



VIEW FROM THE HILL

Springdale Lutheran Church
Mt. Horeb, WI

Vol. 14, No.12

December 2009

Special Advent & Christmas Observances

Take note of special services and times through the coming season, with details inside.

Saturday, Dec. 12

10:00 a.m.-noon – Care Team Worship with shut-ins, w/ caroling

Sunday, Dec. 20

8:30 a.m. – Sunday School Program

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 24

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight w/ Communion

Sunday, Dec. 27

8:30 a.m. – Carol Sing

No Sunday School



Financial Update

General Fund deficit is currently about **-\$8740**. Offerings each week should be \$3000 to keep pace with 2009 budget needs, leaving deficit to be made up over and above that. We again *thank* all who are making regular commitments in support of our parish and encourage everyone to respond with whatever treasure, time or talent they can offer in maintenance and renewal of Springdale's worship, education and outreach.

“View from the Hill”

Going Online

Effective **Jan. 1**, the “View from the Hill” will be all “online” as both a cost-saving and an eco-friendly step to save both money and paper. To continue receiving the “View”, we need to have your e-ddress in the office before Dec. 15; if you have no computer access, please contact church office so other arrangements can be made.

Winter Cancellations

If in doubt as to whether worship will be held due to weather, please call the church - 437-3493 - pastor will try to update the phone message before 8 a.m. You may also try listening to Clear Channel stations (WIBA AM1310, WIBA FM101.5, WTSO AM1070, WMAD FM92.1, WZEE FM104.1), Christian station WNWC FM102.5 or NBC TV station 15; fewer facilities run these announcements, however, and most often will refer you to their websites.



G O D ' S P R A I S E S W E S I N G

December Worship Theme Sing a New Song Unto the Lord

Since Advent took root as a season of the Church Year in medieval times, its primary theme has not been celebrating Christ's *birth*, but anticipating Christ's *return*. The songs of Advent, therefore, focus on the longing of God's people for the coming of his Kingdom and the new joy to be ours in Christ's everlasting reign. While the songs we sing this season will not necessarily be 'new' ones, we will reflect more on what they say to those awaiting more than a baby in a manger.

Christmas Choir

We have good numbers, so we indeed have a *Christmas Eve Choir* for the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service! Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings, Dec. 9 and 16, 6:30-7:15 p.m.; speak with Pastor or Sharon Moschkau for more info.



Poinsettias

We want to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas worship and members have the following options:

You may purchase red, pink or white poinsettias for \$14 by filling out an order form on the PowerPoint and dropping it at the church office by Sunday, Dec. 13; you may purchase your own plants and bring them to church by Sunday, Dec. 20; or you may contribute to the "Poinsettia Fund" and extra plants will be purchased from that.

You may take the poinsettias you purchased with you after Christmas Eve service. Additional plants will be used for continued adornment or given to our shut-ins.

A Time of Devotion . . .

Advent and the new year are especially appropriate times to begin or enhance your devotional reading. Besides Advent resources for all ages in the sanctuary, there are a variety of booklets in the narthex racks.

"Christ in Our Home" is a daily devotional based on each Sunday's readings. "The Lutheran Digest" includes stories, humor and poetry reflecting the joys and challenges of faith. "The Lutheran Prayerbook" is a collection of old and new devotions to support your walk.

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Eternal Candle Donor for November

The Elver Family

In honor of Cora Spaanem Bilse's 100th birthday

In Our Prayers in November

Those ill, hospitalized or with continuing conditions:

Members:

Clara Anderson, Elmer Baker, Cora Bilse,
Jim Dahlgren, Lavon Dolan, Lorna Lehman,
Pearl Magnuson, Evie Monum, Sharon Moschkau,
Terry Ninneman, Lana Olmstead, Russell Paske, Alma Skindrud, Frieda Zweifel

Family & Friends:

Mark & Jamie Ahrens, friends of Jim & Fay Dahlgren
Lexy Vrostos Austin, friend of Kim Zahler
Ervin Banaszynski, Diane Kahler's father
Sarah Barnett, Evelyn Basthemer's granddaughter
Arlin Bieri, Lavon Dolan's brother
Duane Bieri, Lavon Dolan's brother
Guy Bieri, Lavon Dolan's nephew
Irene Bonkowski, Fay Dahlgren's mother
Francis Collins, Renee Mickelson's father
Lorraine Dahlgren, Jim Dahlgren's mother
Neal Fosshage, Norma Baker's brother
Alice Garlock, Jeanne Hefty's brother Russell's
mother-in-law
Louise Greenlaw, Sarah Greenlaw's & Mary Greenlaw-Meyer's mother
Robert Klaas, Evelyn Basthemer's grandson
Roy Litticote, Fay Dahlgren's friend
Theresa MacDonald, Lisa Dignan's friend's mother
Dona Nyhus, Jeanine Taylor's mother
John & Jim O'Brien, Priscilla Laufenberg's brothers
Dennis Olson, Kim Zahler's uncle
John Percy
Mary Ann Reimer, Beth Elver's son's mother-in-law
Shelley Ryan
Harold Schlimgen, Jim & Fay Dahlgren's friend
Wayne & Joni Shearer, Kip Bakken's uncle & aunt
Mike Stoller, friend of Jim & Priscilla Laufenberg
Kenneth Sutter, Hope Connor's brother
Kris Swalheim, Jodi Elver's aunt
Greg Taylor, Jeanine Taylor's brother-in-law
Theresa, Jim & Fay Dahlgren's friend
Vence & Marianne Vesley, Danielle Vesley-Bark's
parents
Bob Vogel, Dean Vogel's father
Lois Brechler Wendt, friend of Beth Elver

Those in military service:

Bill Elver, Chris Hanson, Bryan McVeigh, Ryan Nyhus,
Leif Skindrud, Marny Skindrud, Todd & Krista Verstraete



G R O W I N G I N G R A C E

Catechism Calendar

Dec. 2 at **Springdale** ("Horse" bus) – Midyear Test (*joy to the world...*)

Test covers the Commandments we've been memorizing and their application today, plus 'open book' section on Chapters 1-7. Students should have *completed* questions on pages 6, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 27, 28.

Dec. 14 (Monday) – Early Release Day??

It wasn't working out to do something at Immanuel this year. There is conversation about doing a holiday gathering starting around 4:00 at Ingle-side, where we would carol to residents and conclude with our own pizza party – details will be passed on as we learn them!

Sunday, **Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.**, we will have a brief discussion on 2010 class sites and any other concerns that have come up with scheduling, assignments, etc. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your student's growth in faith.

ADULT EDUCATION

"Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?"

Sunday Forum, 9:30 a.m.

Starting the first Sunday of Advent, **Nov. 29**, there will be a 3-4 week series (depending how conversation goes!) reflecting on ancient insights into the Christmas gospels, the historical observances of Advent and Christmas, and how to bring fresh meaning to this 'holy-day' for a world that doesn't just "need a little Christmas" (in the words of the Broadway tune!), but needs a little justice, compassion and hope.



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:

- 2 -- Donovan McClellan
- 6 – Renee Mickelson
- 8 – Adam Kahler
- 10 – Cora Bilse
- 12 – Jennifer Dahlgren, Jeanine Taylor
- 15 – Sherri Hefty
- 16 – Andy Murray
- 18 – Alec Collins, Shane Collins
- 19 – Nicole Gass, Gabriel McLemore
- 27 – Jeff Jacobs

Women of the ELCA study

"To God's Beloved:

Paul's Letter to the Romans"

various days and times (see church calendar)

Study continues in Romans, Paul's best expression of his understanding of the Gospel. Moving from our broken human condition to a new saving relationship in Christ, Paul unfolds how our lives are transformed as we are no longer slaves to sin, but "slaves" to God.



Seasons Greetings! from Sunday School

The Christmas season is fast approaching. Our Sunday School Christmas program this year "One Starry Night" is scheduled for **Sunday, Dec. 20, 8:30** service. We will have rehearsals during 9:30 Education Hour in December as well as on **Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m.** and dress rehearsal **Saturday, Dec. 19, 1:00 p.m.**

We are asking each student to bring in a wrapped box for a prop by Sunday Dec. 6. All students are asked to attend the rehearsals, because practice is the key to a presentation of which the children can be proud, and we want a great performance for the congregation! I am excited and thankful Sarah Greenlaw has volunteered her time and expertise in theater to coordinate our program. Sarah has some great ideas and we are looking forward to the Christmas Program. Please contact Kip Bakken if you are unable to attend one of our scheduled rehearsals.

Thank you

Thank you to our tour guides for our third rotation "Rain, Rain, Rain": Fay Dahlgren, Sharon Moschkau, Norm and Melba Rick and Kim Zahler. The students attended Fun and Games, Music, Engineering/Carpentry and Craft workshops. Thank you to our assistants Kably Ryan, Michael Curtis and Tyler Vogel. Their help with the younger students is very much appreciated. Contact Kip Bakken if you are interested in serving as a tour guide or an assistant.

Kids Helping Kids

We thank all the children who brought in gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Your generous gifts share God's love with children around the world. We will continue to collect any new or gently used toys through December for Toys for Tots to benefit children in our area.

N U T S A N D B O L T S

Welcome, Louise Greenlaw!

Mary Greenlaw Meyer & Sarah Greenlaw are pleased to announce that their mother, Louise Greenlaw, is now living in Mt. Horeb at Inglewood Apt. 110, phone 437-3560. She's been joining us at worship, so please introduce yourselves at service, pay a visit at her new place and welcome her to our church and community.

Nominations Underway

Nominating Committee – Paul Elver, Dean Hefty, Kay Midthun and Grant Nesheim – has begun seeking leaders for 2010 elections. Leaders for Council, Education, Social Concerns and similar planning groups are ideally vision-oriented people who enjoy looking at the 'big picture' and promoting our long-term goals and missions. Leaders for Maintenance, Cemetery and similar hands-on functions are ideally task-focused people who enjoy organizing and carrying specific projects to completion.

Thank you to all leaders currently serving in this congregation, and thank you to everyone for thinking about their gifts and the ways they may be called to serve.

Annual Meeting

Springdale's Annual Meeting is **Sunday, Jan. 31**, 2010. Reports from all committees, groups and others are due in church office **Monday, Jan. 4**. If you are unable to get your reports in at that time, you are responsible for making copies to distribute at the meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report should be available for review Sunday, Jan. 10. Budget review and question time is tentatively during 9:30 Education Hour Sunday, **Jan. 24**. A forum for review of the current Worship/Education time and format is tentatively scheduled during Education Hour Sunday, **Jan. 17**.



Snow Shoveling Season

Volunteers are needed to shovel and salt all **four** entrances for safety's sake – the west side sanctuary entry, south side office entry, east side Sunday school stairwell and the old north side office entry. See entry-way sign-up and *Thank You*.

“View” Article Submissions

If you're submitting something by e-mail for publication in the “View”, your best route is to send it directly to secretary@springdalelutheran.org. It's one less hurdle (and one less chance to overlook!) in getting it printed.

To the Church at Springdale, Greetings!

“Forgive us, Jesus – We didn't know it was you”

I believe it's Kenny Rogers who sings a contemporary Christmas song with that plaintive refrain. It laments that when God sent his Son into this world, his reception was hardly the best – born in a barn, growing up in poverty, misunderstood and scorned by those he came to teach and save, ultimately rejected and crucified by them.

“Forgive us, Jesus – We didn't know it was you”

Of course, the wonder of the Christmas Gospel is that we *didn't* know it was “Jesus” – we didn't “know” this was the almighty, everlasting One enfleshed, because God *chose* not to reveal himself in undeniable glory, but in humble, vulnerable humanity. God in Christ did not seek to overwhelm us with power, but to touch us with love, to be one with us, to know our struggles and sorrows, our hopes and yearnings from the depths of our existence.

Becoming one with us, then, he identifies with the least and lowliest of us – Jesus has been poor, homeless and hungry, Jesus has been a refugee and an outcast, Jesus has been a prisoner and a victim of abuse. And because he has intimately experienced these realities, he continues to be present with those who suffer them, saying to others who declare on Judgment Day, “We didn't know it was you!”

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
(Matt. 25:40)

A subtle challenge in that Kenny Rogers song is, if we *had* known, if we *had* been there in Bethlehem, would we indeed have welcomed and nurtured and loved that infant born to an unwed, impoverished girl with nowhere to lay her baby but a feed trough? We obviously can't go back to see if we would . . . but *today*, wherever a child lives in poverty, wherever a family is homeless or fleeing for their lives, wherever people are sick or shunned, wherever prisoners are alone and forgotten – Jesus is there, and Jesus invites us to be there as well.

That is a Christmas Gospel we *can* know, and live out.

A Blessed Advent & Christmas to You!

Council Minutes November 19, 2009

Present: Pastor Jacobs, Erik Bakken (President), Terry Mickelson, John Arnold, Betty Bakken (Treasurer), Tim Heindl and Sherri Hefty (Secretary)

Absent: Ken Kahler

I. Devotion -- Reading from Jeremiah 29

II. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the Agenda: Insurance renewal under Treasurer's Report, Christmas tree under New Business and update on West Blue Mounds under Old Business. Motion carried to approve as amended.

III. Secretary's Report

Motion carried to approve the Minutes as printed.

IV. Treasurer's Report

As of October 31, 2009, the **General Account balance is behind \$8,741.19.**

Motion carried to approve the Treasurer's report as distributed.

We received \$311.00 in donations for IHN, which was our September/October benevolence. We had previously committed \$500 a year for five years to this project and fell short. Motion carried for the balance of \$189 to be taken from two \$100 undesignated memorials received recently.

The Church Mutual insurance policies are up for renewal. Motion carried to approve the renewal as proposed.

V. New Business

Narda has accepted a full-time position effective January 1 and a new secretary will be needed to replace her. We will be looking for someone to work 15 hours a week and have experience in PowerPoint and websites or be willing to learn. The position will be open to internal applications before advertising outside the church.

The Snyder organ maintenance contract is due in the amount of \$433.07. Motion carried to approve and pay the contract.

A request has been received for the loan of tableware for use at the Elver wedding reception on December 12 at LifeChurch. Motion carried to approve the request.

We reviewed the pre-Annual Meeting dates and deadlines. As we may not have a church secretary at the time, Sherri and Jeanne Hefty have volunteered to help assemble the Annual Meeting booklets.

We would like to have the Christmas tree up and with lights by December 12 so the tree may be decorated during the education hour on Sunday, December 13.

VI. Old Business

We received a new quote for the mortgage from the State Bank of Cross Plains: Rate = 6.079%; Term = 3 years, amortized over 27 years; Fee = waived. This should reduce our monthly mortgage payment, which is currently \$1,421.90. A motion carried to approve this new mortgage proposal.

Nominating Committee is looking for replacements in open positions. Many will continue in their current positions.

Time and talent forms have been coming in and members are encouraged to still send them in if they have not done.

The application for ELC Endowment funds has been submitted. We requested funds to be put toward our annual contribution for the (IHN) Road Home project. If we receive funds from the ELC, we will replace the funds used from undesignated memorials to meet our \$500 contribution this year,

We reviewed and updated the proposed 2010 budget with the new insurance figures. It is close to being completed.

West Blue Mounds is still in discussion with the Synod and local churches on how to meet their needs. Their primary concern for West Blue Mounds is pastoral care and then perhaps joining other churches in combined outreach ministries. Ideas are currently in the works for Lenten services between Springdale, Perry and West Blue Mounds.

VII. Pastor's Report

A distribution of \$500 from Garrett's Fund has been made to a parishioner for legal needs.

September

3 - Worship services 15 - Education 14 - Visitations
2 - Counseling 4 - Congregational Mtgs 5 - Misc.
5 - Community/Church-wide Mtgs. 716.9 Mileage

October

4 - Worship services 8 - Education 13 - Visitations
1 - Counseling 2 - Congregational Mtgs 6 - Misc.
2 - Community/Church-wide Mtgs. 898.7 Mileage

VIII. Committee Reports

Committee reports received from Worship and Music.

X. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

A motion carried to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Sherri Hefty,
Council Secretary



Measure of Our Commitment...

<u>Offering</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Oct. 25 -- \$3925	74
Nov. 1 -- \$2021	57
Nov. 8 -- \$2065	42
Nov. 15 -- \$1565	56
Nov. 22 -- \$1215	44

SHALL WE GATHER?

Care Team Worship

Next Care Team Communion worship is **Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-noon**; it will be a special Christmas-themed service with lots of holiday readings and carols. *Anyone* who'd like to join in this visit to Springdale's shut-ins (five at Ingleside, two at Girlie's Manor) may sign up on the PowerPoint.



Baltic Sea Cruise

Have you ever dreamed about visiting the Baltic Sea? Your chance is here as hosts Tom and Carol Rivers invite you to join the Oakwood Foundation as they cruise the Baltic beginning August 18, 2010. You'll sail from Copenhagen, Denmark bound for Stockholm, Sweden; Helsinki, Finland; Oslo, Norway; Tallinn, Estonia; Gdansk, Poland and a two day stay in the majestic city of St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad).

The full cruise package will include airfare from Chicago, pre-night stay with sightseeing and meals in Copenhagen and the 10 day cruise aboard the Star Princess. Your fare includes a tax deductible donation to the Oakwood Foundation. For a full brochure and prices, contact Pat Williams at Burkhalter Travel, 608-833-6968 ext. 250 or pwilliams@burkhaltertravel.com.

WOMEN'S NEWS

From Norma Baker

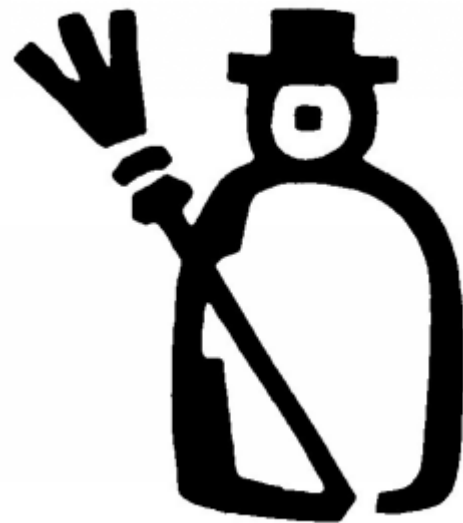
Thankoffering Sunday was November 15. I will be collecting thru December 20th so I get the check mailed by the end of the year. Besides the collection of the thankofferings the women's group presented checks from the funds of our two events this year. The ice cream social was divided half to the Sunday School and half to the youth group for their 2012 trip; \$635 to each group. The income from the Soup and Sandwich was divided with \$300 going to the Sorenson Education fund; \$300 to ELCA Hunger at Home; \$100 to Road Home (IHN); and we also gave \$35 to Esther Circle to help with the mailing of their Christmas Shoeboxes; leaving about \$600 to be added to the women's treasury for their Christmas giving.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will have their December meeting on Saturday, December 19. We will meet at Culver's at 11:30 for lunch and then go to church to pack the treat sacks for the Sunday School.

Attention Ladies

The women's group has been given two charge cards from Miller and Sons grocery to be used when we get something for our group. They can be used in either Mt. Horeb or Verona. Norma will have one at her house and the other one will be kept at church. You must use these cards when you want to charge something for our group. The church has its own card so there will be no confusion.



O U R F A I T H O N I T S F E E T

2010 Membership Commitment

We continue to urge *every confirmed member* of Springdale Lutheran to complete all sections of this form, available at church, and return them *soon* so we have a complete picture of our support in the year ahead. Again, the three components are

Newsletter – to conserve resources, “View from the Hill” goes *online* in January. We will accommodate those only able to receive it by mail, but we need to have *everyone else’s e-ddress* if they are interested in keeping up with Springdale activities.

Time & Talent – please commit in at least three areas from Leadership, Worship, Education, Fellowship, Social Ministry or Operations.

Financial Pledge – responsible budgeting calls for knowing both expenses *and* income. As we know our expenses, we appreciate every member giving their best giving estimate so we can work with a better overview.

Thank you to those who have returned their forms already!

“Coffee? Tea? Chocolate?”

“Equal Exchange” is an international farmers cooperative exporting coffee, tea and other commodities direct to local markets. Instead of huge operations with profits going to middlemen, Equal Exchange distributes through churches and other charitable organizations to get a larger share back to the small Third World producers.

Look in our fellowship area for products and information about this mission-minded business serving both consumers and growers, and consider them for your own holiday use and giving!

“Are Any Among You Sick?”

If you are hospitalized or know a member who is, please contact church office. With privacy regulations, it’s challenging to find out who is in the hospital without such a call, and I’d rather hear the same message five times than not hear once!

Visiting the sick with a ministry of prayer and presence is a significant part of my calling. I can’t guarantee to be *right there*, but I strive to be particularly available in those times of need – Pastor Jacobs.

Oakwood Village News

Oakwood Village West needs a Covenant Oaks Plant Caretaking Volunteer to help water Covenant Oaks indoor plants once a week Monday or Tuesday morning or afternoon to help plants thrive for the enjoyment of the residents. For more information, contact Volunteer Services Coordinator Kim Viney at 230-4238 or kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net.

Operation Christmas Child a Huge Success!!

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts or money to this year’s shoebox gift drive! We were again overwhelmed by your generosity!

On Monday evening, Nov. 16, the members of Esther Circle gathered at the church to pack the shoeboxes. Our goal was 50 boxes, but we were able to fill 62 with a variety of fun and useful gifts. Your monetary donations alone allowed us to send 40 boxes. The remainder of the \$7 per box cost came from the Esther Circle treasury. However, the most important item we packed in these boxes was prayer. We hope you will remember to pray for the children who will receive these gifts.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks and know in your hearts that you were responsible for putting smiles on the faces of 62 children this Christmas season. You have been a part of the largest Christmas gift project in the world. Your generous support of this ministry will reveal God’s love in a special way, and perhaps draw these children to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.



Remember Our Shut-Ins

With Advent and Christmas here, be mindful of those members who aren’t as able to join our worship celebrations. Keep them in your prayers, send a card or even visit if you can.

at Ingleside: Cora Bilse, Evie Monum, Pearl Magnuson, Alma Skindrud, Ruth Wittwer
at Girlie’s Manor: Russ Paske, Frieda Zweifel
at Four Winds Manor, Verona: Lorna Lehman
at home: Clara Anderson
in Madison group homes: Charles Frye, Philip Stenseth

Aluminum Can Collection

The Relay For Life members would like to ask everyone to please save your aluminum cans throughout the year so that we may cash them in and use the money collected to go toward our donations from our Relay for Life team in July. You may bring your cans to church any time throughout the year or you may also contact Susan Docken to pick them up.

SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2752 Town Hall Road
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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Jeff Jacobs, Pastor
Narda Loebel, Secretary
Sharon Moschkau, Music Director
Kipalee Bakken, Sunday School Superintendent

Dec. 12
10:00 a.m.-noon – Care Team Worship

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9:30 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Party

Dec. 24
5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight
w/ Communion

Dec. 27
8:30 a.m. – Carol Sing
No Sunday School

“View from the Hill” is **ONLINE** Jan. 1. This is your final issue *unless* we have your e-mail address or a request to continue mailing – See details on p. 1