

## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Friends of Jessenland Acquire Historic Church Building for New Historical and Cultural Center**

Henderson MN, [August 2024] — Friends of Jessenland, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of the Minnesota River Valley area, is thrilled to announce the acquisition of the historic Jessenland church building. This significant purchase marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the community as the building is set to be repurposed into a historical and cultural center.

The historic church, which dates back to 1870, has long been a landmark in Jessenland, representing the architectural beauty and cultural significance of the area. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the nucleus of the first Irish settlement in Minnesota. Friends of Jessenland recognized the potential of this iconic structure to serve as a hub for historical preservation, cultural activities, and community engagement.

#### **Vision for the Jessenland Historical and Cultural Center**

The newly acquired building will undergo careful restoration and renovation to preserve its historical integrity while adapting it to serve the community's current needs. The vision for the center includes:

- **Exhibitions and Displays:** Showcasing the rich history of Jessenland and its surrounding areas through permanent and rotating exhibits.
- **Cultural Events:** Hosting lectures, workshops, and performances that celebrate local culture and heritage.
- **Community Space:** Providing a gathering place for residents and visitors to engage in educational and cultural activities.
- **Research and Archives:** Establishing a resource center for historians, genealogists, and researchers interested in the area's history.

#### **Community Involvement and Support**

Friends of Jessenland invite community members, local businesses, and history enthusiasts to support this transformative project. The organization will be launching a series of fundraising initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and partnership programs to ensure the success of the new historical and cultural center.

"We are deeply grateful for the support we've received so far and are excited to embark on this journey with the community," said Wendy Driscoll, Vice President of Friends of Jessenland. "This center will not only preserve our past but also inspire future generations to appreciate and engage with our rich cultural heritage."

### **About Friends of Jessenland**

Friends of Jessenland is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to preserving and promoting the history and culture of Jessenland. Through various programs, events, and initiatives, the organization aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the area's heritage. The Friends of Jessenland are accepting tax deductible donations to help fund the repurpose and operation of the building. Donations can be mailed to PO Box 234 Henderson MN 56044 or online at [www.jessenland.org](http://www.jessenland.org)

### **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact:

Friends of Jessenland

[friendsofjessenland@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjessenland@gmail.com)

<https://www.jessenland.org/>

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For further updates and information on how to donate and how get involved, please visit [www.jessenland.org](http://www.jessenland.org) and follow us on Facebook