

## The Road Not Taken

By John Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*



*Michael Paul Jirak*

May 15, 1976 - May 15, 2019

**M**ichael was born in Breckenridge, MN, on May 15, 1976. He grew up and attended school in Breckenridge and later graduated from Breckenridge High School in 1994. After graduating, he worked alongside his family on the farm and also worked for a custom combiner. On April 12, 2003, Michael was united in marriage to Dawn Hoffman at United Methodist Church in Breckenridge. They were blessed with their firstborn, Paul Michael, and made their home in Breckenridge and four years later, their daughter, Michae Renae, completed their family.

Michael always had the unique ability to create an opportunity out of any curveball life threw at him. This mindset helped launch him from the devastating accident that resulted in the loss of his arm to pursuing a degree in business management and marketing. Charisma, dedication, and his dream to own and operate his own business drove him to excel at North Dakota State College of Science's DECA program. His hard work was reflected in his businesses, Jirak Construction, and P.J's Lawn Care.

Michael had a zest for life. Spontaneous adventures with Dawn and the kids were his passion. Michael enjoyed watching Paul play basketball and ride on their snowmobiles. He spent time gardening with Michae, flipping through the American Girl catalogue, and adored watching her dance. Michael enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, bonfires, great concerts...and getting the last word!

Michael will be missed by his loving wife, Dawn Jirak of Breckenridge; children, Paul and Michae Jirak; parents, Tom and Cindy Jirak of Breckenridge; brother, Rob (Emily) Jirak of Breckenridge and their children, Mercedes and Greta; sister, Danielle (Mike) Hager of Walcott, ND, and their son, Rylie and baby due in September; grandparents, James Paul (Cheryl) Joseph of West Tawakoni, TX; several aunts, uncles, cousins, family, and friends; and life-long friend, Jake Caspers.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Sue Joseph; paternal grandparents, Jim and Marlene Jirak; and two dear friends, Josh Meyer and Billy LeNoue.

*Celebrating*  
T H E L I F E O F  
*Michael Paul Jirak*

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Born: May 15, 1976 ~ Breckenridge, Minnesota  
Died: May 15, 2019 ~ Breckenridge, Minnesota

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

Breckenridge United Methodist Church  
Breckenridge, Minnesota  
11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 21, 2019

**PARTICIPANTS**

Pastor Mark Gronseth, officiant & pianist  
Mike Holtz, vocalist

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

All who called him "friend"

**PALLBEARERS**

Jake Caspers ~ Joey Young ~ Johnny Carlson  
Skip Pederson ~ Jimmy Young ~ Rob Thomas

**MUSIC**

My Way ~ Babe ~ On Eagle's Wings ~ That's Life

**INTERMENT**

Riverside Cemetery ~ Breckenridge, Minnesota