

# 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, Johannes Odegard, Eling 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 Erickson, Broder Broderson, George Broderson, Swen Knutson, Peder A. Haugen, Brede 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. Sondreal, 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 Lillegaard, 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 16, 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 18, 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 Falolde 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 Lorom, 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.

## CONFIRMANTS

D—Deceased

U—Unknown

Johanna (Pederson) Ericksson  
Gertrude Clauson—U

SEPTEMBER 14, 1879

Syvart Anderson—D  
Bertha Christianson—U  
Haakon Pederson—D

OCTOBER 14, 1881

Ben E. Ingvaldson—D  
Asac (Erickson) Myhre

NOVEMBER 5, 1882

Ingebrei Kvanntun—D  
Bernt Hanson—U  
Lars Hanson Hovind—D  
Nils E. Haugen—D  
Ole E. Ingvaldson—D

SEPTEMBER 23, 1883

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

NOVEMBER 2, 1884

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

NOVEMBER 1, 1885

Erick Erickson—D  
Louis G. Gunderson—D  
Henry Gunderson—D  
Sina Marie (Hanson) Sandvig  
Christe Syverson—U  
Karl Olson—U  
Lena Syvertson—U  
Karlina Hanson—U

NOVEMBER 24, 1884

Johannes E. Ingvaldson—D  
Marine Larson  
Arne Hildus Pederson—D  
Bertha (Selberg) Sandvig—D  
Josephine Larson—D

NOVEMBER 20, 1887

Johannes T. Hoag—D  
Mina Hanson—U  
Randina (Thompson) Swenson  
Anne Marie (Yang) Paulson  
Serine Peterson—U  
Marie (Branton) Johnson—D

NOVEMBER 6, 1888

Albert Yang  
Bernt Swenson—U  
Louise Helen—U  
Ingoborg Klepp—U

NOVEMBER 3, 1890

Tobias T. Hoag—U  
Emil Erickson  
Minda P. (Erickson) Hammer  
Tilda (Hovel) Lokken—D  
Peder Olson—D  
Carl Branten  
Nils Branten  
Eda (Knutson) Redwing—D  
Anne (Pederson) Bredeson—D  
Karen (Larson) Lorom  
Gunda Jorgensen—U

NOVEMBER 22, 1891

Torgrim Klepp—U  
Andreas Borloug  
Karl Johnson  
Tollef Hovel—D  
John Knutson—D  
Louis Odegard  
Inga Gunderson—U  
Karylina (Erickson) Falolde—D  
Anna Marie (Rauk) Mickels

OCTOBER 30, 1892

Ole Olson—D  
Edvin Yang  
Marvin Johnson  
Theoline (Ingvaldson) O'Neil  
Emos (Johnsen) Stalsberg  
Ella (Pederson) Anderson  
Margaret (Veitern) Peterson  
Mathilda (Wong) Hovland—D  
Ida Lorom  
Klara (Rauk) Lindley  
Lena Bredland  
Karina Swendson Augenaeth—D

OCTOBER 22, 1893

Daniel Jere—D  
Knut Hovel—D  
Eddie Odegard—D  
Anne Haugen—D  
Hildus Erickson—D  
Henry Oliver Odegard  
Jenny (Odegard) Serlie—D

OCTOBER 23, 1894

Haakon Thompson—U  
Claudia (Ingvaldson) Jelsatt  
Minnie (Wong) Gordon  
Julla (Johnson) Parker

OCTOBER 4, 1895

Clara (Odegard) Knutson  
Berge Bredland  
Tullus Johnson

Martha Erickson—D  
Bertha Branten—D  
Inger Lerom—D  
Laura (Odegard) Frøsis  
Annie Brodersen  
Annie Kairina (Brodersen) Bartel-  
son—D  
Louis Pederson—D

SEPTEMBER 12, 1886  
Julia Gerhardsen Johnson—D  
George Brodersen—D  
Martin Brodersen  
Anna (Brodersen) Mork  
George Wong  
Anna Fevold  
Julius Erickson  
Margaret (Haugen) Lind

OCTOBER 3, 1887  
Nils Fevold  
Bertha Lerom  
Annie Odegard  
Carl Odegard  
Ellne Ingvalson  
Ella (Johnson) Thelgestad  
Laura (Brodersen) Swenson  
Bertha Fevold  
Annie Johnson—D  
Osto Rønning

SEPTEMBER 18, 1888  
Christina (Brodersen) Bøntra—D  
Laura (Erickson) Solum—D  
Gena (Hegard) Nye—D  
Emil Odegard  
Rolf Ingvalson  
Hattie Lerom  
Stella (Wong) Benson  
Jennie Odegard  
Josephine (Jacobsen) Brekke—D

SEPTEMBER 14, 1890  
Dennie Johnson—D  
Ellen Fevold—D  
Melvin Ingvalson—D  
Bertha (Olson) Ciesbor—D

MAY 14, 1890  
Nellie (Hegard) Hanson  
Sophie (Nettun) Borge—D

JUNE 30, 1891  
Edward Erickson  
George Odegard  
Johannes Brelund  
Clara (Jacobsen) Knutsen—D  
Netsy (Brodersen) Deal  
Daisy (Wong) Carlile  
Jessie Fevold

MAY 11, 1892  
Paul Romstad—D  
John Johnson—D

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

OCTOBER 11, 1893  
Julian Namland—D  
Arthur Erickson  
George Lerom  
Inga (Johnson) Carlile—D  
Anna (Odegard) Credman  
Nora (Jacobson) Lampson  
Lizzie (Paulson) Hoyland

OCTOBER 2, 1894  
Anne Olga (Olson) Hagelle  
Julia Hendrickson  
Mina (Haugen) Johnson—D  
Henry Johnson

JUNE 18, 1895  
Arthur Ingvalson  
Oscar Lerom  
Mina Johnson—D  
Clara (Erickson) Peterson—D  
Josephine (Brodersen) Nesvig  
Emma (Johnson) Nash

DECEMBER 2, 1895  
Alfred Erickson  
Mable Wong  
Oscar Odegard  
Ida (Ingvalson) Young  
Malvin Jacobson—D  
Clara Sveen  
Ida Rosine Haugen—U  
Louise (Odegard) Lebacken

NOVEMBER 24, 1897  
Nora (Haugen) Brekken—D  
Nettie Haugen  
Nellie (Beiten) Peterson  
Lena (Bansen) Christensen  
Laura (Olson) Davis—D  
Laura (Brelund) Ashelm  
Oscar Johnson—D  
Knut Knutsen  
John Knutsen—D

APRIL 5, 1899  
Hattie (Olson) Johnson  
Georgina Jacobsen—D  
Oga (Nettun) Austin  
Dolla (Odegard) Strandvold  
Clifford Erickson  
Bonnie Oliver Johnson  
Theo. Wong  
Nellie (Hendrickson) Heath

DECEMBER 12, 1899  
Hansina Sveen  
Mabel (Haugen) Barnbeck  
Hilma Botten  
Berghild (Haugen) Saare  
Hattie (Erickson) Grodahl  
Ferdinand Johnson

NOVEMBER 24, 1901  
Lottie (Haugen) Mæker—D  
Alma (Nettun) Semiel  
Minnie (Olson) King  
Bertha (Mickelson) Ebbeson

DECEMBER 18, 1901  
Mabel (Odegard) Smart

NOVEMBER, 1902  
Lyda Johnson  
Oga (Jacobson) Olson  
Olaf Isakson

NOVEMBER 21, 1902  
Ole Olson

OCTOBER 25, 1903  
Ralph Erickson  
Lena Mickelson  
Clifford Brodersen  
Martha (Johnson) Hovden  
Alma (Haugen) Vennestrand  
Laura (Skon) Hovet  
Oliver Dahl—D  
Hilmer Leen—U  
Thelma (Hovet) Brekke

OCTOBER 1905  
Clifford Knutsen

DECEMBER 2, 1906  
Gena (Knutsen) Hovet  
Myrtle (Haugen) Leathers  
Josephine Sandvig  
Myrtle Hansen—D  
Thomas Hovet  
Herman Mickelson

MARCH 17, 1915  
Mancour Olson  
Lillian (Johnson) MacFadden

DECEMBER 8, 1918  
Martha (Anderson) Olson  
Sophia (Sandvig) Jensen  
Esther (Haugen) Leathers  
Esther Botten  
Norris Knutsen  
Ehba (Olson) Serbo  
Carl Olson  
Arthur Anderson

AUGUST 15, 1923  
Malvin Mickelson

AUGUST, 1921  
Charlotte (Olson) Espelle  
Berthina (Knutsen) Brown  
Beesie (Fladland) Tardiff  
Ruth Mickelson

NOVEMBER 19, 1922  
Orlando Odegard  
Ernest Odegard  
Johnny Knutsen

NOVEMBER 21, 1924  
Haakon Mickelson  
Inga (Fladland) Sullivan  
Viola (Odegard) Olson  
Evelyn Botten  
Oscar Danielson

AUGUST 28, 1927  
Leonard Hauges  
Agnes Botten  
Thelma Fladland  
Lena Fladland—D  
Howard Nettun  
Clifton Odegard  
Leonard Johnson

JULY 7, 1929  
Evelyn (Svean) Hovet  
Margaret Heath—D  
Bertha (Carlile) Charbonneau  
Myrtle (Nettun) Brekke  
Arvid Nettun

JULY, 1930  
Rita Nesvig  
Lynn Nettun

JUNE 20, 1932  
Ludelle (Mahn) Fossum  
Celeste (Mahn) Nettun  
Janet (Nesvig) Lerom

OCTOBER 22, 1933  
Norma Peterson  
Lena Erickson—D

AUGUST 3, 1934  
Marion (Ingvalson) Johnson  
Leroy Nettun  
Delores (Nettun) Gunderson  
Harold Heath  
Viola (Erickson) Peterson  
Lynn Nesvig

JUNE 30, 1936

Ivah (Ingvalson) Hanson  
Evelyn Peterson  
Ardith Mohn  
Alwyn Westberg

MAY 30, 1937

Arlis Ingvalson  
Yvonne Nesvig  
Shirley Amundson

JUNE 19, 1938

Vance Nettum  
Vernon Nettum  
Harold Ertsgard  
Shirley Ertsgard  
Avis Erickson  
C. Leroy Erickson  
Gordon Mohn  
Barnette Mohn

MAY 28, 1939

E. Sterling Ingvalson

JUNE 29, 1941

Isabelle Mae Nesvig  
Sylvia Dale  
Betty Carson  
Dorothy Carson  
Beverly Ingvalson  
Fern Johnson  
Genevieve Johnson  
Duane Ertsgard  
Donald Erickson

## 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 Hulterstrum
Song	-	-	-	Male Quartette
Reunion of Confirmants				

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