

NANNESTAD CHURCH AND CEMETERY
Researched and written by Rachel Loven – May 2012



Nannestad – Nannestad (Hauge) Church was organized in 1879 on this site, but is no longer there. First burial (Andrus Rustad) was in 1870 on the Iver Stene farm, with later burials at this site. Section 14, Arctander Twp., Kandiyohi County, MN.

The first organization of the Hauge Synod church at Norway Lake was named Urland. Iver G. Stene, who settled here in 1867, was the first adherent to the Hauge's Synod organization in the county. He worked earnestly for the establishment of such a church, sparing neither time nor means. He went to Fillmore county and brought Lars O. Rustad, the pioneer Hauge's Synod pastor in the country, and his family, coming with them from St. Cloud.

The first cemetery was laid out on Mr. Stene's farm on lot 2 of section 19 and the first grave was that of Andreas J. Rustad, who died in 1870. The early records of the church cannot be found. The name Urland was from the native place of Mr. Stene. The early church included members of the Hauge's denomination who lived in Dovre and Green Lake townships, where later churches were organized. The first meeting of which a record can be found was held at Norway Lake, May 23, 1876. This was no doubt a reorganization, as the name had been changed to Nannestad. This was no doubt a reorganization, as the name had been changed to Nannestad. This change was made owing to the fact that a majority of the members hailed from Nannestad in Norway. At this meeting . Janson was elected chairman; C. Hendrickson, secretary; Arne Erickson, E.O. Otterness and Ole Slattum, trustees: Christian Larson, "forstander" (deacon) at Norway Lake and Ole Tho0mpson at Eagle Lake; Ole Slattum, cantor.

The question of building a church was discussed and two locations were proposed, one near Norway Lake and one near Eagle Lake. It was resolved by a vote of 14 to 2 to select a site for church and cemetery on I. G. Stene's land and to build a church 30'x40', particulars to be discussed later. Another location for the cemetery was determined on I.G. Stene's land in section 18 and several graves were made there.

At a meeting held January 8, 1877, it was resolved to have two months of parochial school, three weeks

of which was to be held near Eagle lake. The churchyard question was discussed and Ole Slattum and Arne Peterson were appointed a committee to get a deed from Stene for the land.

The question of building a church had to be postponed, the grasshopper devastation having made it impossible to raise funds.

At a meeting held at the home of Paul Christopherson in town of Lake Andrew on March 27, 1877, the congregation took steps to legally incorporate, under the name of "Nannestads Congregation at Norway Lake, Kandiyohi County, Minn., of Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod."

On Jan. 5, 1878, all previous actions in regard to sites were reconsidered and it was resolved to buy one acre from Ole Slattum. On Feb. 2, 1878, it was resolved to fence the churchyard and appropriate \$60 for purchasing and erecting a monument for "our late pastor, Lars O. Rustad," who died Jan 1, 1878.

On Nov. 29, 1870, it was resolved to build a church on the east side of section 14, town of Arctander, the church to be 24'x32', 12 ft. high. The work was done by members of the congregation, those who could not do carpenter work doing work at the homes of the workers on the church to reimburse them. The cemetery was laid out near the church and the following year the fence around the old cemetery was moved to the new location. The debt incurred for material for the church was all paid by the end of 1886.

In 1890 the following persons with their families were listed as members of the church: B.O. Otterness, H. C. Christenson, Gunder Pederson, C.O. Rustad, Gust Lindgren, C.J. Rustad, M.A. Mostue, Ole L. Slattum, Lars A. Mostue, Urjanus Iverson, Mrs. Karen N. Stenseth, Mrs. Anna Sjogodt.

The only reference to Lars O. Rustad as pastor of the church is in the appropriation for his gravestone. The first reference to a pastor called by the congregation is in the minutes of a meeting on May 4, 1878, when Rev. J. Halvorson was called to give occasional services at \$10 for each visit. On May 3, 1879, a call was issued to Rev. Karl C. Holter, who accepted and became the resident pastor of the church. Rev. Holter resigned in 1887, but continued to conduct occasional services for the next two years. In 1889, Rev. T.J. Oppedahl was called as pastor and he took charge of the congregation in June the following year. Oppedahl resigned Nov. 2, 1892, and the church was without a pastor until Rev. Be. Reitan took charge in 1894. Rev. Reitan resigned June 21, 1898 and was followed by Rev. Simon Hanson, who took charge in 1900 and served till the end of the year 1902. Rev. J.S. Halvorson was called as his successor and took charge on June 1, 1903.

Since the organization of Bethania and Green Lake congregations of the Hauge Synod, Nannestad has been part of a charge composed of those three congregations.

The following served as officials of the church:

"Formand" —C. Janson, 1876; B. Otterness, 1887; U. Iverson, 1889; O.L. Slattum, 1891; C.H. Engen, 1897; O.L. Slattum, 1900. The records do not mention any election for this office in any other years.

Secretaries—C. Hendrickson, 1876; O.L. Slattum, 1882; N.N. Stenseth, 1885; A.P. Mostue, 1886; B.O. Otterness, 1889; E.A. Mostue, 1891; J. S. Christenson, 1892; E. A. Mostue, 1893; B.O. Otterness,

1894; Lars Mostue, 1895; J.S. Christenson, 1897 to date (1905.)

Treasurers —Hans C. Olson, 1876; Paul Christopherson, 1877; Hans C. Harstad, 1878; A.P. Mostue, 1879; Amund Pederson, 1881; Chr. O. Rustad, 1883; M.A. Mostue, 1884; U. Iverson, 1887; C.J. Rustad, 1891; M.A. Mostue, 1892; B.O. Otterness, 1893 to date (1905.)

Trustees—1st Organization: I.G. Stene, N. Stenseth and C.L. Sjogodt. 2nd Organization: Arne Erikson 1876, 2 yrs.; E.O. Otterness, 1876; Ole Slattum 1876, 2 yrs.; Paul Christopherson 1877; Karelius Hendrickson 1878, 3 yrs.; Hans C. Olson, 1878, 4 yrs.; A.Pederson 1878; Ch. L. Sjogodt 1879, 4 yrs.; O.B. Otterson 1882, 3 yrs.; Amund Pederson 1881; Otto C. Holter 1882, 5 yrs.; K.C. Holter 1883, 3 yrs.; U. Iverson 1885, 4 yrs.; H.C. Holter 1886, 3 yrs.; C.J. Rustad 1887, 4 yrs.; O. Slattum 1889, 2 yrs.; B. O. Ottersness 1889, 3 yrs.; August Lindgren 1891, 3 yrs.; G. Pederson 1891, 2 yrs.; C.O. Rustad 1892, 3 yrs.; Gunder Pederson 1894 to date (1905); Christopher Engen 1895, 3 yrs.; H. C. Harstad 1896, 6 yrs.; C.P. Thori 1898 to date (1905); C.J. Rustad 1902 to date (1905).

Deacons—The following persons have served one or more terms, but the records are not clear enough to determine the exact time of service of each one:

Christian Larson, Chr. L. Sjogodt, H.Christenson, O.B. Otterness, Johannes Moe, Johannes Quam, O.L. Slattum, Ole Thompson, C.Hendrickson, A. Pederson, H. C. Holter, C. J. Rustad, B. O. Otterness, M.C. Holter, Johannes Engen, Ole Pederson, and A.P. Mostue.

The ministerial records show that the first child baptized in the church was Carl Ludvig Rustad. The total number of children baptized is 109 up to the fall of 1903. The members of the 1st confirmation class (Oct. 1871) were Gabriel Stene, C.C. Holter, Adolph Jacobson, L.A. Mostue and Sigrid A. Jorgenson. The total number confirmed is 83. The first person buried in the present church cemetery was Anne P. Mostue. Before there had been no less than 3 cemeteries laid out—2 on Stene's land and one on Slattum's, and a number of the graves have been removed to the cemetery by the church, including that of the pioneer Pastor, Lars O. Rustad.

NANNESTAD CHURCH and CEMETERY – Kanidyohi County, Minnesota

Researched and written by Marvin A. Hauge, Willmar on Feb. 15, 1994

The Nannestad Church was first organized as the Urland Church. An 1867 settler named Iver G. Stene was the first Hauge Synod adherent in the county and worked earnestly to establish that church which was named Nannestad because most of the members (including from Dovre and Green Lake townships) came from Nannestad in Norway. The church was organized in 1870.

Decision to build the church building was made on Nov. 29, 1879. It was to be 24' x 32' by 12 ft. high. Debt was all paid by the end of 1886.

Church members with families were:

B.O. Otterness,	H.C. Christenson,	Gunder Pederson,
C.O. Rustad,	Gust Lindgren,	C.J. Rustad,
M.A. Mostue,	Ole L. Slattuson,	Lars A. Mostue,
Urians Iverson,	Mrs. Karen N. Stenseth	Mrs. Anna Sjogodt.

First child baptized was Carl Ludvig Rustad.

First Pastor was Rev. J. Halvorson at \$10 for each visit.

First confirmation class in 1871 included: Gabriel Stene, C.C. Holter, Alolph Jacobson, L.A. Mostue and Sigrid A. Jorgenson.

The last year the church was used by the original Hauge Synod was in 1912. It was later used by Church of God members. The original Hauge Synod members had joined other churches in the area.

Church of God members discontinued use of the church building in 1942 after the organization disbanded. Most of the membership joined the Church of God congregation in Willmar, MN. A cemetery association was formed that same year for perpetual care of the cemetery. The vacated church structure was sold to Oscar Skindeliien of Sunburg, MN, who razed it for lumber salvage in 1946.

Sources:

1905 Kandiyohi County History Book.

On-line data bases for births and deaths.

Materials written by Marvin A. Hauge, Willmar on Feb. 15, 1994.

Materials researched and written by Bruce A. Hitman and Andreas Jordahl Rhude.

NANNESTAD CEMETERY – KANDIYOHI COUNTY, MINNESOTA

November 1992

Romerikeg News

The Nannestad Hauges norsk evangelisk lutherske menighet of the Hauge synod was organised in 1870 in Section 14, Arctander Township, in north-western Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. In 1878 a group split off from the congregation and formed Bethania congregation. The first burial was of Andrus Rustad in 1870 on the Iver Stene farm. The cemetery is approximately nine miles north of Pennock on highway #1 on the west side of the road. It is about 1 mile west of East Lutheran Church of Norway Lake (the church where lunch was served on the recent stevne tour.) Following is a list of burials in the cemetery as compiled by Bruce A. Hitman and Edited by Andreas Jordahl Rhude.

The names and dates were put into a computerized data base by Rachel Loven and printed later in this report.