour. They then began to hold services in the "Old School House" which was located where the present new elementary school now stands. These few people organized a Sunday School with Jacob Rott as their leader, teacher and deacon; everything in the German language. In June of 1919 a Baptismal service was held at Red Lake with Rev. Herringer, at which time, these people who followed the Lord in baptism organized a Baptist church and then became affiliated with the Wishek Baptist Church. These were Mr. Gottlieb Zimmerman, Mrs. Zimmerman (now Mrs. Schuh), Adam Gerber, Mrs. Adam Gerber, Jacob Rott, Mrs. Jacob Rott, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Lachenmeier, Mrs. Christina Schnaidt, Fred Pfeifle and Andrew Zimmerman. Of these charter members, only one remains with us today...Mrs. Lydia Schuh. This small group gathered in the school house and in the old court house until they felt the need of a church building of their own, so in October of 1921, they purchased a church building and moved it to the present location. These people labored hard and long hours, remodeling, painting, made a basement, and got it ready for us. One of the very first deacons of our church was Gottlieb Zimmerman, who was also very active in many other phases of our church until his untimely passing on October 17, 1940. Another one of our brethren who served as one of the first deacons and in many other capacities of the church was Christian Grenz, until his untimely death on February 1, 1935. Right here we want to mention Mrs. Barbara Grenz, the wife of Christian Grenz, who remained faithful and very active and was one of our oldest members...93 years old. Brother Christian and Sister Barbara were the parents of Rev. Richard Grenz one of the spiritual sons of the church. While the Napoleon Baptist Church was a "station" of the Wishek Church, we were served by the pastor only once a month. We felt that if we could organize into a separate church, we could serve God better, and perhaps grow spiritually stronger. On May 25, 1941 this Napoleon Baptist Church organized into a separate church with 59 members. We were financially unable to support a pastor without some assistance from somewhere. So we contacted our Mission Board for some support and they responded favorably. On April

1, 1957 the church voted to become self-supporting. Our newly organized church wanted to join both the association and the conference. So at last came the big day – May 25, 1941. This was the day set aside to have a special service of recognition in the ranks of the German Baptist churches (North American Baptist General Conference). Four churches were invited with their ministers and two delegates from each church. Gackle, Rev. Rutsch, Ashley, Rev. Leubeck, Streeter, Rev. G. Itterman, Wishek, Rev. A. Itterman. Each visiting minister and delegate took part. Rev. A. Itterman opened the service with singing by the congregation. Rev. Rutsch read Psalm 1. The choir under the direction of W.C. Gerringer sang several anthems. Rev. G. Itterman offered prayer. During our affiliation with the Wishek Church the following pastors served us: Rev. August Herringer (1919-1928); Rev. C.M. Knapp (1928-1934); Rev. B.N. Krenz (1934-1938); Rev. Albert Itterman (1938-1941). On August 24, 1941 we purchased a house and garage in Streeter for \$800. The house and garage were moved to Napoleon and placed on their present site. It was remodeled, insulated, shingled and a new heating system has been installed. The first pastor to serve the Napoleon Church was Rev. Edward Kary who served from 1941 to 1945. Rev. Theodore Frey served from 1946 to 1952 and Rev. Henry Lang from 1952 to 1961. Rev. Robert Hoffman served a period from 1961 to 1964, who then was followed by our present pastor Rev. Thomas Harfst from 1964-1969. The Napoleon Church had long felt the need of a new church building – but always felt that it was to great an undertaking. We had started a Building Fund in 1945 which had grown to \$6000, and with pledges by the members and friends, and a loan from our denominational loan fund, plus the kind and generous Ladies Missionary Society who graciously added what monies they had saved up through the year to furnish the new kitchen, we prayerfully voted on June 1, 1960 to build a new edifice. On June 12th we had our ground breaking exercises with Rev. J.C. Gunst and Rev. Richard Grenz, a son of the church, as guest speakers. Rev. Henry Lang resigned in 1961 and we gave Rev. Robert Hoffman of Trochu, Alberta, Canada a "Call" to which he responded favorably. We had two wonderful years with Brother Hoffman as our leader; but he received a call from a church in Washington and accepted, so in 1964 he resigned, and again we were without a pastor. So we gave Rev. R. Thomas Harfst a "call". At the time, Rev. Harfst was ministering in Hoisington, Kansas. He responded favorably and accepted the "call"; but could not come until August, so we called Rev. Dallas Keck from Washington for June and July. They ministered to us in these two months and we grew to love this family very dearly. So in August of 1964 when Rev. Harfst came to us, the Kecks went to Sioux Falls where Brother Keck took a refresher course at the seminary. They are now actively serving a church in George, Iowa. Brother and Sister Harfst and their two sons came to us in August of 1964. They have faithfully served and worked and labored in this field here for nearly five years; for which we as a church are truly grateful. We love these two people very much; we have not had their sons here very much-Paul is in the Marines, while Calvin is in Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota. We are once again faced with the fact that our Rev. Harfst has resigned to accept the "call" of the Ollie/Linby Churches of Iowa, effective June 1st of this year. God is still on the throne-and through fervent prayer we will again have a leader, we pray God's leading in our calling of a pastor. We would like to make mention here of some of the other leaders and workers in the church, and the offices that they held, after the withdrawal from the Wishek Church. **Deacons:** Fred Grenz, Otto Grenz, W.C. Heringer, Ed Sukut, Fred Pfeifle, Ray Jessor, Jake Heer, Art Becker, Gideon Oldenburger and William Pritzkau...all have served and some are serving now. **Secretaries:** Otto Grenz, Julius Grenz, Edward Kramer, and Mrs. Jake Streyle. **Treasurers:** Henry Oldenburger, William Pritzkau, Adam Gohring, Fred Pfeifle. **Building Fund Treasurer:** Adam Pfeifle. **Trustees:** Julius Grenz, Fred Grenz, Carl Zimmerman, Reuben Zimmerman, Otto Grenz, Jake Heer, Kenneth Pfeifle and Jake Streyle who was a trustee in 1936. **Sunday School Superintendents:** Otto Grenz, Julius Grenz, Edwin Grenz, Henry Oldenburger, Edward Kroll, Gideon Oldenburger and Edward Kramer. There are also many more that could be mentioned here, such as Financial Secretaries, S.S. teachers, etc. but we cannot possibly do it all here, and we are very thankful to the younger members who are taking over some of the offices of the church and are sharing more of the responsibilities. During our time of existence, young men and women have heard the call of God to prepare themselves for full time service in His Vineyard and they are: Rev. Richard Grenz, Greeley, Colorado; Rev. Walter Sukut, Avon, South Dakota; Miss Dorothy Pritzkau, Forest Park, Illinois; Rev. Thomas Kramer, Lincoln, Nebraska; Rev. Mervin Kramer, Forest Park, Illinois (Soon to Colorado Springs, Colorado); Chaplain Clinton Grenz, Fort Riley, Kansas; Miss Alma Zimmerman, Teacher to Africa for one year.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – Centennial 1884-1994*, p.241-242. The members of the Napoleon Baptist Church had long felt the need for a new church building, but always felt that it was too great an undertaking. A building Fund started as early as 1945 had grown to \$6,000.00. With pledges from

members and friends, a loan from the denomination headquarters plus the help of the Ladies Missionary Society, the church voted on June 1, 1960 under the leadership of Rev. Henry Lang, who also served as architect and contractor to build a new edifice. The last service conducted in the old building was June 12, 1960 which included a ground breaking service, and on Monday, June 13, 1960, the dismantling of the old building began. Every able bodied man, woman and child affiliated with the church was there to help, and in five days the building was found in neatly stacked piles of lumber. The new building, consisting of a 32x72 foot main sanctuary and a 16x18 foot entrance and full basement was built for a total cost of \$28,949.41 and 12,000 hours of donated labor by members and friends. The new edifice was dedicated five and one half months later on November 27, 1960. Rev. Henry Lang served as pastor of the church from 1952-61, followed by Rev. Robert Hoffman, 1961-64; Rev. Dallas Keck, interim, 1964; Rev. R. Thomas Harfst, 1964-69; Rev. Henry Pfeifer, 1969-72; Rev. Otto Feisel, interim, 1972-73; Rev. Edwin Walter, 1973-79 and Rev. Lyle Spicer, 1979 to the present. In June of 1979, the church celebrated the 60th anniversary of its organization in 1919 as a station church of Wishek. It was also privileged to celebrate the occasion with the only living charter member of the church, Mrs. Lydia Schuh, who today at the age of 92 years is a resident of the Logan County Home For The Aged in Napoleon and attends services quite regularly. During the time of its existence, men and women (spiritual sons and daughters of the church) have heard and obeyed the call of God to prepare themselves for service: Rev. Richard Grenz, deceased; Rev. Walter Sukut, former Missionary to Japan; Rev. Clinton E. Grenz, retired army chaplain; Mrs. Dorothy (Pritzkau) Ganoung, Denominational Church Ministries Editor; Rev. Thomas Kramer, Portland, OR; Rev. Mervin Kramer, Brandon, SD; and Mrs. Alma (Zimmerman) McCollough, a former teacher to Africa. The church continues to provide a very active Sunday School program, a morning worship and evening service every Sunday. Mid-week Bible study and prayer services are conducted on Wednesday evenings. The other active organization of the church is the Women's Missionary Society. We pledge ourselves anew to continue to be faithful to the task that God has given us to do and to carry on where others have done so well!

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 125th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Heritage, 1884-2009*, p.89. The Napoleon Baptist Church began in 1919 as a station church of the Wishek Baptist Church. The Napoleon Baptist Church congregation became independent in 1941 and continues to minister in the Napoleon community, celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2009. The Reverend Lyle Spicer served the congregation to 1985, followed by Rev. Edward Kopf from 1985-1995. Pastor Harold Mindeman, the last resident pastor, served the congregation from 1996-2002. From 2002 through April of 2004 the congregation had various pastors fill the pulpit on Sundays including Interim Pastor Clinton Grenz of Bismarck, ND. Since May of 2004 the congregation has been served by Pastor Graham Kern who commutes from Bismarck, ND to minister to the congregation on a weekly and as needed basis. The mission statement continues to be: "Christ having changed us from enemies to His friends gives us the task of making others His friends also." 1 Corinthians 5:1

35. Napoleon – Evangelical United Brethren Church

- Location: Town of Napoleon
- See Napoleon – Salem United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Evangelical United Brethren Church-1 \[3711\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Evangelical United Brethren Church-2 \[3712\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.125-127. The Napoleon Mission of the former Evangelical Church had a small beginning. As early as 1914, Rev. E. Melzion, pastor at Streeter, came to Napoleon and preached his first sermon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bauer, four miles east of Napoleon to a number of families. Services were also held in other homes and later in the courtroom of the old courthouse. For a number of years, seemingly nothing more was done until in 1919, when Rev. A. Gehring was stationed at Wishek. He, too preached for them occasionally first in the homes of some of the families, such as the home of John Wentz, Jr., and again in the old courthouse. Some of the first families were Carl Kaz, Andrew Bauer, Henry Miller, Matt Gerber and John Schnaidt. In the spring of 1925, Rev. Wm. Storkman came to Napoleon to serve this congregation successfully for nearly two years. His failing health forced him to retire. During his ministry, the first church was built in Napoleon, lots were donated by Mr. Carl Kaz for the new church and parsonage. Nineteen hundred dollars

cash was raised and six hundred dollars was pledged. The first building committee was Carl Kaz, John J. Wentz, Peter Weber, Fred Wentz, and Andrew Bauer. On August 12, 1925, the group of interested people met with Rev. C.A. Bremer and decided to name the congregation the Salem Evangelical Church. By the first of October, the building was completed, most of the labor donated by the members, and it was dedicated Oct. 11, 1925, with Dr. R. Wiener, Field Secretary of Missions as speaker and directing in the dedication ceremony. The church was dedicated debt free. The first church officers were elected as follows: chairman, Peter Weber; secretary, Carl Kaz; treasurer, John J. Wentz, Jr. The first class leader was Carl Kaz. Assistant class leader was John J. Wentz. A Sunday school was organized in September 1925, and the officers are as follows: Superintendent, G.G. Grenz; secretary, Andrew Bauer; treasurer, Fred Wentz; librarian, Bertha Kaz and organists, Esther and Bertha Kaz. The Salem Evangelical church was being served by the pastor residing at Wishek. The following are names of some of the pastors serving under this arrangement: Alex Gehring, R. Bloedau, Wm. Storkman, C. Bach, E.K. Heimer. It was under the ministry of Rev. E.K. Heimer, that God blessed the congregation with a great revival of fifty-two conversions. In May of 1929, annual conference was held at Napoleon and Bishop Stamm, recently deceased, presided. Dr. A.G. Martin and Rev. O.A. Gehring were licensed to preach at this session, and our present pastor, Rev. G.H. Moritz was ordained. In 1933, Rev. E.K. Heimer was assigned as the first resident pastor. The following ministers have served this field since that time: Rev. John Fischer, Rev. A.W. Heidinger, Rev. Norman Neuman, Rev. Gerald Engel, Rev. Dennis Patterson, Rev. C.M. Bergland, Rev. Leon Kuch and Rev. G.H. Moritz. In 1946, the Evangelical Church merged into the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Under the ministry of Rev. Norman Neuman, the need of a new church building began to be discussed. No definite plans were made. Then under the ministry of Rev. Patterson, meetings were held, whether or not to build a new church building. Again, no definite action was taken. The important matter was brought to the attention of the local conference, and at this meeting in March of 1955, a temporary building committee was elected. In April, a congregational meeting was called and upon majority vote, it was decided to build a new church. Rev. C.M. Bergland was out pastor at this time. A permanent building committee was selected: John Leischner, John Rau, Jake Baltzer, Emil Zimmerman, Erwin Siewert, Mrs. Milton Rau, Mrs. Adam Wentz, Mr. Ed Graf and Mr. G.G. Grenz. The services of E.J. Schoenroch and Sons, architect and contractors were engaged. Work for excavation was begun in August of 1955. The basement was completed sufficiently, so that on Dec. 4, 1955, the congregation moved into the basement as a place of worship. For the three months previous, the American Legion Hall was available for worship. Because of the extreme cold weather coming so early in the fall, work on the church had to be discontinued until the next spring. The corner stone laying ceremony was held April 15, 1956 with Rev. J.W. Schindler in charge, assisted by Rev. C.M. Bergland and Rev. E.K. Heimer and the building committee. The contractor laid the stone. On Oct. 21, 1956, the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church was dedicated. Bishop H.R. Heininger, Rev. A.G. Martin, Rev. J.W. Schindler, Rev. C.M. Bergland, Rev. C.F. Strutz, Rev. Sam Graf, took part in the dedication services. The estimated cost of the present church was fifty thousand dollars.

36. Napoleon – First Lutheran Church

- Location: Basement church located on lot where present Trinity Lutheran Church is located
- Church Records as of July 2007:
 - Kept at Napoleon – Trinity Lutheran Church [Information provided by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Book 1 Baptism 1907-1941
 - Book 1 Confirmation 1909-1940
 - Book 1 Marriage 1910-1934
 - Book 1 Death 1909-1948
 - Book 2 Baptism 1942-1962
 - Book 2 Confirmation 1945-1962
 - Book 2 Marriage 1943-1944
 - Book 2 Death 1942-1943
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.127-128. The Lutheran Free Church learned through one of its visiting pastors of the dire need of the many Scandinavian settlers in and

around Napoleon of Lutheran faith for spiritual help and guidance as well as for a resident pastor to perform the necessary pastoral function, such as baptisms and burials. Many of these functions had to be delegated to pastors of other denominations or at times to no pastor at all. Therefore, in the spring of 1905, Rev. B.P. Farness, a newly ordained pastor in the above mentioned church was sent to this Home Mission Field to see if congregations could be organized. He made his home in Braddock, but served congregations also at Napoleon, Temvik, Lehr, Persian Lake, Burnstad, Kintyre and northeast of Napoleon. Some of these were not organized but were termed "preaching places". Only two of these are now functioning, Trinity at Kintyre and First Lutheran in Napoleon. During Rev. Farness's short tenure here a church was built at Tell, which still stands, he found great potential possibilities for further development of this area but owing to the fact that he wanted to further his education, he resigned after two years of service. Rev. Erik Tou, was called and arrived in the spring of 1908. He made his home in Napoleon and served faithfully until his death in November 1917. He was laid to rest in the Tell cemetery. Among the many homes offered for religious services in the early days were: Chris Nord, Sr., Alfred Swenson, Jens Jensen, Charlie Hoberg, the school house at Peter Siding and the Old Methodist Church. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Severin J. Hugelen, John Eggen, Sr., Ole Thorson, Chris Nod, Sr., Elias Feigum, Ole Button, Nels Wendelstad, Erick Oman, Ole Nelson, Albert Woodbury, G.C. Heien, Goodwin Nustad, Carl Thompson, Peder Urseth and Chris Nord, Jr. Other old timers of the church were the families of Hans Peters, Sever Starkey, John A. Johnson, Martin Bjugstad, Ed Button, Ed Norling, Jens Jensen, Alfred Swenson, Gust Anderson and Charlie Peterson. In September 1930, the Salem and Emmanuel congregations voted to join into one congregation and to incorporate the congregation as the First Lutheran of Napoleon. Charter members of the Salem congregation were the families of: Gabriel Poverud, Aldo Carlson, Raider Poverud, Christ Bolstad, John Johnson, Ainer Anderson and Andrew Mathewson. The pastors who have served the past fifty years are as follows: Rev. B.P. Farness, Erick Tou, John Skonnard, Rev. Vang, Rev. Nelson, James Falk, Robert Falk, Pedor Fluvog, E.P. Grambo, Rev. Hosstad, Richard Knudson, John Lingen, Emil Martinson, Rev. Pearson and our present pastor, Leland Evanson. The Sunday school was organized and held wherever church services were held. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1915, with eight members: Mrs. Dorothea Nord, Nellie Nord, Marie Wendelstadt, Anna Erickson, Mrs. Button, Alida Tou, Johanna Eggen and Julia Thorson. The Luther League was organized and functioned for many years but at present there is no such organization

37. Napoleon – Full Gospel Assembly Church

- Location: Town of Napoleon
- See Gackle – Assembly of God Church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Full Gospel Assembly Church \[3944\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND -- Centennial 1884-1994*, p.246-247. The Full Gospel Assembly had its beginning in November of 1973. After feeling the Holy Spirit leading them to Napoleon, ND, Pastor Busch and family traveled to Napoleon for a few home Bible Studies. Moving to Napoleon the later part of November, the former Seventh Day Adventist Church was rented for a temporary sanctuary for the new fellowship of Christians. After three months the new congregation and pastor felt the need of another building to more adequately meet their needs. The possibility of moving a vacant church building from the country was pursued to no avail. After much prayer, it was decided in early March of 1974, that a new building should be constructed. In early May property was purchased from Mrs. Fred Wentz for a site on which to construct the new building. Under the direction of Pastor Busch, May 14, 1974 construction was begun on the new building. In September of 1974, the basement was completed and used as a place of worship until December, 1974, when the sanctuary was completed. After Pastor Busch left, the church was served by Pastor Ted Graf from July 28, 1976 to July, 1983. Pastor Mark D. Bittner is presently serving the congregation.

38. Napoleon – Grace Methodist Church

- Location: Town of Napoleon
- See Napoleon – Salem United Methodist Church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Grace Methodist Church \[3714\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.128-129. The Methodist Church was the first church to be established in Napoleon. Although the church was not built until 1905,

many earlier mentions of it may be found. The Homestead, in its first issue, informs us that the Rev. Bibbe from Fargo, preached here on May 30, 1886. In the early years there was no church building and services were held in the school house or the homes. Sunday school was irregular during the severe winter months. The first Methodist minister to preach here regularly was probably the Rev. J.L. Sizer, who came from Ashley, in the 1880's. Next was Rev. A.T. Stowers who came from Ashley in 1896 to preach, while the Rev. A.T. Bishop held services from 1896 to 1898, coming here from Steele. According to Mrs. Cora Bryant, the first resident pastor was the Rev. Mr. Lane, who resided in Napoleon in the winter of 1899. The ladies fitted up a room in the school house for church services and Sunday school. The Homestead states Mrs. Hilliard, Miss Foster and Mrs. Geo. A. Bryant as the ladies who did the work. Napoleon is first mentioned in the Conference minutes in 1889, when A.J. Kinkade is listed as the pastor for the 'Winchester-Napoleon' charge. However the minutes do not again mention Napoleon until 1889 when we learn that Barddock-Mapoleon charge is to be supplied (does not say by whom) and in 1890 the minutes inform us that this charge had 23 members that year, had three baptisms and had 47 members in the Sunday school. The Henry Mersdorf family, who homesteaded northeast of town in 1886, played an influential part in establishing the Methodist Church. Mrs. Bryant states that they were the only Methodists in the county when they first came here. It was thru his efforts that preachers came in to preach in the school house; and his efforts, as Sunday school superintendent, that kept the church in the minds of the people even when a preacher was not available. The Rev. F.H. Farrand supplied the charge in 1900, coming from Wishek by team, often in a blizzard. Mrs. Bryant tells of one such time, when no one thought he would be up, but when word got around that he had come, almost everyone in town attended services that night. The church building was begun in 1903 and dedicated in 1904. Mr. Herman Hardt was the contractor. The church was built at the west end of Main Avenue. This church provided a convenient location for community programs. In those early days the school house was a block northeast of the present school house and the court house was about three blocks east of that school. Thus it was that on cold winter days the Methodist church was often used for public programs. For many years the Methodist Sunday school program was the only one rendered here at Christmas time. Pastors who served here during these years included: Sizer, Kinkade, Stowers, Bishop, Lane, Farrand, Page, Smith, Wood, McPeek, Burce, Benson, Kinder, Rice, Lewis, Green, Dickinson, Pearson, Locker. The church progressed nicely, and in 1929 the church building was sold to the Lutherans with the idea of building a new church. Active in our church at that time were the Erick Omans, the Fred Hammonds, the O.K. Starkeys and others. Lots were bought and a basement was built at a cost of \$5,000.00. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Starkey brought teams to help excavate the basement. This was to be used temporarily until a new church could be erected on it. A parsonage was purchased for \$5,000. Things didn't work out exactly as planned, and the new building was not erected until nearly 30 years later, when in 1954 action was finally taken, with the consecration of the new church in 1955. Mr. Fred Hammond, who had been on the basement building committee was also one to help plan the new church. P.J. Wentz was the building director, and he and his wife worked faithfully to keep it running smoothly for the contractor's work. A parsonage was also built in 1952. Pastors serving here from 1929 on are: McClure, Kinzler, Miller, Lindstrom, Brooks, MacTavish, Huntley, Morrison, Shafer, Coleman, Roe and McKirdy. From the 23 members that were first reported in 1900, the Church has now 81 members. A few of the family names first found on the records remain even today.

39. Napoleon – Peace Lutheran Church

- Location: On lot where Napoleon Clinic is now located [July 2007]
- See Napoleon – Trinity Lutheran Church
- Church Records as of July 2007:
 - Kept at Trinity Lutheran Church – Napoleon [Information given by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Book 1 Baptism 1922-1943
 - Book 1 Confirmation 1928-1943
 - Book 1 Marriage 1929-1943
 - Book 1 Death 1927-1943
 - Book 2 Baptism 1944-1962
 - Book 2 Confirmation 1944-1962

- Book 2 Marriage 1944-1958
- Book 2 Death 1944-1962
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Peace Lutheran Church-1 \[6499\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Peace Lutheran Church-2 \[3708\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.122. In looking back over the years which mark the history of Peace Lutheran Church in Napoleon, one can surely see the guiding hand of God at work. With only a handful of interested people, they were able to organize and call their first pastor in 1923. Their first pastor was the Rev. Christian Lemmle. He lived in Danzig. At the time, he served the Pace Lutheran Church he had no car. He made use of the Soo Line Railroad to come to Napoleon. Since they still had no church building in which to hold services, they held them in the homes of members and also in the old school-house. However, in 1925, Rev. Lemmle asked to be released from his duties and they remained a vacant congregation until 1928. During this time they had to rely upon the pastors of neighboring congregations to help serve them. In 1928, the Napoleon-Danzig parish was able to call as their pastor the Rev. T.N. Degusne. It was during his ministry with them that the present church was bought from the Methodist congregation here in town. However, he still lived at Danzig, while a new parsonage was being built in Napoleon for him. He served until 1935, and they again found themselves without a pastor until 1936. Pastor Paul Pietrek was installed as the new pastor of Peace Lutheran church by the Rev. George Landgrebe, the Dakota District President of the American Lutheran Church. Pastor Pietrek remained only a very short time and after his marriage in 1937, he asked for his release. Pastor Pietreks ministry was a milestone in the history of the church, since it was during his brief ministry that the first English services were introduced. Just prior to 1939, the Glueckstal Lutheran congregation of Tappen, and the First Lutheran congregation of Burnstad church to form the Napoleon American Lutheran parish. Together they joined in calling the Rev. John Kammerer, who came in 1939 and remained until 1947. Another milestone was reached during Pastor Kammerer's ministry when the first Sunday School classes were held in English. It was also during Pastor Kammerer's time that the present parsonage was purchased by the parish. Pastor Kammerer was succeeded by the Rev. A.R. Walth who served from 1948 to 1954, and the Rev. Martin Bieber who served from 1955 to 1957. The pastor at the present time is the Rev. W.J. Winkler. The charter members of the congregation were Jacob Kelle, John Retzlaff, John Naasz, Gottlieb Ratti, John M. Wolf, Adam Naasz, Christ Delzer, John Baltzer, Sam Lang and T. Bucholz. Though some of these original members have passed on, some still remain and the descendents of those original members are still members. Today the membership numbers 206 baptized souls. The congregation has come a long way since 1923, and with the continued guidance of God we will continue to grow.

40. Napoleon – Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (LCMS)

- Location: 402 Broadway
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Saint Matthew Lutheran Church \[3943\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.123. On Nov. 30, 1906, Dr. and Mrs. G.A. Mathews, who had come to Napoleon in 1904, called Pastor J.P. Klausler from Kulm, N. Dak., to baptize their infant daughter, born Dec. 2, 1905, who was critically ill, the next day she died and on Dec. 5, she was given a christian burial by Pastor Klausler. Mr. E.A. Wellan arrived in 1902 and two years later brought his bride. Mr. Wellan was manager of a general store in the village. In 1904, Theodore Hintz came to this vicinity and settled here with his family in 1905, as a farmer west of Napoleon. Another farmer who arrived at about the same time was George Schuchard, Albert Steinhaus and Mary Brown. Records show Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Schmidt and Frederick and Christina Wanner arrived in 1900. Peter Weber family and Henry Bauer family also were charter members. Henry Meier came from Russia in 1901. Steps were taken to organize a congregation with regular services. The first service was held December 27, 1906, at the Methodist Church at Napoleon, with Rev. J.P. Klausler, the first pastor. On Nov. 3, 1907, definite steps were taken to organize a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. Charter members were: Hugo Grube, Frederich Schmidt, Heinrich Meier, George Schuchard, Frederich Wanner, Gustav A. Mathews, Ernest Wellan, Peter Weber and Heinrich Bauer. Of these only Mr. Wellan is living. In 1917, one thousand dollars was borrowed from the church extension fund and Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Wellan donated the lots to the congregation. On Feb. 27, 1918, work began. The new church was dedicated on May 15, 1918. On April 3 1921, the Ladies Aid purchased the first organ for the church. The parsonage was purchased in 1913 and remodeled in 1945. Pastors serving this church from 1905-1959 are: J.P. Klausler,

Dieper, J.A. Mueller, M.W. Reidell, A.G. Horn, W.A. Zemke, W.E. Heddrich, Rev. Spomer, G.H. Fiechtner, Han Weidenman, O.N. Troug, L. Ruthenbeck, Rev. Rempfer, Edward Pankow and Victor Hellman.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND -- Centennial 1884-1994*, p.245. [continuation of *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.123] On May 25, 1959 it was decided to purchase the Grace Methodist Church which was no longer used by the Methodist congregation. Dedication ceremonies were held June 22, 1969. St. Matthews congregation now had a more spacious church with Sunday school rooms and a modern kitchen and dining or meeting room. In 1979 a new beautiful altar was given to the church. The congregation then had a matching pulpit, lecturn and baptismal font built. Sunday school is held each Sunday as well as vacation Bible school for the children. Women of the church are affiliated with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of North Dakota District, and the International LWML. One of the new social organizations of the congregation is made up of young couples of the church—Pairs and Spares. Monthly meetings are held with Bible study and a social time. The Fellowship Group is an organization made up of church members with monthly meetings to have Bible study and fellowship with fellow members. Officers of the congregation are Paul Hellmuth, President; Victor Bauer, Treasurer; Leo Hellmuth, Assistant Treasurer; Richard Becker, Secretary; Elders, William Foster Jr., Gordon Hoberg, Gerry Rattei. With the grace of God we pray St. Matthews will continue to grow, and that the faith of the fathers has become the faith of the children. Pastors serving since 1959 have been Earl Elowsky, Quintin Quade, M. Bauer, T. Bramstead, Youngman and Dale Grimm.

41. Napoleon – Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church

- Location: 401 Broadway
- Church Records as of 29 June 2007:
 - Information provided by the church
 - Baptism Register 08 Apr 1908-present
 - Confirmation Register 05 Jun 1929-present
 - Marriage Register 05 Apr 1929-present
 - Death Register 27 Nov 1926-present
 - Records kept at the church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church-1 \[3709\]](#)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church-2 \[3939\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.123-124. The beginnings of the Catholic parish in Napoleon are tied with the missionary efforts of the monks of St. John's Abby, Collegeville, Minn. Father Ambrose O.S.B., then stationed at Dickinson, offered the first mass in Napoleon on Tuesday, June 24, 1890. The place was the living room of William A. Dwyer, above the Dwyer Grocery Store. In succeeding years the Benedictine Fathers with residence at Bismarck used to visit Napoleon once or twice a year to give the Catholic settlers an opportunity to assist at Mass and receive the Sacraments. Mention is made of Father Martin Schmitt O.S.B, 1890-95; Father Clement Dimfl O.S.B, 1895-97; and Father Claudius Ebner O.S.B., 1897-1898 of St. Meinrad's Abby, St. Meinrad, Indiana. In 1898 Bishop John Shanley, first Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo, by letter requested the Benedictines of St. John's Abby, Collegeville, to take regular charge of Napoleon as a station. It was in 1903 that the Rev. Louis Traufler O.S.B., began practical operations to raise funds for the building of a church. By this time there was Mass here regularly at least once a month. Since there was no church Mass used to be said at Dwyer's Grocery Store, Brown's Restaurant and at the County Court House. Noteworthy laymen of this period were Philip Brown, Wm. Arntz, Steve Blanchette, Geo. McKenna, J.J. Murphy, Joseph Marquart, Geo. Laney and Jacob Job. Father Louis Traufler was succeeded by the Rev. Adolph Dingmann O.S.B., and he in turn by Rev. Clement Dimfl. In 1904, under the direction of Father Clement the first Catholic church was built at Napoleon at a cost of \$1200 on the site of the present John Kambeitz residence. At that time the total number of souls was between 40 and 50. When the work of building the church was nearly completed Father Bonaventure Hansen O.S.B., took charge to be followed by Father Peter Wollnik O.S.B, 1906-1907. Bishop John Shanley dedicated the church on May 16, 1906 and placed the new mission parish under the heavenly patronage of St. Philip Neri. Thus public recognition was given to Philip Brown for his

active leadership. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up on August 13, 1906 and bear the name of Father Bonaventure. In October 1907, Father Philip Bahner O.S.B., came to Napoleon as the first resident pastor and also had charge of the missions at Wilton, Hazelton, St. Boniface and the stations at Wishek, Burnstad, Braddock and Livonia. The first rectory, now the Paul Welder residence, was built in 1908 and the following year the church was moved adjacent to it. There were now about 20 Catholic families, mostly of Irish origin with some Germans. However, within a few years the original church was no longer large enough to meet the needs of the rapidly growing congregation. In 1916 the parish purchased 21 lots from O.F. Bryant at a cost of \$1,200 as a site for a new church and rectory and eventually a parochial school. The final decision to build the present church and rectory came on Mar. 1, 1917 with Father Wm. Ludwig as pastor and John Heisler and James L. Laughlin serving on the board of trustees. The original church buildings and the half block of property were sold to Roy Schaffer of Kintyre for \$3,000. Construction of the church began the same year and on Sept. 4, 1918 Bishop James O'Reilly dedicated it. Costs for building were \$14,000 for the church and \$6,000 for the rectory. The following year new pews were installed. The main altar was donated by Mrs. Geo. McKenna. The hope of a parochial school was finally realized during the Golden Jubilee year of the parish, 1957. The school and new convent were completed that year. Bishop Leo F. Dworschak officiated at the solemn blessing on September 1, 1957 and the first classes were held the next day with six teaching Sisters of the Order of St. Francis of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hankinson, in charge. Two hundred and twenty three pupils were enrolled for the 1958-59 term. The school, completely equipped and furnished with text books and library is free of debt. St. Philip Neri parish has had the following resident pastors: Rev. Philip Bahner O.S.B., 1907-1912; Rev. John Zimmerman, 1912-1916; Rev. Wm. Ludwig, 1916-1918; Rev. George J. George, 1918-1922; Rev. Geo. A. Fritz, 1922-1926; Rev. John Lugert, 1926-1929; Rev. George Keim, 1929-1932; Rev. M.J. Simon, 1932-1939; Rev. J.B. Greiner, 1939-1950; and Rev. Louis G. Veit, 1950 to present. Assistants since 1950 have been Rev. Vladas Aleksonis, Rev. Robert Schuster and Rev. Vincent J. Tuchscherer. The parish now numbers nearly one thousand souls. The material history of the parish provides the framework of another history – the spiritual – which must be written by other hands and recorded in another book.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – Centennial 1884-1994*, p.238-239. St. Philip Neri parish in Napoleon had a modest beginning, being visited once or twice a year from 1890 to 1895 by Rev. Martin Schmitt, O.S.B. The first mass offered in Napoleon was on June 24, 1890 by Father Ambrose, O.S.B., then stationed at Dickinson. The Benedictine Fathers, with residence at Bismarck, visited Napoleon once or twice a year to give the Catholic settlers an opportunity to assist at Mass and receive the sacraments. It remained a station for many years, being attended successively by Father Clement Dimpfl, O.S.B., Claudius Ebner, O.S.B., Louis Trauffer, O.S.B., Adolph Dingmann, O.S.B., Bonaventure Hansen, O.S.B., Father Hansen, O.S.B., and Father Wollnick, O.S.B. In 1903 Rev. Louis Trauffer, O.S.B., began practical operations to raise funds for the building of a church at Napoleon. By this time there was Mass here regularly at least once a month. In 1904, under the direction of Father Clement, the first Catholic Church was built at Napoleon at a cost of \$1,200. Bishop John Shanley dedicated the church on May 16, 1906, and placed the new mission parish under the heavenly patronage of St. Philip Neri. In October, 1907, Father Philip Bahner, O.S.B., came to Napoleon as the first resident pastor, and he also had charge of the missions at Wilton, Hazelton, St. Boniface and the stations at Wishek, Burnstad, Braddock and Livonia. The first rectory was built in 1908 and the following year the church was moved adjacent to it. In a few years the original church was no longer large enough to meet the needs of the rapidly growing congregation. In 1916 the parish purchased 21 lots at a cost of \$1,200 as a site for a new church and rectory and eventually a parochial school. The decision to build a new church and rectory came on March 1, 1917, when Father Wm. Ludwig was pastor. The original church buildings and the half block of property were sold for \$3,000. Construction of the church began the same year, and on September 4, 1918, Bishop James O'Reilly dedicated it. Cost for building were \$14,000 for the church and \$6,000 for the rectory. The following year new pews were installed, and the church had a seating capacity of 300. The hope of a parochial school was finally realized during the golden jubilee year of the parish, 1957. The school and new convent were completed that year. Bishop Leo F. Dworschak officiated at the solemn blessing on September 1, 1958, and the first classes were held the next day, with six teaching Sisters of the Order of St. Francis of the Immaculate Host of Mary, Hankinson, in charge. Two hundred and twenty-three pupils were enrolled for the 1958-59 school term. The school remained open for 10 years, but offered classes only in grades three through eight in the final year of operation. The convent was sold a few years after the school closed. In 1968, members of St. Philip Neri parish made plans for a new church and rectory on the present location of

the church and rectory. The rectory was sold and moved to the Herman Haas farm north of Napoleon, while the church was razed by Willie Hellmuth, who bought the old building for \$500. Father Ulric Proeller was pastor at Napoleon during the planning and construction of the church and rectory. The first services were held in the new church on August 24, 1969. On June 13, 1970, the present church and rectory were dedicated by Rev. Leo F. Dworshak, bishop of Fargo. The multi-cornered church and adjoining rectory were built at a cost of about \$213,000, with the furnishings, etc. bringing the cost to around \$323,000. The church accommodates nearly 500 persons, with seating in a semi-circle around the altar. **Resident Pastors:** Rev. Philip Bahner, O.S.B. (1907-1912); Rev. John Zimmerman (1912-1916); Rev. Wm. Ludwig (1916-1918); Rev. George J. George (1918-1922); Rev. George A. Fritz (1922-1926); Rev. John Lugert (1926-1929); Rev. George Keim (1929-1932); Rev. M.J. Simon (1932-1939); Rev. John B. Greiner (1939-1950); Rev. Louis G. Veit (1950-1967); Rev. Ulric Proeller (1967-1970); Rev. Joseph Mentel (1970-Present). **Ordained Sons of the Parish:** Father Adam Hunkler, Father Ignatius Hunkler, Father John Kuhn, Father Leo Kuhn, Father Eugene Schwartzberger, Father Longinus (Al) Bitz. **Ordained Sons of the Community:** Father Valentine Gross, Father Richard Gross, Father Wendelyn Vetter, Father Andrew Roehrich, Father Brian Wangler, Brother Placid Gross, Brother Anthony Marquart, Father Cyril Hunkler, Father Jerome Hunkler.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 125th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Heritage, 1884-2009*, p.89-90. St. Philip Neri Parish in Napoleon had a modest beginning, being visited once or twice a year from 1890 to 1895 by Rev. Martin Schmitt, O.S.B. The first mass offered in Napoleon was on June 24, 1890 by Father Ambrose, O.S.B., then stationed at Dickinson, ND. The Benedictine Fathers, with residence at Bismarck, ND visited Napoleon once or twice a year to give the Catholic Settlers an opportunity to assist at Mass and receive the sacraments. It remained a station for many years, being attended successively by Father Clement Dimpfl, O.S.B., Claudius Ebner, O.S.B., Louis Traufler, O.S.B., Adolph Dingmann, Bonaventure Hansan and Father Wollnick. In 1903 Father Louis Traufler began to raise funds to build a church at Napoleon. In 1904, under the direction of Father Clement, the first church was built for \$1,200. Bishop John Shanley dedicated the church May 16, 1906 and placed the new mission parish under the heavenly patronage of St. Philip Neri. In October 1907 Father Bahner became the first resident pastor. He also served the missions at Wilton, ND, Hazelton, ND, St. Boniface and the stations at Wishek, ND, Burnstad, ND, Braddock, ND and Livonia, ND. The first rectory was built in 1908 and the next year the church was moved nearby. In 1916 the parish purchased 21 lots for \$1,200 as a site for a new church, rectory and an eventual parochial school. The decision to build a new church and rectory came on March 1, 1917, when Father William Ludwig was pastor. The original church building and the half block of property were sold for \$3,000. On September 4, 1918 Bishop James O'Reilly dedicated the new church. The cost was \$14,000 for the church and another \$6,000 for the rectory. The following year new pews were installed, giving the church seating for 300. A parochial school and new convent were built in 1957, during the parish's golden jubilee year. Bishop Leo Dworschak blessed the buildings September 1, 1958, and the first classes were held the next day, with six teaching Sisters of the Order of St. Francis of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hankinson, ND in charge. There were 223 students enrolled for the 1958-59 school year. The school remained open for 10 years, but offered classes only in grades three through eight in the final year of operation. The convent was sold a few years after the school was closed. It was in 1968 that members of St. Philip Neri parish made plans for a new church and rectory. The rectory was sold and moved to the Herman and Maggie Haas farm north of Napoleon, while the church was torn down by Willie Hellmuth who bought the building for \$500. Father Ulrick Proeller was pastor at Napoleon during the planning and construction of the church and rectory. The first services were held in the new church on August 24, 1969. On June 13, 1970 the present church and rectory were dedicated by Bishop Dworshak. The multi-cornered church and adjoining rectory were built at a cost of about \$213,000, with the furnishings and other items bringing the cost to about \$323,000. The seating in the semi-circle around the altar accommodates nearly 500. **Resident Pastors:** Rev. Philip Bahner, OSB (1907-1912); Rev. John Zimmerman (1912-1916); Rev. William Ludwig (1916-1918); Rev. George J. George (1918-1922); Rev. George A. Fritz (1922-1926); Rev. John Lugert (1926-1929); Rev. George Keim (1929-1932); Rev. Michael J. Simon (1932-1939); Rev. John B. Greiner (1939-1950); Rev. Louis G. Veit (1950-1967); Rev. Ulric Proeller (1967-1970); Rev. Joseph Mentel (1970-1993); Rev. James P. Lauerman (1993-2002); Rev. David Syverson (2002-2003); Rev. Donald Leiphon (2003-present). **Assistant Pastors:** Rev. Vladas Aleksonis (1950-1956); Rev. Robert H. Schuster (1957-1958); Rev. Vinent Tuchscherer (1958-1962); Rev. Duaine M. Cote (1962-1965); Rev. Alban Sauer (1965-1966); Rev. Grover Diemert (1967-1969).

Ordained Sons of St. Philip Neri: Father Adam Hunkler, OSB; Father Ignatius Hunkler, OSB (Abbot); Father John Kuhn; Father Leo Kuhn; Father Eugene Schwartzberger; Father Hilary Bitz; Father longinus (Al) Bitz; Father Wendelyn Vetter (Monsignor); Father Richard Gross; Father Valentine Gross (Monsignor); Father Ckyril Hunkler; Father Jerome Hunkler; Father Jeffrey Wald (Monsignor); Father James Gross; Deacon Edward F. Roehrich; Deacon Benedict Gross; Deacon Joseph J. Mathern; Deacon Howard Hunkler; Deacon Gary Schumacher; Deacon Allen Baumgartner; Deacon Clarence Vetter.
Ordained Sons of the Community: Father Andrew Roehrich; Father Brian Wangler-Abbot.

42. Napoleon – Salem United Methodist Church

- Location:
- See Napoleon – Evangelical United Brethren Church; Wishek – United Methodist Church (McIntosh County, ND)
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Salem United Methodist Church \[3942\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND -- Centennial 1884-1994*, p.244. [The history is a continuation of the *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959* book as quoted under Napoleon – Evangelical United Brethren Church] Upon the death of Rev. C.H. Moritz in November of 1963 the Evangelical United Brethren Church of Napoleon was served by Rev. James Pomeroy, who at that time was the pastor of the Grace Methodist Church of Napoleon. Rev. Pomeroy served both churches until May of 1967 at which time Rev. Jerry Wickre was appointed to serve both parishes with services held in each church. Eventually this arrangement led to the uniting of the two congregations as it was about this time that the national conferences of the Methodist and United Brethren churches were making the final plans for the two churches to merge nationwide. In July of 1967 merger of the Methodists and United Brethren churches to create the largest American Protestant Church was approved by the necessary two-thirds vote in annual conference. Effective Sunday, Nov. 19, 1967 the members of the Grace Methodist and E.U.B. churches of Napoleon were united in worship with services held in the E.U.B. church, 221 East 2n^d St. The two congregations voted to change the name of Salem United Methodist Church. This name change was made in view of the general churches uniting. The national merger was consummated at a uniting conference of the two denominations in April, 1968. The former Grace Methodist Church was sold to St. Matthews Lutheran Church May 25, 1969. After this sale the congregation began making plans for a new parsonage. In May, 1973 a building permit was obtained from the city and construction for the new parsonage began. Upon completion of the new parsonage which was ready for occupancy by Rev. and Mrs. Charles McDowell by the end of 1973, the former Grace Methodist parsonage was also sold. The new parsonage is located at 312 East Fourth Street and was dedicated at a special service September 12, 1976. Pastors serving this church since 1968 were Rev. Jerry Wickre, Rev. Charles McDowell and presently, Rev. Gideon Eberhart.
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 125th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Heritage, 1884-2009*, p.91. At the time of it's dedication on October 21, 1956 the Salem United Methodist Church was known as the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1967 the Napoleon Salem Evangelical United Church and Grace Methodist Church merged into one church. Since the Salem Evangelical United Brethren Church had the larger building, it was chosen as their place for worship. The present United Methodist parsonage was built in 1976. A record of ministers serving the parish since the original dedication: Rev. C.M. Bergland (1907-1912) Rev. Leon Kuch (1957-1958) Rev. G.H. Moritz (1958-1963); Rev. James Pomeroy (1964-1967); Rev. Jerry Wickre (1967-1972); Rev. Charles McDowell (1972-1979); Rev. Gideon Eberhart (1979-1984); Rev. Robert Logan (1984-1989); Rev. Steve Olson (1989-1995); Rev. Keith Rice (1995-1997); Rev. Heisel (1997-1998); Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd (1997-1998); Rev. Ronn Wilke (1998-2005); Rev. Grant Piehl (2005-2008); Rev. Marty Toepke-Floyd (2008-present).

43. Napoleon – Seventh-Day Adventist Church

- Location: Town of Napoleon
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.121. The first meeting of the Seventh Day Adventist faith was held in 1919 in the home of Mr. Joseph Rott, in the city of Napoleon. In late spring of 1920, a church was organized, consisting of 17 members: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rott, Sr., Martha Rott, David Rott, Ida Rott, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kapp, Rosina Dutt, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kapp,

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Flemmer, Mr. and Mrs. August Lachenmeier, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Christian Roesler and Olga Engel. The first pastor serving the church was Pastor John F. Seibel. In 1921, a building was rented for church services until 1931, when the present church was purchased and moved to the present site. Other pastors serving the church were Pastor Carl Lehr, Pastor C.J. Hein, Pastor Abraham Dirksen, Pastor G. Goede, Pastor F.F. Schwindt, Pastor Joseph Braun, and the present pastor serving the church is Pastor Don Nelson.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND -- Centennial 1884-1994*, p.247. In the early 1900's the members met at the homes of various families for their weekly worship services. Rain or shine, warm or cold, the children were bundled up and families would drive many miles across the prairies with horse and buggy, but they would not miss meeting with their fellow believers and friends. The labors of the members together with the pastors, Carl Lehr, J.J. Reiswig and J.F. Seibel were rewarded for soon they had a company of some twenty families. As their attendance grew, the homes became too crowded so they would meet in a public school house, and saw the need of a permanent place of worship. The Streeter Seventh Day Adventist Church was organized on July 16, 1915 with Joseph Rott Sr. as elder. J.J. Pfeifle Sr. who was not a member of the group, heard about their search for a church site. He donated 1½ acres of land 13 miles southwest of Streeter, ND and plans were underway to build a church. The members donated their time and the 24x40 building was completed at a cost of \$2,200 and dedicated debt free Nov. 1915. In 1961 the building was enlarged and remodeled. It was rededicated Oct. 1961 with Pastor R.H. Nightingale, President of the Northern Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, Minneapolis, MN as guest speaker. Joseph Rott Sr. and family moved to Napoleon in 1919 and held meetings in their home until the spring of 1920 when a church was organized. Charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rott Sr., Martha, David and Ida; Mr. and Mrs. Christian Kapp; Rosina Dutt; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kapp; Mr. and Mrs. August Lachenmeier Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Christian Roesler; Mr. and Mrs. Karl Flemmer Sr. and Olga Engel. Pastor was John F. Seibel. The church building was donated by Joseph Rott Sr. and was used until 1937 when a larger building was moved into Napoleon. It was dedicated in 1938 and services were held there until 1974 when the Napoleon members merged with the Streeter Church. The present pastor is Len Devnich, Gackle, ND.

44. Napoleon – Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

- Location: 123 2nd St E
- Church Records as of July 2007:
 - Kept in Pastor's Study [Information provided by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Baptism 1963-2007
 - Confirmation 1963-2007
 - Marriage 1962-2007
 - Death 1962-2007
- Church Records of Glueckstal Lutheran Church – Tappen, ND [Information given by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Baptism 1907-1980
 - Confirmation 1915-1981
 - Marriage 1907-1978
 - Death 1911-1982
- Kintyre – Trinity Lutheran Church Records as of July 2007
 - Kept at Napoleon – Trinity Lutheran Church [Information provided by Connie Olson, P.O. Box 257 Napoleon, ND 58561]
 - Baptism 1963-2007
 - Confirmation 1963-2007
 - Marriage 1963-2007
 - Death 1964-2007
- [Photo Available: Lo-Napoleon Trinity Lutheran Church \[5847\]](#)

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – Centennial 1884-1994*, p.242-243. Trinity Congregation held their last regular worship and Sunday school on July 26, 1964 in their old church. The historic building was erected by the Methodist Church in 1904, the first church built in Napoleon. It was purchased in 1927 by the former Peace Lutheran Congregation who renovated the building and used it as their center of worship. Trinity Lutheran Church was organized October 31, 1962 through the merger of Peace Lutheran of German origin and First Lutheran of Burnstad now disbanded and Glueckstal Lutheran organized in 1908. First Lutheran was formed by a merger of Salem Lutheran, a county congregation northeast of Napoleon whose beginning goes back to 1906 and Emmanuel Lutheran, a congregation of members east, west and south of Napoleon. Salem and Emmanuel were affiliated with the Free Lutheran Synod. Peace Lutheran was organized in 1925 and First Lutheran in 1930. Neither the physical plant of First Lutheran nor Peace Lutheran were large enough to accommodate the combined congregation and consequently plans were made to build on the former First Lutheran church site. In April, 1963 Architect Hillyer was hired to draw up plans and estimate of cost. The bid of \$147,000 was accepted and work progressed. A ground breaking ceremony was held Sunday, September 15, 1963. The sod breaking was precisely at the spot where the altar of the new church was built, the following participated in turning over shovelsfull of black dirt: Architect Hillyer, Mayer Frank Wald, Church councilman C.A. Kemmet, Adam Schnabel, Erwin Geiszler, Ed Ketterling, Carrol Starkey, John Feigum, Fred W. Lang, Mrs. Ruth Wurl and Marvin Lang, representing Glueckstal were deacons Fred Martin Jr., Theodore Lang and Melvin Mertz. Charter members from First Lutheran and Peace Lutheran who attended were Ed Norling, Chris Bolstad, Sam Lang and John Baltzer. In May, 1964 the cornerstone of the new church was laid. Rev. Ost took the contents from the First Lutheran box which was held by Ed Norling while John Baltzer held the new box, Chris Bolstad witnessed the event. On August 2, 1964 the congregation and Sunday School met briefly at the old church, sang a hymn, took the Bibles, altar candles, (symbolizing Christ the Light), flags and hymnals and walked in procession to the new church. Part of the ceremony included the presentation of the key from the city Attorney Gordon Hoberg to John Feigum, President of the congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church was dedicated October 2, 1966. The program included worship service with Rev. Emil Martinson, a former First Lutheran pastor, now of Dacorah, Iowa, preaching at the 9:00 service, and Rev. John Kammerer, a former Peace Lutheran pastor, giving the message at the 11:00 service. Rev. J. Elmo Agrison gave the dedicatory address at 2:30. Former pastors who participated were: Emil Martinson, John Kammerer, Reinhold Pederson, Martin Bieber and Milton Ost. Marvin Holje was the pastor at the time. The dedication was attended by an overflow crowd of about 750. Other local pastors attending were Rev. Quintin Quade of St. Matthews, Fr. Louis Veit, St. Philips, James Pomeroy, EUB and Methodist, Thomas Harfst, Baptist, and Larry Nelson, Trinity at Kentyre. The installation of pulpits, pews, lecturn and PA system was held prior to the dedicatory service. Pastor Marvin Holje celebrated the burning of the mortgage on November 4, 1973. A loan was made from the Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Powers Lake which was to be paid in five years. When the loan payments became harder to meet, Pastor Holje formed what was called "The Hundred Dollar" and pledges came into equal the debt. The mortgage was lit by an altar candle which transferred the cancelled mortgage into the incense of prayer and thanksgiving. A record crowd attended. On November 19, 1978 Pastor Edward Hiller held a service of mortgage burning. This occasion marked the completion of all loans and encumbrances on our church. The building committee holding notes for burning were: Adam Schnabel, Christ Kemmet, Fred W. Lang, Hilbert Zimmerman, Ray Kauk and Marvin Lang while Rev. Hiller lit the mortgage from an altar candle. A large crowd attended the event. Pastors who have served Trinity are: Pastor Milton Ost 1961-65, Pastor Marvin Holje 1965-1974, Pastor Edward Hiller 1974-1981 and Pastor Mike Elias 1981 to present. On Reformation Sunday October 31, 1982 Trinity Lutheran celebrated its 20th anniversary of the merger of Peace and First Lutheran. A joint service was held with Glueckstal. Former Pastor Hiller was the guest speaker. A luncheon was held and then we had the unveiling of an altar picture which was hung in the Fellowship Hall. Church activities also include the American Lutheran Church women who meet quarterly in general meetings and monthly in four circles. They support missions, Bible camps and local needs. The Luther League youth group meets biweekly for study, fellowship and inspiration. Sunday school meets regularly each Sunday.
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 125th Anniversary – Celebrating Our Heritage, 1884-2009*, p.91. Presently Trinity Lutheran Church, Napoleon and Kintyre Trinity Lutheran are one parish served by Pastor Richard Hagestuen, who is a retired pastor living in Mandan, ND. Regular Sunday services are held

in Napoleon and Kintyre, ND. Each church maintains their own building and budgets for their needs but the Parish budget meets the needs of the combined churches, such as Pastor's salary, etc. At present the membership is no longer what it was in the past, but the two churches are able to maintain a Pastor and their facilities. Marvin L. Lang is president of Napoleon Trinity Lutheran and of the Parish. Nancy Thompson is president of Trinity Lutheran Kintyre, ND congregation.

45. Napoleon – United Methodist Church

- Location: 221 2nd St E
- Parsonage: 312 4th St. E
- See Napoleon – Salem United Methodist Church

46. Neudorf Lutheran Church

- Location: 6 miles W of Gackle; Logan County, Neudorf Township, NW ¼ of NW ¼ Sec 09-T136-R68
- Closed down 1957
- 1900-1957 Bapt, Confirm, Marr, Death Records at Emmanuel Lutheran—Gackle, ND
- [Photo Available: Lo-Neudorf Lutheran Church \[3872\]](#)
- Church History Source: *Neudorf Lutheran Church Golden Anniversary 1903-1953*, (compiled by Pastor Arthur H. Schmitt). It was in October 1900, when the young Pastor, Heinrich Nagel was sent into North Dakota Mission field. He settled near the city of Kulm, North Dakota. His mission work extended up beyond the city of Streeter, North Dakota. Pastor Nagel worked among the Lutherans who lived west of what is now the city of Gackle. The first services were held in the various farm homes. This was done from 1900 to 1903. On May 5, 1903 a meeting was held and it was decided to build a church. Plans were rapidly made and it was decided to get the lumber from Kulm. A building committee was appointed of the following men: Christian Ackermann, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. When the wagons of lumber left Kulm the carpenter Christian Retell and family was moved from Kulm to a homestead west of Gackle. The work was begun immediately after the lumber was brought. The church was built on its present site and is located six miles west of Gackle. This house of God was given the name Neudorf because all its members came from Neudorf, South Russia. This church was an expression of the faith which dwelt in the hearts of its first members. After the church was completed the day of dedication was set for September 20, 1903. In the year 1903 there were 25 members. They were: Christian Ackermann, Jacob Adam, George Bentz, Fredrick Borth, Christian Deg, John Deg, Gottlieb Gienger, Adam Keubler, John Mayer, Frederick Miller, Jacob Muller, John Muller, Sr., Ludwig Muller, Carl Morlock, Christian Retell, Johannis Rath, John Schlenker, Jacob Schlittenhart, Conrad Schmidt, John Steiger, Valintine Steinger, DeWald Veil, Sr., John Veil, Sr., and Wilhelm Zenker, Sr. The first deacons were John Muller, Sr. And DeWald Veil, Sr. The first trustees of the Neudorf Congregation were Christian Ackerman, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. Fifteen children attended Sunday School during the first year. The men who served as Sunday School teachers were: John Muller, Sr., and DeWald Veil, Sr. In appreciation to Pastor and Mrs. Nagel for their untiring service, the Neudorf Congregation observed the 25th anniversary of Pastor Nagel's ordination. This celebration was held on July 7, 8, and 9th, 1925. Two large tents were erected to accommodate the large number of people who attended this festivity. This congregation has been served by six pastors and two student pastors. Pastor Heinrich Nagel was its first pastor. He served this congregation for nearly thirty years. His ministry began in October 1900, and ended in June 1930. He is known as the founder of the Neudorf Congregation. Before Pastor Nagel left, the Rev. John Grill was called to be the next pastor. Pastor Grill came in August 1930, and left in September 1939. It was during his pastorate that the Neudorf Congregation became a member of the present Gackle Parish. This occurred in August 1939. Prior to that time this congregation was a member of the Streeter Parish. Pastor Grill was followed by the Reverend Henry Meske. Pastor Meske served this congregation from October 1939, to April 1941. Reverend John Hoyer became the fourth pastor of the Neudorf Congregation. His pastorate to this congregation began in June 1941, and closed in November 1949. Pastor Martin Obst served this congregation as Student Pastor from June to September 1950. Reverend Arthur Dumisch was the next pastor who served this congregation for two years, from September 1950, to October 1952. During the vacancy of the Gackle Parish, Pastor Lawrence Sailer from Medina, North Dakota served the Neudorf Congregation. Reverend Sailer served this congregation as part time pastor from January to May 1953. Arthur Schmitt, served this congregation as Student Pastor from July to September 1953. The present membership consists of 22 members. They

are: John Bentz, Rudolph Doerr, Paul Gienger, Adolph Henke, Edwin Lang, Leonard Mayer, Gustav Mayer, Ludwig Mayer, Paul Mayer, Emil Miller, Gottlieb Muller, Jacob Miller, Peter Miller Jr., Richard Muller, John Morlock, Leonard Morlock, Eldo Schmidt, Jacob Veil, Jr., John Veil, Jr., August Zenker, Harold Zenker and William Zenker, Jr. Paul Mayer and Richard Muller are the deacons for the year 1953. Serving as trustees today are Gustav Mayer, Emil Miller and August Zenker. The Sunday School enrollment at the present time is thirty-six children. The teachers are Adolph Henke and Emil Miller. The Neudorf Congregation has sent one son into the ministry of the Church. He is Pastor Edwin Schmidt who at present lives at Stanton, N.D.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.38-39 [similar to the article above]
- Church History Source: *Gackle, ND - Dedication of Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ALC), 1961*. In August of 1939 the Neudorf Lutheran Church was added to the Gackle, N.D. Lutheran Parish. Before that time this congregation was a part of the Streeter Lutheran Parish. The earliest beginnings of this congregation go back to the year 1900 when Pastor Henry Nagel extended his missionary activities from Kulm northwest into this area. The first services were held in private homes. In a meeting held on May 5, 1903 the members decided to build a church. The lumber was hauled from Kulm, N. Dak. The carpenter Christian Retell was also from Kulm. The building committee consisted of Christian Ackermann, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. A happy and thankful congregation assembled with their Pastor on Sunday September 20, 1903 to dedicate the new church. The membership at this time consisted of the following: Christian Ackermann, Jacob Adam, George Bentz, Fred Borth, Christian Deg, John Deg, Gottlieb Gienger, Adam Kuebler, John Mayer, Frederick Miller, Jacob Muller, John Muller Sr., Ludwig Muller, Carl Morlock, Christian Retell, Johannes Rath, John Schlenker, Jacob Schlittenhard, Conrad Schmidt, John Steiger, Valentin Steiger, Dewald Veil Sr., Jacob Veil Sr., John Veil Sr., and William Zenker Sr. The first deacons were John Muller Sr., and Dewald Veil Sr. The first trustees were Christian Ackermann, John Mayer and Ludwig Muller. Rev. Henry Nagel, who organized the congregation, served until June 1930. In appreciation of the faithful services rendered by Pastor and Mrs. Nagel the congregation observed the 25th ordination anniversary of Pastor Nagel in 1925. Rev. John Grill became the pastor of this congregation in August 1930 and served until September 1939. It was at this time that Neudorf Lutheran Church became a part of the Gackle Lutheran Parish and was served by the same pastors serving Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

47. Old Apostolic Lutheran Church

- Location: 10 miles S of Gackle; Logan County, Nathan Township, NE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 12-T134-R68**
- [Photo Available: Lo-Old Apostolic Lutheran Church \[3881\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.33-34. The first meeting of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church was held at the farm home of Alex Ritola with August Tekka, acting secretary. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Articles of Incorporation. The first pastor was John Homola Sr., while the first church officers were seven trustees as required number according to Article Five of Articles of Incorporation recorded with the Secretary of State at Bismarck, N.D. Later the number of trustees was increased to nine. The first trustees were: Albert Koskey, Alex Ritola, Jacob Salmivaara, John Kopman, Karl W. Wilen, Paul Ritola, John Homola, Sr., all of Logan County with postoffice at Kulm, N.D. Pastors serving the church were: John Homola Sr., Alex Ritola and William Homola. Services were held in the homes of the members until the present church was built in 1925. An addition to the church was built in 1953. First Articles of Incorporation according to a certificate from the Secretary of State, office of Bismarck, N.D., gives the name of the religious corporation as the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Finn School District of Logan County, N.D. This was issued on August 28, 1901 and recorded in Vol. I, Book of Churches. A certificate from the same office certifies that on May 2, 1948, a change in the same religious corporate was made to read "The Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Gackle, N. D. The meeting to decide on the change of the name was represented by 75 members of the church being witnessed by the following trustees and officers: William Homola, Walter Ollila, John Homola, Jr., Vaine Hervi, John Erikanen, Joe Sarkkinen, Nick Wilen, and Jacob Salmivaara. The present church pastor is William Ollila, chairman; Charlie Homola, treasurer, and Joe Sarkkinen, secretary.

- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1904-1979*, p.67. The Old Apostolic Lutheran Church is located 10 miles south of Gackle. For early history see page 33 of Gackle Golden Jubilee section. Present Chairman is Arnie Kruse, Secretary is Warren Schlecht and Treasurer is Gene Lunzman. Arvo Bellikka is the pastor.
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Prairies & People*, p.60. The Old Apostolic Lutheran Church is located ten miles south of Gackle, ND on Hwy. 56. The church was built in 1925. An addition to the church was built in 1953. Renovation to the interior was done in 1989. Services are held weekly in conjunction with O.A.L.C. of Aberdeen, SD. The church cemetery is located four miles southwest of the church [Logan County, Nathan Township, NE ¼ of NE ¼ Sec 12-T134-R68]. The church membership maintain the upkeep of the cemetery.

48. Orthodox Catholic (Russian) Church

- Location: NE ¼ NW ¼ of **Sec 32-T134-R68** (Nathan Township)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.52. This church was referred to as the Russian church. About 1918 they were served by Reverend Vasily Kushinov. They used Old Slavonic as their language in church. There were wooden crosses to denote burials, but they are decayed. The grave depressions can still be determined. The area is not fenced, but it is hayed.

49. Rosenfield Baptist Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

50. Ruff Baptist Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

51. Saint Anthony's Catholic Church

- Location: Logan County, Schell Butte Township, SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 24-T133-R73**
- [Photo Available: Lo-Saint Anthony's Catholic Church \[3716\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.130-131. Twelve miles south and two miles west of Napoleon, N. Dak., dates its origin, back to the summer of 1897. A meeting was held and Anton Bachmeier donated ten acres for church purposes. Thereupon, a small church was bought from a homesteader, northwest of Napoleon for \$35.00. It was dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua. The name St. Anthony was chosen to honor Anton Bachmeier. An addition was added to this building by the parishioners, a total of 12 families. By 1905, the original church was too small. Under the direction of Father Stephan Stenger, the people decided to sell the small church and build a larger one. Herman Hardt was the contractor, and with the help of parishioners, the new building was completed in October, 1905, at a cost of \$4,000.00. It was sometimes very difficult in those horse-and-buggy days to get a priest, for Sunday Mass. It was decided to build a parish-house. This was done in 1908, at an expense of \$3,500.00. Father Stephen Stenger became the first resident pastor. Editor and publisher O.F. Bryant wrote about this great missionary in the Napoleon Homestead on Dec. 17, 1915. "One of the best known and most loved and reverently respected workers in the vineyard of the Lord has retired. "During his service at St. Anthony, Father Stephan contributed all his own funds to the church and has lent every assistance possible to those in distress. After all, gold is not the greatest wealth, true and sincere friendship is the most valuable asset one may acquire. "In this light, 'the Old Man,' as Father Stenger was affectionately known, was one of the wealthiest men who ever lived in Logan County." Father Stephen Stenger was indeed the leader of a devout St. Anthony congregation. Realizing the utmost importance of a good education, the early settlers built a school close to their church in 1911. This school was used for many years. The school building was enlarged in 1949 and is today known as the St. Anthony Community Hall. St. Anthony church was again enlarged in 1929. The cost was \$4,000.00. From June 1932 to Sept., 1940, Father Alexander Stang was pastor of St. Anthony parish. He was a refugee from Communism in Russia and is

the only priest buried in St. Anthony cemetery. Under Father Vincent Wiederholt, who was pastor from 1941-1948, many improvements were made in the St. Anthony parish. In 1955, the entire St. Anthony church was redecorated. In 1958, the same was done to the parish house. In 1956, a Cross-Shrine was erected on the southwest corner of the church in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Gross, Sr., by their grateful children. This cross shrine is an exact replica of wayside shrines in Southern Germany, the homeland of St. Anthony people. The Cross-Shrine is a constant reminder to all who pass by that, "only in the Cross of Christ, we find our salvation". The crowning achievement of St. Anthony parishioners is the Community Peace-Shrine on Highway 3, two miles east of the church. This is the first religious Shrine on a public highway in North Dakota. The Shrine was blessed by His Excellency, Bishop Leo F. Dworschak, D.D., of Fargo, on June 17, 1958 and was dedicated by Father Joseph Hylden of the national Catholic Rural Life Conference on July 20, 1958. The Shrine was built to promote peace among all men. In leading the "Pray for Peace" inscription on the Shrine may Christ's promise be fulfilled for all of us. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." At present (February, 1959), St. Anthony congregation has about four hundred members. Choirmaster is John M. Gross. Trustees are: Anton C. Vetter and James M. Wald. Alter {sic} Society officers are: Mrs. George Gross, Mrs. Andton C. Vetter and Miss Barbara Welder. The young peoples sodality is guided by Angeline Schmidt, Mike Vetter, Jr., and Pete Piatz. Father George Bolte, a native of Germany, has been pastor since September, 1948. He likes to close this short history of St. Anthony parish by saying, "To all, who by their prayers, help and sacrifices showed their deep faith and devotion in God by building and maintaining St. Anthony parish, a most sincere, 'May God reward you all'. – "Vergelt's der liebe, Gott'." Information received after the above history was written showed the following priests who served after Fr. Stenger: Fr. Hubert Von Meer, 1915-16, Fr. Ludwig Deering, 1916-17; Fr. Joseph Poetgins, 1917-19; Fr. Frank Slominski, 1919-20; Fr. Clement M. Bierens, 1920-24; Fr. Richard Fuetscher, 1924-28; Fr. Peter Wolnick, 1928-29; Fr. Fieoriolli, 1929-32; Fr. Alex Stang, 1932-41; Fr. Vincent Wiederholt, 1941-48; Fr. George Bolte, 1948 up to the present time.

52. Saint Boniface Catholic Church

- Location: 7 miles S of Napoleon, Logan County, Weigel Township, NE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 29-T134-R73**
- Church Records as of 29 June 2007:
 - Information provided by Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church-Napoleon
 - Baptism Register 19 Apr 1908-17 Dec 2006
 - Confirmation Register 05 Jun 1929-02 May 1997
 - Marriage Register 26 Nov 1908-10 Jun 2006
 - Death Register 11 Feb 1926-20 Apr 2002
 - Records kept at church office of Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church – Napoleon, ND 58561
- [Photo Available: Lo-Saint Boniface Catholic Church \[3707\]](#)
- Scheduled to Close in 2006
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*, p.121. St. Boniface Church was started Feb. 19, 1905. It was a mission to Bismarck and later became a mission to Napoleon. The mission was started by 17 members. The members are as follows: Peter Ripplinger, Joseph Meier, Vincent Schmidt, Mick Krebsbach, Joseph S. Schumacher, Joseph Wolf, Markus Schmidt, John Schmidt, Bernard Weigel, Anthony Schatz, Peter Glatt, Joseph Picent, Anton Wangler, Rochus Bitz, Joseph Mitzel, Joseph Leier, and Karl Schweitzer, a single man at the time. The priests came from Bismarck once a month to say Mass. The first Mass was said on a table given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Schmidt. Mr. Vincent Schmidt also served as altar boy for many years. The only members that are still around here from the first members, are Mrs. Anton Wengler, Mrs. Joseph Wolf, Mrs. Joseph Schumacher, and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Schmidt, who now reside at Linton, N. Dak. The following priests, Rev. Clement Dimplf, Bonaventure Hansen and Peter Wollnik came by train from Bismarck to Napoleon, then by team to St. Boniface to say mass from 1905 to 1907. From then on they had their first resident pastor. St. Boniface became a mission to Napoleon with Rev. Phillip Bahner as pastor until 1912, and Rev. John Zimmerman until 1916, and Rev. Wm. Ludwig until 1918. The present church was built in 1916. The old church is now being used as a public school, near the present church. In 1918, St. Boniface became a mission to St. Anthony's church with Father Poettgens to 1919, Rev. Frank J. Slominski to 1921, and Rev. Gerard C. Bierens to 1924. On February 2, 1924, St. Boniface had it's first resident pastor, the Rev. Alexander Stang.

He served the parish until 1927, when Pius B. Mutter took his place until 1930. Rev. M.V. Mueller served from 1930-1932. He was replaced by Rev. Leo Kaufman until 1936. Rev. Lawrence Widmann came and served until he retired, Sept. 8, 1954. He passed away Sept. 7, 1955 and was buried in the St. Boniface Church cemetery. In 1953, Rev. John Bacevicius became assistant pastor at St. Boniface, after Rev. Widmann's retirement was named pastor and is the pastor at the present.

- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND -- Centennial 1884-1994*, p.245-246. St. Boniface Church was started Feb. 19, 1905 as a mission of a Bismarck Church, later becoming a mission of St. Philip Neri of Napoleon. In 1918 it became a mission station of St. Anthony's Church, rural Napoleon, ND. In 1916 the present church was built with the original one becoming a rural school house known as Weigel No. 2. In 1953, Rev. John A. Bacevicius was named Associate and upon Rev. Lawrence Wiedmann's retirement was named pastor of St. Boniface, a position he still holds today. Recognizing the need for a church hall, the people of St. Boniface bought back the original church building from Weigel Township in the spring of 1963, as the township, like many others, was in the process of annexing to the Napoleon school district. In 1968 a larger building was purchased from the disbanded St. Anthony parish, for use as a religious education building, with the original church being purchased by the Andrew A. Weigel family who moved it to their farm four miles southwest of St. Boniface the summer of 1969. The Weigels attached it to their home, converting part of it into a chapel, the other part of it into a living room with both areas being furnished with antique furniture or items from disbanded churches. The efforts of a former parishioner, Clem Schatz, now living in Dickinson, ND, bore fruit in June, 1977, when an all-parish reunion was held with people from many cities and towns in North Dakota, as well as from other states, signing the guest register. Many a tear and many a joy was shared as people who formerly belonged to St. Boniface reminisced of days of yesteryear and mingled with the present church members. Mr. Schatz was assisted on the local level by Andrew and Clara Weigel and Tony and Alvera Leier, who at the time were all members of St. Boniface. The Weigels have since moved to Napoleon. Though many have come and many have gone, some to other areas to live, still others to their eternal destination, St. Boniface is still the little white church 12 miles southwest of Napoleon with its beautiful original altars as an inside backdrop, thereby creating enough warmth to permeate the heart and soul of all members and visitors of His everloving presence. At present, Pius D. Kuhn is organist at St. Boniface Catholic Church, a job he took over in 1969, when John W. Wangler died unexpectedly on December 24, 1969 at the age of 52. John was organist and choirmaster for 35 years, starting in 1934, when he was 17 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Pius D. Kuhn were members of St. Boniface for 43 years, during which time Pius was organist and choirmaster for several years prior to 1934, when John W. Wangler succeeded him. Later Pius served in that capacity at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Napoleon for approximately 17 years. Although Pius and Katherine Kuhn retired and moved to Napoleon in December, 1972, where they are members of St. Philip Neri, Pius faithfully continues to come to St. Boniface to provide the organ music for the congregation for which all the parish members are sincerely grateful. The year 1984 finds the following listed as members of St. Boniface: Sebastian Aberle, John G. Becker, Wendelin G. Becker, John Doll, Stanley Doll, Lawrence Feist, Frank Fettig, Markus Franck, Kenneth Huber, Andrew Johs, Joe G. Kuhn, Mrs. Mike Laine, Anton Leier, Martin Leier, Peter Reis, Leo Roehrich, Pius Schmidt, Albert Schumacher, David Schumacher, Silbernagel Bros., Anton Silbernagel, Julius Vetter, Isadore Wald, Joe S. Walk, Anthony R. Wangler, Frank Wangler, Baltzer A. Weigel, Bernhard M. Weigel, Dennis Weigel, George Weigel Jr., Terry L. Weigel, Wendelin Weigel. The present members appreciate and publicly acknowledge the support of many of its former members. More early history of St. Boniface can be found in Volume 1, page 121 in this book [*Napoleon, ND – 75th Anniversary 1884-1959*].
- Church History Source: *Saint Boniface Catholic Church – Centennial 1905-2005*. St. Boniface Church was started on February 19, 1905 as a mission of St. Mary's Church of Bismarck, ND and was dedicated on May 16, 1906 by Bishop Shanley. The church was built in 1904 at a cost of \$1200. The building of the church was superintended by Rev. Clement Dimpfl, O.S.B. (Order of St. Benedict). The first Mass was celebrated by Rev. Bonaventure Hansen, O.S.B.. Rev. Hansen was instrumental in acquiring the altars and statues in the church. Rev. Hansen's successor was Rev. Peter Wollnik, O.S.B. These priests came from Bismarck once a month, making the trip by train from Bismarck to Napoleon and then by team to St. Boniface, serving from 1905-1907. Seventeen heads of households were the church's charter members, namely: Peter Ripplinger, Joseph Meier, Vincent Schmidt, Nick Krebsbach, Joseph S. Schumacher, Joseph

Wolf, Markus Schmidt, John Schmidt, Bernard Weigel, Anthony Schatz, Peter Glatt, Joseph Picent, Anton Wangler, Rochus Bitz, Joseph Mitzel, Joseph Leier, and Karl Schweitzer, a single man at the time. The mission numbered 60 souls. It is not really known why the church was named St. Boniface, but here are some clues that could help. St. Boniface was a Benedictine missionary who introduced Catholicism to the German people in the 8th century. In the late 19th century, Benedictines came from Europe to be missionaries on the American frontier. They served in such places as Devils Lake, Ft. Yates Indian mission, and Bismarck. Some of their obituaries mention they came in "the spirit of St. Boniface." Fr. Philip Bahner, O.S.B. was a Benedictine, as were all the priests who came before him from Bismarck to serve Catholics in Logan County: Fr. Martin Schmitt and Fr. Clement Dimpfl. As far as we know, St. Boniface was the only church in the area they named after a Benedictine Saint. In 1908, St. Boniface became a mission to St. Philip Neri, Napoleon. Rev. Philip Bahner, O.S.B. became the pastor. While Rev. Bahner was pastor, the parish put in the organ and organ loft, painted the church, installed the sanctuary lamp, stations, carpet, and the bell. There were now 20 families. Rev. John Zimmerman replaced Rev. Bahner in 1912. During his time here, a Catholic school was started and a promising crop would help to build a school building. A house was built for the school teacher who taught in the public school building near the church. There were 45 children. In 1916, Rev. William Ludwig replaced Rev. Zimmerman as pastor. The present church was built at a cost of \$5000. Herman Hardt was the architect and the contractor. Rev. Zimmerman started the project and Rev. Ludwig finished it. The original church became a schoolhouse known as Weigel #2. In 1918, St. Boniface became a mission of St. Anthony's, rural Napoleon, with Rev. Joseph Poetgens, OMI (Oblates of St. Joseph) as pastor until 1919, followed by Rev. Francis J. Slominski until 1921, at which time Rev. Gerald C. Bierens served its needs until 1924. February 24, 1924 was a milestone in the St. Boniface community as they now had their first resident priest, Rev. Alexander Stang. A rectory was built at a cost of \$4000. Rev. Stang served the parish until 1927 when Rev. Pius B. Mutter replaced him. He served until 1930. From 1930-1932 Rev. M.V. Mueller called St. Boniface his parish. Rev. Leo Kaufman became pastor from 1930-1936. Rev. Lawrence Widmann was named pastor in 1936. St. Clare's of Burnstad and St. Patrick's of Wishek became missions of St. Boniface during the years 1936-1940. In the years between 1942-1950, St. Clare's was a mission. Rev. Widmann faithfully served for 18 years and retired on September 8, 1954. He passed away September 7, 1955 and was laid to rest in the St. Boniface Church Cemetery. In 1953, Rev. John Bacevicius was named assistant and upon Rev. Widmann's retirement was named pastor of St. Boniface. Wishek became a mission from 1959-1990. Recognizing the need for a church hall, the people of St. Boniface bought back the original church building from Weigel Township in the spring of 1963, as the township school was in the process of annexing to the Napoleon School District. In 1968, three different places were used for religious education including the church, and so a larger building was needed. A hall was purchased from the then disbanded St. Anthony's parish. The cost of the building was \$570. Ten pews were added to the church at a cost of \$260. The original church was purchased by the Andrew A. Weigel family who moved it to their farm 15 miles south of Kintyre in the summer of 1969. The Weigels attached it to their home, converting part of it into a chapel, the other part of it into a living room with both areas being furnished with antique furniture or items from disbanded churches. The efforts of a former parishioner, Clem Schatz, bore fruit in June 1977 when an all-parish reunion was held with people from many cities and towns in North Dakota as well as from other states, signing the guest register. Rev. John Bacevicius celebrated his last mass on January 1, 2000 despite being seriously ill. He passed away on March 15, 2000. His final resting place is in the St. Boniface Cemetery. From January 2000 to July 2000, the parishioners of St. Boniface attended mass wherever it was convenient for them, mainly area churches. In July 2000, Rev. James Korah was assigned to St. Patrick's in Wishek with St. Boniface becoming a mission. Two weeks later, St. Boniface was again without a priest when problems from Rev. Korah's past caught up with him. From July to October, priests from around the diocese came each week to St. Patrick's and St. Boniface to celebrate mass. Rev. Kevin Willis was named pastor of St. Patrick's and St. Boniface and served their needs from October 2000 to June 2001. Rev. David Skyverson was pastor from July 2001 to June 2003. In 2002, Rev. Syverson was transferred to St. Philip Neri, with St. Clare's and St. Boniface as missions. Rev. Donald Leiphon became pastor in July 2003 and is currently serving in that capacity at the present time. In 2003, the parishioners felt that the parish hall needed too many repairs to keep it feasible. They decided to use the rectory for religious education and gatherings. In 2004, the parish hall was controllably burned. There were 878 recorded baptisms at St. Boniface with 1914 having the most at 25. The first person to be baptized was Josephum Piatz on October 15, 1905. He is the son of Anthony & Magdalena (Duchscherer) Piatz. His godparents were Anthonius John and Magdalena Braun. He was

baptized by Rev. Bonaventure Hansen. There were 219 recorded weddings with 1967 having the most with 9. The first recorded wedding was between Johann Wangler, son of Wendelin and Magdalena (Schoch) Wangler, and Johanna Heisler, daughter of Jacobi & Elisabeth (Halder) Heisler, on January 18, 1906. Their witnesses were Joseph Leier and Raphael Gross. Rev. Bonaventure Hansen officiated at the wedding. There were 95 deaths recorded with 1922, 1927, and 1928 all tied at having the most with 5. The first death recorded was Rochus Bitz who died November 29, 1905. He was over 48 years old when he passed away from cancer. Rev. Bonaventure Hansen presided over the funeral. Records for confirmation started in 1967 though St. Anthony's may have some. First communion records are also incomplete, but we were told that the first children may have been Margaret Wangler and Frank Glatt. For the past 100 years, young and old alike have been coming to St. Boniface to worship. Its beautiful altars and Stations of the Cross give on the feeling of being in a truly holy place. It is a place that made the congregation a "family". Where the parishioners celebrated together weddings, first communions and confirmations, and cried together when we lost someone dear to us. When someone was ill, there was never a shortage of people willing to help out, bring food, put in the crop, etc. There is a saying that the St. Boniface parishioners have "When there is something to be done, everyone helps out". Maybe that is why St. Boniface Church was able to stay open so long when other churches have closed. As of this writing, St. Boniface is scheduled to close sometime in 2006. It will be a very sad time for all. We will lose our "family" and our beloved church, but like our ancestors who left family and belongings behind, we too will adapt. We can always say we belonged to that special family of St. Boniface!

53. Saint James Lutheran Church

- Location: Logan County, Gutschmidt Township, SE ¼ of NE ¼ **Sec 29-T135-R67**; 12 miles south of Gackle
- See Saint Luke Lutheran Church – McIntosh County, ND – *Wishek, ND – Diamond Jubilee 1898-1973*, p.195
- See Christ Lutheran Church (Janke Township)
- Closed down 1961 and merged with Gackle – Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 1915-1955 Bapt, Confirm, Marr, Death Records at Gackle – Emmanuel Lutheran
- **Photo Available: [Lo-Saint James Lutheran Church \[3874\]](#)**
- Community History Source: *Gackle, ND – Golden Jubilee 1904-1954*, p.41. St. James Church, the oldest of all the Lutheran churches in the Gackle parish, celebrated its 50th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 28, 1952. It was in the year 1900 that this congregation first sank its roots. In 1902 with Rev. Heinrich Nagel serving as pastor, these settlers from South Russia: Mike, Christian and John Gumke, John Schlect, Sr., Mr. Kleingartener, Sr., John Walker, John Heck, Jacob Gutschmidt, Gottlieb Presler, Christoph Janke, Samuel Heller, Christian Geiszler, George Mayer, Christian Speidel and others; built the St. James Church and parsonage. The parsonage is now the Art Schmidt residence. Mrs. Christ Gumke (Rosina Ruff) was the first funeral held and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schlect were the first couple married in the church. When Rev. H. Nagel moved to Streeter, his successors were: Rev. F.C. Hanselman, Rev. Kaz, Rev. Stadtler, Rev. F.W. Mueller, Rev. F.J. Doyen, Rev. W. Hummel, Rev. M. Bowdler, Rev. G.A. Schmidt, Rev. H.A. Meske, Rev. John Hoyer, Rev. Martin Obst, Rev. A. Duminsch, Student Pastor Arthur Schmidt and Rev. F.W. Heupel, now serving. Rev. Landgrebe of Fargo, gave the sermon for the day. Greetings were received from several pastors who had at one time served the church.
- Church History Source: *Gackle, ND - Dedication of Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ALC), 1961*. St. James Lutheran Church, located about eleven miles south of Gackle was also organized by Rev. Henry Nagel in the year 1902 with the following charter members: Michael Gumke, Christian Gumke, John Gumke, John Schlect Sr., Friederich Kleingaertner Sr., John Wacker, John Heck, Jacob Gutschmidt, Gottlieb Presler, Christoph Janke, Samuel Heller, Christian Geiszler, George Meyer and Christian Speidel. The church was built in 1902 and for some time this congregation also owned a parsonage located next to the church. On Sept. 28, 1952 the members of St. James observed the 50th anniversary with appropriate church services. However with the passing of the years farms increased in acreage and farm population decreased to such an extent that in September 1956 St. James Lutheran Church dissolved and most of the members transferred to Emmanuel Lutheran of Gackle. Prior to 1920 the following pastors served the members of St. James: Rev. Henry Nagel, Rev. G.F. Hanselmann, Rev. Kaatz and Rev. Stadtler. Since 1920 the same Pastors who

served Emmanuel Lutheran also served this congregation. In the year 1957 the first attempts were made at merging Neudorf Lutheran Church with Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The necessary resolutions were adopted. However due to the limited seating capacity of the town church separate church services were continued and all business was conducted separately. At this time a joint church building fund was started, and as the funds accumulated planning for the new church was begun. Building operations got under way in July 1960. Early in 1961 the merger resolutions of 1957 were strengthened by the adoption of legally drawn merger resolutions and thus the merger was completed. The name of the merger congregation is Emmanuel Lutheran Church and consists of the membership of the former Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the former Neudorf Lutheran Church. On Sunday July 30 the combined membership was permitted to worship together for the first time in the new church.

54. Saint Johannes Lutheran Church

- Location: 3 miles N of Fredonia, Logan County, Janke Township, SE ¼ of **Sec 33-T134-R67**
- Church History Source: *Fredonia, ND – History for Evangelisch Lutherisch Johannes Church – Christus Parish – Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 2001.* In 1896 a group of people of German-Russian descent began holding worship services in various farm homes. The services were in the German language. In 1898, one acre of land was set aside for a cemetery. This is now known as the Martin Luther Lutheran Cemetery. Land was set aside for a church. The site of this church was 3 miles north of Fredonia on the west side of highway #56 across from the Lutheran cemetery. This is not the same church that was located on the north end of the Lutheran cemetery. That church was organized after the Johannes Church closed in 1929 because not all of the members wanted to join Martin Luther in Fredonia. Gottlieb Janke, Friedrich Gieszler, and Friedrich Wolf signed the articles of incorporation from the state of North Dakota for Evangelisch Lutherisch Johannes Church on July 3, 1901. **1901** According to the minutes the first officers elected were Johann Haag as president; George Hehr as treasurer; Christian Baltzer as secretary. It was decided that the widow Heller would only pay half of the family dues. The first recorded active members were Friedrich Geiszler, George Hehr, Christian Hehr, Gottlieb Janke, Friedrich Wolf, Johann Wolf, Christian Wolf, Christian Baltzer, Friedrich Munsch, Johann Haag, Jacob Krueger, Karl Krueger, Johannes Weispenning, George Weispenning, Gottlieb Scarf, Adam Oelke, Michael Brost, Fredrich Tiede, Andreas Widmer, Johann Gutschmidt, Andreas Kinzler, Christoph Gutschmidt, and Barbara (John) Heller. (The minutes do not state what was built during the year, but it may have been a parsonage or church school as large amounts of lumber were purchased and labor was paid to several people.) This is a list of some of the expenses: John Bick labor \$3.00; pencils and supplies \$6.25; Andrea Widmer labor \$6.75; Franz Fendel labor \$68.20; Lutwig Guthmueller labor \$103.10; George Gackle \$31.95; Christian Kraus labor \$10.50; stove pipes \$1.80; Salzer Lumber Co. \$226.00, \$101.45, \$31.40, \$14.00; broom \$.30; books \$.60. **1902** At the April meeting they wanted to find out how much it would cost to build a church. It was decided that the members who joined the church after it was built would have to help pay expenses on the new church building. The expenses during that year included \$138.85 to Salzer Lumber Co. It does not say if the church was built during that year or the following year. **1903** They elected Johann Haag president. The expenses are incomplete. **1904** The expenses included money spent for paint and oil. **1907** The minister was paid \$117.30. They continued to hold school during the regular time. (It does not indicate how many weeks the school was held.) This school house was located on the south side of the church. **1914** These were the first minutes signed by Pastor Kaatz. **1917** They were having trouble with mice by the altar so they bought quarter round to cover up the holes, and they did some work on the foundation. They discussed building a barn with drop siding and enough space wide enough for two horses. Some of the members wanted to join the town people to form a congregation in Fredonia. They were discussing where to have school. **1918** The schoolhouse was moved to Fredonia. It was located on the north side of our present church. **1921** A discussion was held because one of the members would not pay his dues for the parochial school in Fredonia or for the pastor's salary so he was eliminated from the congregation. **1922** Otto Weispenning and Otto Tiede joined the congregation. The minutes usually mentioned when the congregation accepted new members. **1929** At a meeting in February they decided to meet with the Martin Luther congregation to discuss joining. They would sell all of their property. The income would go to the Martin Luther congregation. At a meeting in May a committee was assigned to dispose of the property. Families were given back the items that they donated. Regina Schultz in 1919 is included later in this book. (It is not recorded in the minutes, but the house was sold to Christian Wolf. He moved it north to a farm near Gene Rudolph's present farm. It was abandoned for many years and burned down during a small

prairie fire. Rachard Geiszler purchased the church.) The last members listed for the Johannes Church in 1929 were George Hehr, F.G. Wolf, Gotthilf Janke, Jacob Janke, Christ Weispfenning, Otto Weispfenning, Rudolph Schultz, Johann Weispfenning, Robert Hehr, Gottfried Schwietzer, Mrs. Dorothea Krueger, Ed Wolf, Mrs. Dorothea Geiszler, John H. Burkle, John Haag, Reinhold Eisenbeis, Christ Heidinger, Jacob Dalke, John Tiede, Ed Tiede. Summer School students attending from May 22 to July 14, 1917 included: Johannes, Albert, Otto and Emma Burkle; Anna and Gerhard Geiszler; Gottlieb and Anna Haag; Anna, Ida, Friedrich, and Herbert Hehr; Gustav, Arthur, and Olga Janke; Bertha, Pauline, Martha, Edwin, Reginald, Magdelon, and Arthur Krueger; Martha Stadler; Fritz, Edward, and Johann Schweier; Johannes Tiede; Robert, Edward, Gottfried, Hulda, Rudolf, and Richard Wolf; Leontine and Edward Sukut. Attendance was kept for these days. o—o **Pastors who have served our church:** Henry Nagel (1901-1907); G.G. Hanselman (1907-Spring of 1912); Samuel Nicolaiske (Fall of 1912-Winter of 1913); E. Kaatz (May of 1914-1916); C. Stadler (1916-1919); Conrade Baetke (Jan of 1920-July of 1923); John Schmitt (Fall of 1923-1933); Phillip Peter (June of 1935-July 28, 1940); Carl Braecker (Sept. Of 1941-1942); John G. Bunge (Dec 1, 1943-Oct. 1950 and 1951 {May to Oct.}); Reinholt Hintz (Oct of 1950-1951); Richard Schwarz (July 1952-Aug. 1953); Hans Senft (Jan. 1954-Feb. 28, 1957); Ernest Theilen (May 1957-Nov. 1959); Ray Heidtke (June 1960-March 1963); Russel Hunter (July 1963-April 1966); Lee Mentink (June 1966-Aug. 1967); Marvin Lapp (Jan. 3, 1968-Fall 1970); Larry Vigen (Sept. 1971-Aug. 1974); John Olson (Sept. 1974-June 1977); John Fick (June 1977-Feb. 1981); Tim Stoa (July 1981-Dec. 1983); Steven Rueckel (Sept. 1984-Feb. 1986); Gary Bertsch (Aug. 1986-Sept. 1992); Annette Crickenburger (Feb. 1994-July 8, 2001).

- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.53-54. In 1896 a group of people of German-Russian descent began holding worship services in various farm homes. The services were in the German language. In 1898, one acre of land was set aside for a cemetery. This is now known as the Martin Luther Lutheran Cemetery. Land was set aside for a church. The site of this church was 3 miles north of Fredonia on the west side of highway #56 across from the Lutheran cemetery. Gottlieb Janke, Friedrich Gieszler, and Friedrich Wolf signed the articles of incorporation from the state of North Dakota on July 3, 1901. According to the minutes the first officers elected were Johann Haag as president; George Hehr as treasurer; Christian Baltzer as secretary. The other active members were Christian Hehr, Gottlieb Janke, Friedrich, Johann, and Christian Wolf, Friedrich Munsch, Jacob and Karl Krueger, Johannes and George Weispfenning, Gottlieb Scarf, Adam Oelke, Michael Brost, Fredrich Tiede, Andreas Widmer, Johann and Christoph Gutschmidt, Andreas Kinzler, and Barbara Heller. A church, parsonage, windmill and barn were built. According to the minutes each member was assessed a yearly fee of \$14.00 per member for the minister's salary. The minister was instructed to charge \$5.00 for each marriage and \$2.00 for each confirmand. St. Johannes Church was a part of the Evangelische Lutherische Parochie or Christus Parish. The members of the parish changed at various times, but included St. Johannes; Jakobus-located about 11 miles north of Fredonia; Emmanuel-located NW of Fredonia; Trinity-located near Jud; Martin Luther; Paulus-of Lehr; and Peace-of Merricourt. Summer school students attending from May 22 to July 14, 1917 included Johannes, Albert, Otto and Emma Burkle; Anna and Gerhard Geiszler; Gottlieb and Anna Haag; Anna, Ida, Friedrich, and Herbert Hehr; Gustav, Arthur, and Olga Janke; Bertha, Pauline, Martha Stadler; Fritz, Edward, and Johann Schweier; Johannes Tiede; Robert, Edward, Gottfried, Hulda, Rudolf, and Richard Wolf; and Leontine and Edward Sukut. The church voted to close in 1929. The parsonage was sold to Christian Wolf. Richard Geiszler purchased the church building. The church school was moved to Fredonia.

55. Saint John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

- Location: Logan County, Janke Township, SW ¼ SW ¼ of **Sec 34-T134-R67**
- [Photo Available: Lo-Saint John Lutheran Church \[4131\]](#)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND - Centennial 1904-2004 - Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.54. This church began in the early 1930's when St. Johannes Church north of Fredonia closed. In 1934 they purchased the Friedenstal Congregational Church building for \$300.00 and moved it three miles north of Fredonia on the east side of Highway 56. It was located on the north side of the Lutheran cemetery. Worship services were held here from 1934 to 1952. There were about 25 to 30 families who were members. They were affiliated with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kulm. Johann Tiede's funeral in 1951 was one of the last funeral services known to be held at the church. The last Holy Communion and

church service was held on November 19, 1952 when eight members took communion. Some of the pastors who were known to have served the church include Pastor Wirth, Pastor Von Gemmingen, and Pastor Kuring. On November 3, 1961 this church was sold to Janke Township for \$220. They used it for a meeting and voting place as well as a township hall. In March of 1992 the members of Janke Township donated the church building to the Logan County Historical Society and in August of 1992 it was moved to the museum site in Napoleon. Here it is furnished and used as the Logan County Community Church. The cemetery list for this church can be found under Martin Luther Cemetery.

56. Salem Evangelical Church

- Location:
- See Napoleon – Evangelical United Brethren Church

57. Salem Lutheran Church

- See Napoleon – First Lutheran Church

58. Salem Lutheran Free Church

- See Napoleon – First Lutheran Church
- Community History Source: *Napoleon, ND – Centennial 1884-1994*, p.248. Many Scandinavians settled on their Homesteads northeast of Napoleon. They saw a need for a church, so in 1905 Salem Congregation had its beginning. A meeting was held in A.C. Mehl's home. Pastor B.P. Farness served as chairman. According to the records the following were charter members—Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Mehl, H.O. Karlsten, Mrs. Broberg, Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Peterson, Anders W. Anderson, August W. Anderson, Knud Vestad, Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Throolin, Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Arne L. Arneson, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Nelson, George Ristvedt, Christ Nord, John Johnson, Andrew Throolin. As time went on other who joined were: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Langager, Ole Kleppe, Mr. and Mrs. Christ Bolstad, Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. G.P. Nustad, Mrs. Anna Anderson, Mrs. Swen Dalberg, Mr. and Mrs. George Halverson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Logan, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Claus Carlson. A meeting held March 11th, 1912 showed George Bryant sold one acre of land for \$20 which was to be for the building site and graveyard. When the church was built Bryant promised that he would give the \$20 back. At present about 40 people are buried in this cemetery. As time went by most of the Scandinavians moved to other places and a church was not built. Services were held in schoolhouses until the congregation dissolved. Money which the congregation had accumulated went to the missions that had helped the church with money. The dream of a white church with a towering steeple never materialized. Some of the early pastors were Rev. B.P. Farness, Rev. Eric Tau, Rev. John Skonnard, Rev. James Falk, and Rev. Robert Falk. Yearly wages ranged from \$25 to \$50 a year.

59. Streeter Seventh-Day Adventist Church

- See Napoleon – Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- [Photo Available: Lo-Streeter Seventh-Day Adventist Church \[3945\]](#)

60. Sukut Baptist Church

- Location:
- See Lehr – Ebenezer Baptist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

61. Tabor Evangelical Church

- Location: Logan County, Lault Township SW ¼ of NW ¼ **Sec 15-T133-R68**
- Known as the "blech kirche" (Tin Church) – Source: *Lehr, ND – Centennial 1898-1998*, p.31
- See Zion United Methodist Church – Lehr (McIntosh County, ND)
- Community History Source: *Fredonia, ND – Centennial 1904-2004 – Fredonia Will Shine Once More In 2004*, p.54. This church was established in 1910. The building was erected at a cost of about \$1,000.00. The church was a frame building with the materials purchased at the Salzer Lumber Co. at Fredonia, ND. The interior of the church was furnished with kitchen chairs purchased at Kulm, ND, with a round cast iron stove and a rough altar. The original members were Gottlieb Jerke, John F. Krueger, Gottlieb Mund,

Gottlieb Fercho, Johann Presler, Ed Kosanke, Fred Ruff, Gottlieb Ruff, and William Schock families. The first minister was Rev. Adair of Lehr, ND. The church closed in 1948. The church building was sold to Wilbert Gutschmidt and was moved to his farm. Roger Gutschmidt now owns the farm and the church is still there. The church records were moved to the Kulm Evangelical Church where they were accidentally destroyed. The family members keep up the cemetery beautifully.

62. Worms Congregational Church

- Location:
- Church Records (Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Death, Cemetery 1916-1929) are kept in the safe of Wishek – United Church of Christ & also filed with Germans from Russia Heritage Society in Bismarck, ND. [Information provided by Tammy Toepke-Floyd, P.O. Box 245 Wishek, ND 58495]

63. Zion Evangelical Church

- Location: Near Lehr
- See Lehr – Zion United Methodist Church (McIntosh County, ND)

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