

Dedicated to the Pioneers
who settled the area

and established
the Grue Church

May they always
be Remembered

Grue Kirke i Amerika
(Grue Church in America)

Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was so named because many of its charter members came from Grue in Solör, Norway. The old and established Grue Church in Norway held a dear place in the memories of these people who had emigrated from their native land. They wanted to pay tribute to their Norwegian heritage by giving this name to the church and congregation they were building. These pioneers on the prairie felt a great need to have a church organization so on March 17, 1879 a meeting was held and a congregation formed with 63 charter members. They met in the homes and school houses until the Grue Church was built in 1891 on the bank of Buffalo Coulee about 60 miles north of Fargo, North Dakota and 20 miles south of Grand Forks, North Dakota. It is four miles west of the Red River of the North which is the boundary between the states of North Dakota and Minnesota. Just west of the church, which faces east, is the cemetery that was also established in 1891. It is a picturesque and peaceful setting for the final resting place of loved ones. Many visitors have remarked about the beauty of this rural church and cemetery. The beautiful altar picture is titled "Jesus Praying in Gethsemane" and below it is the inscription "Se Det Gud's Lam"

On July 8, 1887 a group of ladies organized a Ladies Aid Society or "Kvindeforening" as it was called in Norwegian which was the common language at that time. For many years services were held in Norwegian. The young folks had parochial school every summer and were confirmed in Norwegian.

The Grue Mission Forening held its first meeting November 15, 1899. In their mission work the families pledged support of a teacher in the Madagascar Mission field and an elder on the Santal Mission in India. In 1923 the ladies aid assumed this responsibility. In later years the foreign and home mission work has been supported by both the church and ladies organization.

The Grue Pigeforeing was organized July 23, 1903 and was active fifteen years. They sent donations to the China Mission and during World War I they worked through the Red Cross contributing handmade articles for the soldiers.

In 1922 the ladies of the congregation re-organized the Grue Ladies Aid. Besides supporting foreign and home mission work every year, they financed building a basement under the church in 1932 and have always contributed to the decorating and upkeep of

PREFACE

There were many times during the years while Ernest L. Odegard was the Sexton for the Grue Cemetery he wished to have one good record book containing a list of all the lots, the graves on each lot and the information that is etched on the grave stones. Although he tried several ideas none of them proved to be exactly what he was looking for. Out of the many ideas and discussions this book of records was created I carried the idea one step further by adding the records of the Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals recorded in the first record book of the Grue Church starting in 1879 -- over 100 years ago!

Deciphering the penmanship of numerous writers, plus the fact much was penned in the old Norwegian script with names I am not familiar with, was indeed slow work that took patience and determination. Yet I realize the result is less than perfect. It was my goal to copy the records as much as possible like they were written because that is a part of History. Please be aware that a name that looks misspelled may or may not be. I do apologize for any typographical errors that may have been missed in the proof reading.

The emigrants faced various hardships. Many of them, especially the women, had little if any formal schooling. Knowing this we are grateful for the records they kept. One must remember the names as we know them today, with some exceptions, are not the same as they were written 100 years ago.

This book of records is not designed for the addition of present day records. It belongs to the past: moments in History to be preserved, remembered and cherished.

I want to thank my husband Ernest, my daughter Lorna and my friend Gayle Olson for their assistance in numerous ways to bring this project to a conclusion. Encouragement from them and others was a source of strength to keep working until the job was completed. For that I am grateful.

Quote: "How much lighter the load and easier the road when we receive words of encouragement instead of criticism!"

Source unknown.

Loretta M. Odegard
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the building.

Sunday school is held September through May and confirmation instruction is given by the pastor. Vacation Bible School is held with Ringsaker, our neighboring rural church. This year the teenagers of the two churches started meeting once a month for Luther League. They meet for fellowship and activities such as bowling, pizza parties and roller skating.

Grue does not have a choir at present but has had good choirs in past years.

There are 43 units, or families, in the congregation with 90 active confirmed members. Grue is one of four churches in the parish belonging to the American Lutheran Church. Sandhill and Climax churches are in Minnesota, Ringsaker and Grue are in North Dakota. Once a month a bulletin called "The Parish Visitor", containing a schedule for the Month, is mailed to the members of the four churches. The parish is presently served by Reverend Russell A. Peterson and Reverend Theodore J. Weltzin, associate pastor. The 100th Anniversary of the Grue Congregation will be celebrated on July 7 and July 8, 1979.

The first constitution was written in the Norwegian language. In 1944 it was revised and written in English which by then was the predominate language. The name of the congregation was changed to Grue Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. Although the word Norwegian has been omitted from the name of the Grue Church the members are very proud of their heritage.

Address of the church:

Grue Evangelical Lutheran Church
Route 1
Buxton, North Dakota 58218 U.S.A.

July 20, 1978

This history was sent to the Grue Church in Norway and was printed in their Church Booklet when they celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the building of their church (1828) after the first building burned to the ground in 1823 with the loss of 113 lives, mostly young women and children.