

Jim and Norma Swanson

Family Endowment

Jim and Norma are life-long North Dakota residents. They both graduated from the Benson County Agricultural and Training School (BCATS) at Maddock, were married at North Viking Lutheran Church in Maddock, then moved to Minot, where Jim received a BS degree at Minot State Teacher's College. Afterward, he taught music in Maddock-area and other public schools for nine years. Jim and Norma eventually began farming full-time near their hometown in Benson County, ND, and became active in local and regional music activities, including church choirs, community musicals, the Rugby Chamber Chorale, and sacred cantatas, which Jim directed. Both were also active volunteers for local, regional, and state organizations and served in related leadership positions.

Norma received an Associate degree from Lake Region Community College in 2000, and shortly thereafter they moved to Fargo, where Jim became the Director of Regulatory Services for the North Dakota State Seed Department, and Norma became the office manager at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN, each holding their respective positions until retirement. Their musical activities continued into retirement with church choirs, Jim singing in the Fargo-Moorhead Master Chorale, and Norma singing with the Fargo-Moorhead Noteables Women's Chorus.

The Swansons back to their hometown of Maddock in 2020, and remain active in church and community activities. Their three grown children—Lisa Swanson Faleide, David Swanson, and Kaaren Swanson Duren—all of whom received Associate degrees from

Lake Region Community College. Their daughter-in-law, Denise Olson Swanson, also attended Lake Region, completing the Secretarial Bookkeeping Program, and their son-in-law, Lanny Faleide, was involved in helping develop the Lake Region Precision Ag program, where he continues to serve on the board. His and Lisa's company, SatShot, was involved as a partnering business in Lake Region's Center for Excellence Grant, and they credit it for helping



advance the company's success and longevity. The members of the Swanson family are grateful for the work and accessibility of Lake Region State College, which enabled all of them to further their educations and/or find meaningful work in the area. In addition to their children, their nine grandchildren and their extended families all currently live in North Dakota. The family is thankful they could establish this scholarship endowment so that others may have the same opportunities afforded to them.