



Advent & Christmas Observances

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

Sunday Worship Series – Lights, *Christmas*, Action!

We continue Advent dramas at different churches on these Sundays

Dec. 4 10:15 at West Blue Mounds – “The God Who Answers”

Dec. 11 10:15 at West Blue Mounds – “The Innkeeper’s Wife”

Dec. 18 8:45 at Springdale – Sunday School Program

Monday, Dec. 12

1-5 p.m. – Our catechumens will visit and carol at Girlie’s Manor, Lincoln Ct. and Ingleside, and you’re invited to join in sharing holiday joy with our older and shut-in members

Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

5 p.m. at West Blue Mounds

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Festival Worship

10:15 a.m. worship at *Springdale only*

Sunday, Jan. 1 – Carol Sing

10:15 a.m. worship at *West Blue Mounds only*

To the Ecclesia at West Blue Mounds & Springdale, Greetings!

Merry Christmas

Ad - vent, *n.* 1. coming; arrival 2. the season of devotion including the four Sundays before Christmas

In December’s rush toward Christmas, the season of Advent gets short shrift. Sure, kids have Advent calendars, and sometimes families light candles on an Advent log or wreath to observe the Sundays, but generally these days are all about card writing, baking, shopping and decorating. Even in church, a last bastion of Advent observance, there’s sometimes disappointment that carols are rarely sung until Christmas Eve.

It’s no secret about *my* love of Christmas, and all the celebrating that comes before and after. But I treasure Advent, too, and the wonder and yearning and anticipation it conveys.

Christmas marks fulfillment of *one* divine promise to us, that of Emmanuel, ‘God with us’, to live in our hearts and minds every day now. Advent points toward the fulfillment of *all* God’s promises when Emmanuel, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord comes at last to restore all creation to himself in a peace, righteousness and joy which will last for an eternity of glory.

Amid the haste and hurry December so often generates, may we still find time and space for Advent, for gazing at the stars or contemplating a candle, for reflecting on the inner peace, the deeper joy, the longed for fulfillment of Christ’s coming to make our world whole once and for all.

A Blessed *Advent* & Christmas to You!

SHALL WE GATHER . .

A Halloween Halloo

with thanks to *everyone* who contributed to a successful Halloween Party/Soup Supper kickoff way back Oct. 26. Donors of food, décor, craft items and more included Audra Anderson, Donna Bigler, Lois Brinkmeier, Sandy Chilson, Fay & Jennifer Dahlgren, Susan Docken, Chris Doescher, Jodi Elver, Jeanne Hefty, Evalyn Hirsch, Jeff Jacobs, Bob & Molly Jahn, Mel Kerl, Sharon Mahoney, Renee Mickelson, Kay Oimoen, Lori Raisbeck, Melba Rick, Kim Vogel. *Frightfully* sorry if anyone was overlooked!

& An Advent Observance

With the success of the Halloween gathering around CCC's Soup Supper at West Blue Mounds, we'll give it another go with an Advent celebration **Wednesday, Dec. 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Everyone in the community is invited for the meal, some crafts and some seasonal singing. And if you can contribute beads, rickrack or other items for making ornaments, want to help prep kid-friendly foods to serve, or would like to play an instrument for entertainment – speak with Pastor Jacobs!

Prayers & Thanksgivings

Springdale Members

Elmer Baker
Cassie Dahlgren
Jennifer Dahlgren
Steve Eckel
Jean Mueller
Lana Olmstead
Ruth Wittwer

Family & Friends:

Sara Barnett
Rachel Bergen (Beckie Dahlgren's sister-in-law)
Arlin & Duane Bieri (Lavon Dolan's brothers)
Guy Bieri (Lavon Dolan's nephew)
Irene Bonkowski (Fay Dahlgren's mother)
Cami (Fay Dahlgren's co-worker's daughter)
Beckie Dahlgren
Francis Collins (Renee Mickelson's father)
Lorraine Dahlgren (Jim Dahlgren's mother)
Brian Eckel (uncle of Karli Steinhauer)
Betsy Elver (Art & Beth's granddaughter -in-law)
Pat Ferrell
Betty Fosshage (Norma Baker's sister-in-law)
Neal Fosshage (Norma Baker's brother)
Alice Garlock (Jeanne Hefty's brother Russell's m-in-law)
Melissa Hanson (Lexi Hellenbrand's classmate)
Robert Klaas
Sue Kole (Michelle Kole's mother)
Adriana Larry (niece of Lavon Dolan)
)

Linda (Fay Dahlgren's co-worker)
Dona Nyhus (Jeanine Taylor's mother)
John Percy
Mary Ann Reimer (Beth Elver's son's mother-in-law)
Duane Sherven (Bob & Marion Murray son-in-law)
Dorothy Schwenn
Linda Stoller (Jim & Priscilla Laufenburg's friend)
Kris Swalheim (Jodi Elver's aunt)
Greg Taylor (Jeanine Taylor's brother-in-law)
Vence & Marianne Vesley (Danielle Vesley-Bark's parents)
Delores Vogel (Dean Vogel's mother)
Dewey Wagner
Lois Brechler Wendt (friend of Beth Elver),
Sue & Chris (friend of Fay Dahlgren)

West Blue Mounds Members

Terry Capel
Dorothy Evenson

Family & Friends:

Sheri Ayers
Cate Gimse-Owen
Barb Green (friend of Cate Gimse-Owen)
Bonnie Johnson (friend of Kim Bigler)
Lois
Michael Mahoney (grandson of King & Sharon Mahoney)
Betty Miller (Scott & Doreen Bigler sister-in-law)
Muriel Perkins
Marj Gerber (Brad Leverton's mother)

GROWING IN GRACE

Catechism Calendar

We continue at Perry on Wednesdays ("Butterfly" bus from middle school!), but take note of our special activity on the Early Release Day Dec. 12.

Dec. 7 @ Perry – Chap. 8 "God Delivers His People"
Read Exodus 14:5-31 and 'In Egypt', p. 30

Monday, Dec. 12 – 1:00-5:45 Caroling
start @ **Girlie's Manor** then Lincoln Ct., Ingleside; conclude w/
pizza supper

Dec. 21 @ Perry – Chap. 9 "God Leads His People to the Promised Land"
Read 'All the Comforts of Home', answer questions below, p. 33

And remember also that the **Jan. 4** session is a **parent/student supper, 6:00 @ West Blue Mounds** and will include the Midyear Test for parents & students to take together - !

Sunday School News

The congregation is invited to join our Sunday School Adventures in Faith students as they perform our Christmas program, "Christmas Treasures", **Sunday, Dec. 18, 8:45 at Springdale**. In our program we will dig into our Christmas chest and share treasures with our family and friends in the congregation.

Adventures in Faith students: The parts have been assigned and we had a great first reading of our program. We rehearse the next two Sundays, **Dec. 4 and 11**, and we ask students to attend **dress rehearsal Saturday, Dec. 17, 9:00 am**; dress rehearsal should last one hour. Sunday School program is Dec. 18 8:45 a.m. at Springdale only. Your attendance is very important to the success of our Christmas program! Please contact Mrs. Bakken at 987-1534 or email bakkenek@mhtc.net if you will miss one of our practices.

Women of the ELCA study

see calendar for dates & times of Circle meetings

The *Gather* study continues its exploration of Mark's Gospel in "Beyond the Boundaries". Jesus' ministry took him beyond the 'boundaries' of distinctions between Jews and Gentiles, of traditional practices that stymied real care for people, and even of his own disciples' expectations. By this, we too are challenged to look beyond the boundaries that may limit our own vision and service.

Reminders—Reminders - - Springdale Treasurer

- The steeple is finished, so if you're supporting that project, please do so soon. We've received just \$475 toward the \$3500 needed so far, after the \$12,000 commitment from Endowment Fund.
- \$280 was received for "The Road Home"(IHN) support. Thanks so much for support to this organization.
- Car Show funds have been dispersed and thanks have been received. A big "pat on the back" for those who did such a great job with that project.
- The budget for next year is in the works. If you have ideas, needs or suggestions, please relay them to council before our Dec 17 meeting.
- The year is fast coming to a close. Remember, Springdale would be delighted to receive a Christmas present from her people!
- Have a great Holiday Season – Remember those who don't have much, invite a lonely person to share a meal with you and take time to give thanks for all we have. Many blessings to everyone. B. Bakken, Keeper of the Purse.

December Baptismal Anniversaries

2- Donovan McClellan 6- Renee Mickelson 10- Cora Bilse
12- Jennifer Dahlgren, Jeanine Taylor 15- Sherri Hefty 16- Andy Murray
18- Alec Collins, Shane Collins 19- Gabriel Curtis 22- Nicole Kelly
27- Jeff Jacobs

Springdale Lutheran Church Council Minutes, Nov. 17, 2011

Present: Pastor Jacobs, Scott Ringgenberg, Norm Rick, Paul Elver, Betty Bakken, Jim Dahlgren and Sherri Hefty.

Absent: Terry Mickelson and John Arnold

I. Devotion

We read and discussed Chapter 5 "The Heart of Faith" from *Called by God to Serve*. December's devotion will be Chapter 9.

II. Agenda

Updates on insurance claims and thermostats were added to Old Business and 2012 Budget review was added to New Business. A motion was made by Paul seconded by Jim to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Pastor to approve the Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

As of October 31, 2011, the **General Account balance is behind \$12,166.01.**

A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Paul to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

Steeple repairs should be completed within a few days, providing the weather holds.

The proposal to re-key the doors was tabled again to next month because Terry wasn't at this meeting to provide an update.

The Council was asked if we had any suggestions for an Eagle Scout project at either church for Jamie Heindl. Some suggestions were to build a sign for the Labyrinth by the road and to replace an older sign by the highway for West Blue Mounds. Other suggestions are welcomed.

A review of the thermostat settings shows that they are still being changed and not returned to their previous settings, causing the furnace to run when not needed. Norm will continue to look for a 7-day (or 30) programmable thermostat on sale for under \$100 to replace two of the existing thermostats. We will hold off on installing the guards right now.

A police report was filed regarding the theft of the Sunday School computers, software and keyboard. Pastor will follow up to see if the insurance claim was filed.

Also, while the repairs on the steeple were being conducted, LSJ told us that there was wind damage to the steeple. Church Mutual had earlier said there was no wind damage, but only examined the steeple from the ground. We should contact Church Mutual again for a more thorough examination and hopefully file an insurance claim on that as well.

VI. New Business

Betty distributed the proposed 2012 Budget for review along with 2011 and 2010 estimated and actual spending totals. Everyone is asked to re-view the Budget so it can be voted on in December.

The Synod is asking for our Stewardship pledge for 2012. We have been sending \$3,000 annually and they have asked us to consider a modest increase to \$3,100 for 2012.

The Clothes Closet is also asking for a suggested pledge of \$500 for 2012. We pledged \$400 in 2011. We will pledge \$400 again for 2012.

A notice for a Helpmate upgrade was received. Helpmate is the program used to track, sort and generate reports, labels, etc. for the membership. As we are in the process of updating and combining software between the churches, the decision was made to hold off on the update for now.

Several suggestions were received for a combined parish name. The suggestions will be included in the December newsletter for voting purposes.

VII. Committee Report

Reports were received from the Education, Worship & Music and Social Concerns Committees. The Education Committee is planning their Christmas program for Sunday, December 18 and possibly discussion groups on various topics at the soup suppers in January and February. Social Concerns is collecting food for the Food Pantry. Most in need are canned peaches, pears, vegetables, jellies, applesauce and holiday related food items.

VIII. Pastor's Report - October

11 - Worship services 2 - Education 28 - Visitations 1 - Counseling 11 - Congregational Mtgs 5 - Misc. Items 7 - Community/Church-wide Mtgs 988.8 Mileage

IX. FYI & Discussion

Scott received a notice that our septic system needs to be pumped and cleaned by a DNR certified company. We will look into companies that can do this for us.

The Christmas tree should be purchased and up by December 11. A request will be made for donations to purchase the tree and/or help picking it up and delivering it.

December's Council meeting will also be our holiday gathering. Spouses are invited to attend and there will be potluck snack foods to enjoy at the church.

X. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

A motion was made by Norm and seconded by Paul to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Sherri Hefty, Council Secretary

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church Financial Report

Receipts	September \$ 2,901.01	October \$ 3,002.00
Disbursements	3,268.29	5,135.30
Memorials	15,961.67	15,961.67
Bank Balance as of 9/30/11	11,390.94	13,435.99

OUR FAITH ON ITS FEET

Blue Mounds

Countryside Community Center

Nov-Dec Benevolence

Social Concerns reminds everyone that the CCC Food Pantry has need for canned goods of all types, but particularly requests canned peaches, pears & vegetables, jelly and applesauce; holiday food items are also most welcome. In these challenging times, not only are more families feeling the need, but so are the pantries that serve them. Please bring your items to church and put them in baskets in the entry – *thank you* for your generosity! – Social Concerns Committee: Chris Doescher, Beth Elver, Cindy Hanson, Ben Meyer

Thank You, Springdale!

Wow! - - I *was* completely surprised (bags of cans notwithstanding) by your celebration Nov. 13th of my 10 years of ministry at Springdale. I *thank you* humbly and sincerely for all the labor you put into it for my cake, tin cup (still tryin' to turn those pennies into gold...), *beautiful* chef's toque, lovely inscribed tankard *and* those aluminum cans!

Which brings up an exciting aspect of what you're further planning to do – As all of you heard that day, for my 10th Anniversary, everyone is invited to bring their aluminum cans to church, whence Paul Elver will store and redeem them as necessary, to offset the cost of our congregational youth going to New Orleans next summer. Yayyyy!

I'm delighted to have such a worthy effort undertaken in my honor, and I again thank *everyone* for their recognition of this "aluminum" anniversary (and also that anniversary of my birth some, um, [≈] years ago...), and thank everyone in advance for their contributions to help Dane, Tony, Tyler and Nicole make it to the Big Easy!

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts or money to this year's shoe box drive. We were overwhelmed by your generosity. Nov. 14, members of Esther Circle and two women from West Blue Mounds gathered at Springdale to pack boxes. Our goal was 50, but we were able to fill 55 with a variety of fun and useful gifts. Your monetary donations allowed us to send 38 boxes and the remaining \$7 per box came from Esther Circle Treasury.

However, the most important item packed in these boxes was prayer. We hope you will remember to pray for these children and ask God to reveal His love to each who receives a box. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and know you were responsible for putting smiles on the faces of 55 children this Christmas. Your generous support will reveal God's love in a special way, and perhaps draw children to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Your Sisters in Faith, Esther Circle Women

Soup & Sandwich Supper

Springdale's Soup and Sandwich Supper was on a snow date Nov. 16, Potato & chicken vegetable soups, sandwiches, deviled eggs, assorted bars, and beverages were served to 90 diners. Ruth & Sarah Circles both had bazaar tables with quilts, baby blankets, craft items, baked goods, for sale and about \$1500 was raised.

The Planning committee thanks everyone who donated food, money, time or bazaar items for the success which benefits the Clothes Closet blanket fund & new roof for the church steeple. If you have not yet contributed and wish to do so, send your monetary donation to, Priscilla Laufenberg, 8250 N. Riley Road, Verona, WI 53593. Make your check payable to Springdale Lutheran with soup supper in the memo line.

If you missed this event, you missed a tasty meal! Plan to join us next year and experience the cuisine yourself.

Million Pound Challenge

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin greatly appreciates your participation in last year's Million Pound Challenge, which raised 930,000 pounds of food. Goal this year is to raise one million pounds for families in need. Sign up Dec. 1 on the Million Pound Challenge website to exercise a few hrs a week or lose a certain amount of weight, and for every pound you lose or hour you exercise, 10 pounds of food will be donated to Second Harvest.

There is no need to go to Princeton Club or take a membership; Once you register you just go to the website weekly to record hours exercised or weight lost. Also please indicate Blue Mounds Food Pantry as the recipient, and Countryside Community Center receives a credit at Second Harvest to purchase food as needed. We appreciate your support!

GOD'S PRAISES WE SING

December Worship Theme Lights, *Christmas*, Action!

From the prophet Elijah to the wife of that innkeeper who had no room for the Christ Child to be born, we will enjoy a series of dramatic presentations on the meaning of this season. Performances will only be held at *one* church, so take note of the location and time; regular worship will be held at the other congregation on that day:

- Dec. 4 10:15** at West Blue Mounds – “The God Who Answers”
Dec. 11 10:15 at West Blue Mounds – “The Innkeeper’s Wife”
Dec. 18 8:45 at Springdale – “Christmas Treasures”

Christmas Choristers?

If there is anyone interested in singing for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day worship, speak *soon* with Pastor Jacobs, Sharon Moschkau or Cate Gimse-Owen, and we’ll consider whether we have enough for a full-blown chorale(!) or a smaller ensemble to share a simpler song.

Poinsettias

Don’t forget to order your poinsettias by Dec 12. Order forms are in the narthex, or you can call the office at 437-3493. If you are purchasing one on your own, it needs to be at church by Dec 22. *Thank you!*

A Time of Devotion . . .

Advent and the new year are apt times to begin or enhance devotional reading. Besides Advent resources for all ages in the entry and elsewhere, there are other booklets available: “Christ in Our Home”, a daily devotional on each Sunday’s readings, “The Lutheran Digest” with stories, humor and poetry on the joys and challenges of faith, and “The Lutheran Prayerbook” of old and new devotions.

Snow Shoveling Season

Springdale volunteers are needed to shovel and salt all **four** entrances for safety: west side sanctuary entry, south side office entry, north side entry *and especially east side Sunday school stairwell* – this is crucial because snow can pile up there and make exiting impossible in an emergency. See entryway sign-up and *Thank You*.

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 FM 101.5, 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.

Remember Our Shut-Ins

With Advent and Christmas here, be mindful of our Springdale and West Blue Mounds sisters and brothers who aren’t as able to join our worship. Keep them in your prayers, send a card or visit if you can.

at Ingleside: Cora Bilse, Pearl Magnuson, Evie Monum, Charlotte Scheel, Alma Skindrud, Ruth Wittwer

at Girlie’s Manor: Helen Dietrich, Russ Paske

at Four Winds Manor, Verona: Thelma Erickson

at Lincoln Ct. Apts: Lavon Dolan, Helen Moyer

in a Madison group home: Charles Frye

at home: Bob Emerson, Dorothy Evenson, Marion Murray, Carol Peterson

NUTS 'N' BOLTS

Year End Giving

We encourage everyone to bring pledges up to date, especially for the Building Fund – and *thank you* for your continued commitments. Keep in mind that things mailed after the 29th may not get to the treasurer in time, so the last day to be assured of getting 2010 offerings in before books close is **Friday, Dec. 30**.

Nominations Underway

Nominating Committee seeks leaders for 2012. Leaders for Council, Education, Social Concerns, Worship and similar planning groups are ideally vision-oriented people who enjoy looking at the 'big picture' and promoting 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 Meetings

West Blue Mounds, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012

Springdale, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

Reports from all committees, groups and others are due in church office **Tuesday, Jan. 3**. 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 about two weeks before each congregation's respective meeting. Watch for further details in bulletins and January's newsletter.

Newsletter Article Submissions

If you're submitting something by e-mail for publication in the newsletter, 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.

Springdale Treasurer / Financial Secretary

Each November Springdale Council officially appoints a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary to their positions. As per Constitution 11.01.01.5, the Treasurer receives and records individual and special offerings, pays bills and furnishes reports to the Council and congregation; as per C13.04, the Financial Secretary counts and deposits weekly offerings, reports totals to the treasurer, and prepares quarterly and year-end giving statements.

If you feel you have gifts for either calling and would like to be considered for appointment, speak with any Council member before November's meeting.

Springdale Lutheran Church & W. Blue
Mounds Lutheran Church Office
2752 Town Hall Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Return Service Requested

Dated Material: Please Do Not Delay

SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS INSIDE

Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Road Phone: 608-437-3493
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 Fax: 608-437-6845

E-Mail pastorjacobs@springdalelutheran.org
Secretary@springdalelutheran.org
Website: www.springdalelutheran.org

Jeff Jacobs, Pastor
Secretary, Cynthia Beatty
Sharon Moschkau, Music Director
Kiplee Bakken, Sunday School Superintendent

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church
2962 Church Street
W. Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Phone: 608-437-5232

Jeff Jacobs, Pastor
Cate Gimse-Owens, Music Director

Sunday, Dec. 4

10:15 a.m. – “The God Who Answers”
@ West Blue Mounds

Sunday, Dec. 11

10:15 a.m. – “The Innkeeper’s Wife”
@ West Blue Mounds

Monday Dec. 12

1-5:00 p.m. – Catechism Caroling Party
@ Girlie’s Manor/Lincoln Ct./Ingleside

Sunday, Dec. 18

8:45 a.m. – Sunday School Program
@ Springdale

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Party

Saturday, Dec. 24

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight
@ West Blue Mounds

Sunday, Dec. 25

10:15 a.m. – Christmas Day Festival
@ Springdale
No Sunday School

Sunday, Jan. 1

10:15 a.m. – Carol Sing
@ West Blue Mounds