

Program and History

62nd Anniversary of the Congregation and
50th Anniversary of the Church Building

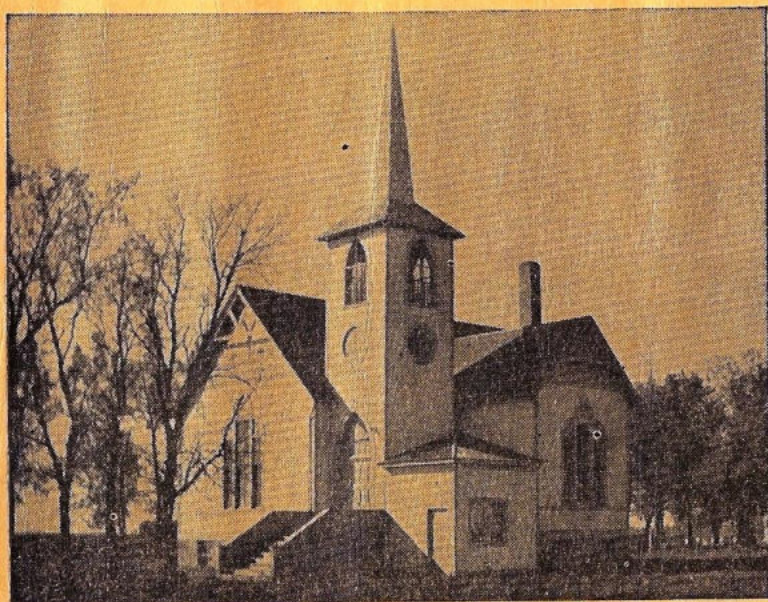
Grue Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Buxton, North Dakota

1879
1891

-

1941



Pastor, Rev. Karl Stromme

Deacons—

Amund Botten
L. P. Haugen
(Appointed)

Secretary—

Ellef Ingwalson

Mission Leader—

James Nesvig

Trustees—

Mancur Olson
Louis Mickelson
Carl E. Knutson

Treasurer and Sexton—

L. C. Odegard

Organist—

Mrs. Ellef Ingwalson

HISTORY

Going back to the year 1879 we find that a meeting was called at the home of Knut Rauk March 17. At this meeting a congregation was organized under the name of Grue Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The 63 charter members according to record were the following: Hans Erickson, Karilius Johnson, Bernt Johnson, Johanes Odegard, Elling Ellingson, A. T. Sannes, Ole B. Haugen, Martin Broderson, John B. Hall, Helge Reiergaard, Mrs. Martha Bentrud, Swen Kvammen, Gjert Gunderson, Christian Johnson, Hans Pederson, John I. Lerum, Christian Hanson, Erik Ingvalson, Ole K. Rauk, Amund Erickson, Arne Erikson, Broder Broderson, George Broderson, Swen Knutson, Peder A. Haugen, Bredde A. Haugen, Christian L. Odegard, Ingvald E. Ingvaldson, Halvor Hanson, Jacob E. Fevold, Gutrom B. Jacobson, Hans Thompson, T. H. Thompson, Christian H. Thompson, Sten I. Sondreall, Martin C. Wong, Louis Thompson, Peter Cole, Iver Lerom, Ole Davis, Ole Nettum, Martin O. Vang, Mrs. Sever Brokke, Jens K. Braaten, Ole O. Rensland, T. B. Hogstad, Knut O. Rensland, E. O. Myrland, Grunde T. Klepp, Ole O. Engen, Halvor Thompson, Berge Johnson, Axel B. Haugen, Knut Knudson Loike, Ole Vettern, Kittel Lillegard, Hendrick Hendrickson, Knudt Heggard, Nils B. Haugen, Theodore T. Landa, Lars Olson, Ole T. Reinestad, K. J. Nomland.

The first pastor to serve this congregation was Rev. O. H. Bostad. He served from the year 1879 to August 8, 1880. During this pastor's administration the services were held in various homes and school houses.

The next pastor to serve the congregation was Rev. Christian Saugstad, serving from 1880 to 1889. During this pastor's administration two societies were organized, the Esther Ladies Aid at the home of Ole Nettum and a Mission Society on November 15, 1889, at the home of Hans Erickson. The purpose of this mission society was to support an elder and teacher in the Madagascar Mission, and not once in fifty-two consecutive years has the organization failed to contribute its sixty dollars that it pledged to pay.

Rev. Gustav Oftedahl took charge of this congregation in 1889 and served until June, 1902. The congregation at this time covered a large territory, from the railroad to the river. In those days the farmers bundled their families into horse-drawn vehicles and drove long distances, sometimes ten to twelve miles to services, and others came on foot. Memories of those days are yet dear to those who are here to recollect them.

On December 10, 1890, a meeting of the congregation was held in the school house near Martin C. Wang's. At this meeting a sum of \$1120.00 was subscribed for the new church that was to be built the next summer. A building committee was elected which included John Lerom as chairman, Hans Erikson, secretary, and G. B. Jacobson, Hans Pederson and T. H. Thompson. The Grue Church was then built in the fall of 1891 at a cost of approximately \$3,000. The Grue Cemetery was also established that year, and a more beautiful spot of nature could not have been found anywhere for their loved ones to rest. Both church and cemetery are bounded on three sides, west, north and east, by the Buffalo Coulee, leaving a large, high and well drained cemetery and church yard. The early pioneer settlers of those days must have felt a pride of ownership in this their house of worship and in their prayers voiced a hope that their work would go on. That the coming generations would provide for and keep the church and cemetery that they so faithfully built. And this the present generation has tried to do for many visitors have proclaimed the Grue Church and Cemetery to be one of the finest in this rural community.

During Rev. Oftedahl's time the neighboring churches, St. Oluf, Reynolds and Buxton, were erected and the Grue Church together with these formed a charge. Some time later some of our charter members organized the Ringsaker Congregation.

Rev. O. T. Nelson served the congregation from October 1, 1902, until 1905.

Rev. T. J. Gronningen was our pastor from October, 1906, until March 13, 1921. During these 16 years the work progressed with the general development of the community. Services were

regularly conducted and well attended. Sunday School was in progress and a choir was active.

Rev. H. A. B. Winther served from March 21 to November 20, 1921. During a vacancy of about a half year the congregation was served by Rev. Nils Halvorson.

Rev. Ludvig Pederson served the congregation from June, 1922, until July 24, 1927, and then gave up some of his work because of poor health.

October 1, 1927, Rev. C. J. Christianson took charge and served until the summer of 1936. At this time a basement was constructed under the church and was dedicated September 25, 1932. In the cornerstone a copper vault was placed, containing the following articles: constitution of the church, articles of incorporation, history of church and ladies aids, a Bible and hymn book and a register of all people present at the dedication services.

The present pastor, Rev. Karl Stromme, took up the work in the fall of 1936 and revived the interest of our congregation, helping to organize the Young Peoples' Society which is still active, particularly in the summer. This work is carried on together with the Hyllestad and Ringsaker Congregations. The Parochial instruction of the children is also carried on together with the above mentioned churches.

So far there have been 399 baptisms, 288 confirmants, 38 weddings and 145 burials of which 130 are buried in this cemetery.

Various Organizations of Grue Congregation

Esther Ladies Aid was organized July 8, 1887. The officers and charter members were as follows: President, Mrs. Ole Netum; Secretary, Mrs. Martin Anderson; Treasurer, Mrs. John Odegard, and the following members: Cathrina Broderson, Mrs. Hans Pederson, Mrs. F. Danielson, Mrs. Anna M. Broderson, Mrs. Hans Erickson, Mrs. John Lerom, Mrs. Ole Davis, Mrs. C. Johnson, Mrs. M. O. Vang, Mrs. John Larson, Mrs. K. Johnson, Miss H. Thompson, Mrs. Ingvald Ingvaldson, Mrs. Axel Haugen, Mrs. Martin C. Vang, Mrs. Gutorm Jacobson, Mrs. Ole Haugen, Mrs. Sigrid Thompson, Mrs. Erik Ingvaldson and Mrs. Nils Haugen.

Each meeting was spent at needlework and a sum of 10 cents was paid. The first auction sale was held at J. Odegard's and netted \$112.81. July 29, 1892, the name of Esther Ladies Aid was changed to Grue Ladies Aid.

The Grue Pigeforening was organized July 23, 1903, and devoted its efforts to the China Mission and was active 15 years. Its first officers were: President, Laura Odegard; Vice President, Clara Jacobson; Secretary, Sophia Nettum; Treasurer, Bertha Olson, and had 37 other members.

The present Grue Ladies Aid was organized January 22, 1922, with the following officers: President, Mrs. Martha Olson; Vice President, Mrs. L. C. Odegard; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Ellef Ingvalson. This organization has financed the building of the basement and its equipment, the modern lighting system which is now served by the REA, the redecorating of the church interior and various other deeds, including yearly gifts to the mission. Its present officers are: President, Mrs. Mancur Olson; Vice President, Mrs. James Nesvig; Secretary, Mrs. Ellef Ingvalson; Treasurer, Ruth Mickelson.

The Mission Society, organized November 15, 1889, elected Ole Nettum as its first leader. Others elected through the various years were Hans Pederson, John Sandvig, Borre Mickelson and James Nesvig.

The first Church Choir was organized in 1892 by Mina Ingvaldson who was organist for three years. This choir purchased our organ. Its personnel was: Sopranos, Minda and Lena Erickson, Julia Johnson and Annie Pederson; Altos, Theoline and Claudia Ingvaldson and Jennie Pederson; Tenors, Hildus Erickson, George Faleide and Louis Odegard; Basses, Emil Erickson, John Ingvaldson, Martin Johnson and Eddie Odegard. The following organists took charge of the choirs, each in their turn: Theoline Ingvaldson, 1 year; Minda Erickson, 12 years; Eline Ingvalson, 5 years; Josephine Bredeson, 1 year; Hattie Erickson, 2 years; Inger Lerom, 1 year; Ida Ingvalson, 2 years; Josephine Sandvig, 9 years; Sophia Sandvig, 2 years; Esther Botten, 1 year and Mrs. Ellef Ingvalson, 10 years.

A Young People's Society organized by Zina Fladeland, was active for a few years, 1928, 1929, 1930, and this organization purchased the piano which is now in use.

Program Features

SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 1941

11:00 A. M.

Divine Services - Rev. L. Olson, Climax, Minn.
Altar Service - - - Rev. Karl Stromme
Special Singing
Dinner—12:30 P. M.

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

2:30 P. M.

Prelude - - - Ardis Ingwalson
Solo - - - Methune Faleide
Festive Sermon - - - Rev. Karl Stromme
Solo - - - Myrtle Pederson
Songs - - - Ladies' Chorus of Buxton
Remarks and Greetings Visiting and Neighboring Pastors
Solo - - - Ardis Hovland

PROGRAM AND SOCIAL HOUR—7:30 P. M.

Prelude - - - Ardis Ingwalson
Song - - - Male Quartette
Song - - - Johnson Sisters
Solo - - - Methune Faleide
Musical Reading - - - Harriet Lerom
Piano Solo - - - Gertrude Hultstrum
Song - - - Male Quartette
Reunion of Confirmants

CONFIRMANTS

D—Deceased

U—Unknown

Johanna (Pederson) Ericksmoen
Gjertrude Clauson—U

SEPTEMBER 14, 1879

Syvvert Anderson—D
Berthea Christianson—U
Haakon Pederson—D

OCTOBER 16, 1881

Ben E. Ingvaldson—D
Anne (Erickson) Myhre

NOVEMBER 5, 1882

Ingebret Kvammen—D
Bernt Hanson—U
Lars Hanson Hovind—D
Nils B. Haugen—D
Ole E. Ingvaldson—D

SEPTEMBER 23, 1883

Amund Erickson—D
Marie (Ingvaldson) Anderson—D
Kari Olson—D

NOVEMBER 2, 1884

Ole Syvertson—U
Pauline (Pederson) Mikkelson—D
Marie Anderson—U

NOVEMBER 1, 1885

Erick Erickson—D
Louis G. Gunderson—D
Henry Gunderson—D
Sina Maria (Hanson) Sandvig
Christe Syverson—U
Kari Olson—U
Lena Syverinson—U
Karoline Hanson—U

NOVEMBER 28, 1886

Johannes E. Ingvaldson—D
Marius Larson
Arne Hildus Pederson—D
Bertha (Solberg) Sandvig—D
Josephine Larson—D

NOVEMBER 20, 1887

Johannes T. Hong—D
Mina Hanson—U
Randina (Thompson) Swenson
Anne Marie (Vang) Paulson
Serine Peterson—U
Marie (Braaten) Johnson—D

NOVEMBER 4, 1888

Albert Vang
Bernt Swenson—U
Louise Holen—U
Ingeborg Klepp—U

NOVEMBER 9, 1890

Tobias T. Hong—U
Emil Erickson
Minda P. (Erickson) Hammer
Tilda (Hovet) Lokken—D
Peder Olson—D
Carl Braaten
Nils Braaten
Ida (Knutson) Redwing—D
Anne (Pederson) Borreson—D
Karen (Larson) Lerom
Gunda Jorgenson—U

NOVEMBER 22, 1891

Torgrim Klepp—U
Andreas Borloug
Karl Johnson
Tollef Hovet—D
John Knutson—D
Louis Odegard
Inga Gunderson—U
Karvlina (Erickson) Faleide—D
Anna Marie (Rauk) Mickels

OCTOBER 30, 1892

Ole Olson—D
Edvin Vang
Martin Johnson
Theoline (Ingvaldson) O'Neil
Emca (Johnson) Stalsberg
Ella (Pederson) Anderson
Margaret (Vettern) Peterson
Mathilda (Wong) Hovland—D
Ida Lerom
Klara (Rauk) Lindley
Lena Breiland
Karina Swendson Augenseth—D

OCTOBER 22, 1893

Daniel Jore—D
Knut Hovet—D
Eddie Odegard—D
Anne Haugen—D
Hildus Erickson—D
Henry Oliver Odegard
Jenny (Odegard) Sorlie—D

OCTOBER 28, 1894

Haakon Thompson—U
Claudia (Ingvaldson) Jelsett
Minnie (Wong) Gorden
Julia (Johnson) Parker

OCTOBER 6, 1895

Clara (Odegard) Knutson
Berge Breiland
Julius Johnson

Martin Erickson—D
Bertha Braaten—D
Inger Lerom—D
Laura (Odegard) Frasier
Annie Broderson
Annie Katrina (Broderson) Bartel-
son—D
Louis Pederson—D

SEPTEMBER 12, 1896

Julia Gerhardina Johnson—D
George Broderson—D
Martin Broderson
Anna (Bredeson) Mork
George Wong
Anna Fevold
Julius Erickson
Margaret (Haugen) Lind

OCTOBER 3, 1897

Nils Fevold
Bertha Lerom
Annie Odegard
Carl Odegard
Eline Ingvalson
Ella (Johnson) Thingelstad
Laura (Bredeson) Swenson
Bertha Fevold
Annie Johnson—D
Otto Ronning

SEPTEMBER 18, 1898

Christina (Broderson) Bentru—D
Laura (Erickson) Sollum—D
Gena (Hesgard) Nye—D
Emil Odegard
Ellef Ingvalson
Hattie Lerom
Stella (Wong) Benson
Jennie Odegard
Josephine (Jacobson) Brokke—D

SEPTEMBER 24, 1899

Bennie Johnson—D
Ellen Fevold—D
Melvin Ingvalson—D
Bertha (Olson) Claebøe—D

MAY 24, 1900

Nellie (Hesgard) Hanson
Sophie (Nettum) Bjørge—D

JUNE 30, 1901

Edward Erickson
George Odegard
Johannas Breiland
Clara (Jacobson) Knutson—D
Betsy (Bredeson) Deal
Dazey (Wong) Carlile
Jessie Fevold

MAY 11, 1902

Paul Ronistad—D
John Johnson—D

Annie (Erickson) Engen
John Lerom
Martin Nettum
Oliver C. Odegard
Klara (Olson) Rystad
Arthur Jacobson—D
John Odegard

OCTOBER 11, 1903

Julian Nomland—D
Arthur Erickson
George Lerom
Inga (Johnson) Carlile—D
Anna (Odegard) Creimaa
Nora (Jacobson) Lampland
Lizzie (Paulson) Hovland

OCTOBER 2, 1904

Annie Olida (Olson) Hagelle
Julia Hendrickson
Mina (Haugen) Johnson—D
Henry Johnson

JUNE 18, 1905

Arthur Ingvalson
Oscar Lerom
Mina Johnson—D
Clara (Erickson) Peterson—D
Josephine (Bredeson) Nesvig
Emma (Johnson) Nash

DECEMBER 2, 1906

Alfred Erickson
Mable Wong
Oscar Odegard
Ida (Ingvalson) Young
Malvin Jacobson—D
Clara Sveen
Ida Rosine Haugen—U
Louise (Odegard) Lebacken

NOVEMBER 24, 1907

Nora (Haugen) Bronken—D
Nettie Haugen
Nellie (Botten) Peterson
Lena (Sannes) Christianson
Laura (Olson) Davis—D
Laura (Breiland) Asheim
Oscar Johnson—D
Knut Knutson
John Knutson—D

APRIL 8, 1909

Hattie (Olson) Johnson
Georgina Jacobson—D
Olga (Nettum) Austin
Della (Odegard) Strandvold
Clifford Erickson
Bennie Oliver Johnson
Theo. Wong
Nellie (Hendrickson) Heath

DECEMBER 12, 1909

Hansina Sveen
Mabel (Haugen) Rambeck
Hilda Botten
Borghild (Haugen) Saure
Hattie (Erickson) Grodahl
Ferdinand Johnson

NOVEMBER 26, 1911

Lottie (Haugen) Mackey—D
Alma (Nettum) Semiet
Minnie (Olson) King
Bertha (Mickelson) Ebbeson

DECEMBER 10, 1911

Mabel (Odegard) Smart

NOVEMBER, 1912

Lyda Johnson
Olga (Jacobson) Olson
Olaf Isakson

NOVEMBER 21, 1912

Ole Olson

OCTOBER 26, 1913

Ralph Erickson
Louis Mikkelson
Clifford Broderson
Martha (Johnson) Hovden
Alma (Haugen) Vennesland
Laura (Eken) Hovet
Oliver Dahl—D
Hildor Leen—U
Thelma (Havet) Brokke

OCTOBER, 1915

Clifford Knutson

DECEMBER 3, 1916

Gena (Knutson) Hovet
Myrtle (Haugen) Leathers
Josephine Sandvig
Myrtle Hammer—D
Thomas Havet
Herman Mikkelson

MARCH 17, 1918

Mancur Olson
Lillian (Johnson) MacFadden

DECEMBER 8, 1918

Martha (Anderson) Olson
Sophia (Sandvig) Jenson
Esther (Haugen) Leathers
Esther Botten
Norris Knutson
Ebba (Olson) Sorbo
Carl Olson
Arthur Anderson

AUGUST 15, 1920

Malvin Mikkelson

AUGUST, 1921

Charlotte (Olson) Espelle
Berthina (Knutson) Brown
Bessie (Fladeland) Tardiff
Ruth Mickelson

NOVEMBER 19, 1922

Orlando Odegard
Ernest Odegard
Johnny Knutson

NOVEMBER 23, 1924

Haakon Mikkelson
Inga (Fladeland) Sullivan
Viola (Odegard) Olson
Evelyn Botten
Oscar Danielson

AUGUST 28, 1927

Leonard Haugen
Agnes Botten
Thelma Fladeland
Lena Fladeland—D
Howard Nettum
Clifton Odegard
Leonard Johnson

JULY 7, 1929

Evelyn (Sveen) Havet
Margaret Heath—D
Berthie (Carlile) Charbonneau
Myrtle (Nettum) Brokke
Arvid Nettum

JULY, 1930

Rita Nesvig
Lynn Nettum

JUNE 20, 1932

Lucille (Mohn) Fossum
Celeste (Mohn) Nettum
Janet (Nesvig) Lerom

OCTOBER 22, 1933

Norma Peterson
Ione Erickson—D

AUGUST 5, 1934

Marion (Ingwalsen) Johnson
Leroy Nettum
Delores (Nettum) Gunderson
Harold Heath
Viola (Erickson) Peterson
Lynn Nesvig

JUNE 30, 1935

Ivah (Ingwalson) Hanson
Ethelyn Peterson
Ardith Mohn
Alwyn Westberg

MAY 30, 1937

Ardis Ingwalson
Yvonne Nesvig
Shirley Amundson

JUNE 19, 1938

Vance Nettum
Vernon Nettum
Harold Ertsgard
Shirley Ertsgard
Avis Erickson
C. Leroy Erickson
Gorden Mohn
Burnette Mohn

MAY 28, 1939

E. Sterling Ingwalson

JUNE 29, 1941

Isabelle Mae Nesvig
Sylvia Dalen
Betty Carson
Dorothy Carson
Eeverly Ingwalson
Fern Johnson
Genevieve Johnson
Duane Ertsgard
Donald Erickson