



SHORT HISTORY of Grue Church

On March 17, 1879 sixty-three people met at the home of Knut Rauk to form Grue Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. For the next twelve years, they met in various private homes and schools, until December 19, 1891, when Jakob Evanson Fevold sold a portion of his quarter section in Stavanger Township for \$50 to the congregation. The building itself was built by Jorgen Faleide for \$3,000 and opened in the autumn of 1891. This Norwegian-American craftsman structure includes: handcrafted pews, altar and font, tinted lancet-arched windows, scalloped steeple with globe tip, and metal-pressed wall and ceiling panels.

The baptismal font and altar were built by member Borre Mikkelson a member of the church. The steeple was built in 1903. Pressed metal interior wall panels were installed in 1913. In 1932 the building was lifted and a basement was built for a kitchen and dining room and a small addition to the northeast corner for stair access to the basement.

In 2020, Grue Church Project formed under Buxton in Bloom to preserve and transform the church building after hearing the news of the Grue Church Council voted to close the church.



Bell (pictured below) was bought by Ladies group which was formed in 1887. It was engraved in 1891 made by Stuckstede. The Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry Co. operated in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA (1888-1931)



SIGNIFICANT CONNECTIONS

Altar painting (pictured above) was purchased in 1897. The painting was done by **Sarah Kirkeberg Raugland**. (1862-1960)

Grue Church Project group is working on placing a Historic Marker, to recognize the acclaimed international economist **Mancur Olson Jr.** (1932-1998) Mancur was a member of the church and is buried at the Grue Cemetery which is located just west of the church building.

Grue Church in Kirkenær, Solør, Hedmark, Norway, where the founders of this church came from and also referred to as the sister church.

For more information visit our website:
www.GrueChurchProject.com

PRESERVE & TRANSFORM GRUE CHURCH

to celebrate
heritage, culture
& sacred space
in the community



Grue Church Project
a subsidiary of Buxton in Bloom

Buxton in Bloom
429 Broadway
PO Box 147
Buxton, ND 58218
701.841.1000
www.GrueChurchProject.com

A North Dakota
Non-Profit Corporation
501c3 EIN: 26-0108241





GRUE CHURCH PROJECT

a subsidiary of Buxton in Bloom

THE PROJECT

The Grue Church Project is a non-profit whose mission is to preserve the 130-year-old Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church building as a center to celebrate heritage, cultural and sacred space in Traill County, North Dakota. The Grue Church Project will be a home to special events for those connected to the site from around the globe, to friends and families in Norway, and to serve the wide rural community, and nearby residents and visitors with programming. Partnerships and cooperation with university programming, rural art and music programs, museums, historical groups, private services, lectures, panels, reunions, receptions and picnics will be a part of the future planned special events.

Friends and families of the church descendants, members from the community, preservationists and advocates for rural church restorations, historians, genealogists, Norwegian-Americans, friends from Grue Church in Norway, organizations and interested donors are invited to contribute.

Grue Church Project (formed in 2020) is a subsidiary of Buxton in Bloom's non-profit (established 2005) and is separate from Grue Church Cemetery Committee, with no co-mingling of any funds with either area.

The Grue Church Project is its' own entity.
Please join us in saving this beautiful structure.

PROJECT COSTS

PHASE ONE.....\$30,000
 Steeple and bell tower repair, and reroofing.

PHASE TWO.....\$25,000
 Window restoration, exterior siding repair, and exterior painting.

PHASE THREE.....\$80,000
 New addition to include: enclosing front steps with new entrance doors, toilet room, and elevator for accessibility to both levels. There is rural water to the building, but a septic system will need to be constructed for the new plumbing system.

PHASE FOUR.....\$35,000
 Remove outhouse type structure on the back side and rebuild the egress stair from basement. Remove existing furnace in basement & install new heating and cooling system. Upgrade electrical system for current code.

PHASE FIVE.....\$40,000
 Interior work to bring back original tin ceilings, removal of old wood paneling, restore wood floors, lighting upgrades.

PHASE SIX.....\$40,000
 Basement improvements.

THE PEOPLE MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN

BOARD MEMBERS

Bobbi Hepper Olson - Chair
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 Nancy Friese - Secretary
 Marilyn Ashiem - Treasurer
 Koy Olson - Director

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laurel Reuter, North Dakota Museum of Art
 Kate Odegard
 Rita Odegard
 Sally Hoffman
 Kyle Olson
 Greg West



WE NEED YOUR HELP RAISING FUNDS

Make a Donation.

Yes, I want to become a part of **Grue Church Project**. Fill out, tear off and mail back to the address listed at the bottom of this panel.

FULL NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

- \$20 BRONZE CONTRIBUTOR
- \$40 SILVER CONTRIBUTOR
- \$100 GOLD CONTRIBUTOR
- \$250 PLATINUM CONTRIBUTOR
- \$1,000 EACH YEAR FOR 5 YEARS
SUSTAINING PATRON
- \$ _____ OTHER

MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO:
Buxton in Bloom/Grue Church Project
PO Box 147, Buxton, ND 58218

or donate online at
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/grue-church-project>