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The first hundred years : a history of Springdale Lutheran congregation. 1852/1952

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THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

A
HISTORY
OF

SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN
CONGREGATION

1852

-

1952

COPY OF OFFICIAL SPRINGDALE
ORGANIZATION DOCUMENT

We John Ingebretson Berge, and Sebjoren Peterson, at an election of the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation of Dane and Jefferson Counties, Wisconsin, held by the Subdivision of said Congregation of Town of Blue Mounds and Springdale, in said county of Dane, at school house in school Dist. No. _____ in the town of Blue Mounds; on the 1st day of December A.D. 1852, pursuant to the notices of the purpose of electing three trustees of said Subdivision of the above congregation, or church, according to law, being at said election, duly appointed, as officers to conduct said election, do hereby certify that the following persons, to wit: Aslak Lie, Nils Sjuru Syvvesind, and Erik Sevre, received the highest number of votes, at said election, and were duly elected Trustees of said church, or congregation, from the 1st day of January A.D. 1853, to preside as such Trustees of said church or congregation, till their successors are duly elected and qualified.

State (In testimony whereof we have
of (here unto set our hand and seals
Wisconsin (this 1st day of Dec. A.D. 1852

John I. Berge (Seal)
Sebjoren Peterson (Seal)

On this day _____ A.D. 1853 appeared
before me John I. Berge, and Sebjoren
Peterson Dusterud, and acknowledged the
indenture of the above instrument their
free act and deed, for the purposes
therein mentioned.

100 YEAR FAMILIES IN SPRINGDALE

Among names identified with our church during the first 10 years of its organization, and which still are on our membership list are: Brostuen, Brager, Bohle (Boli), Bakken, Eggum, Lee, Lunde, Olson, Sletto, Spaanem, Solve, Skindrud, Shutvet, Sorenson (Quistrud), Thompson (Rue), Thompson (Brenden), Thorson (Aase).

Other names important, at that time, but which are not on our list now, though the descendants of some of them are, we find: Berge, Bangsfordet, Grinde, Fosshage, Mikkell Johnson, Kobbervig, Lien, Lindelien, Mennes, Stugaarden, Urdahl.

Pastors who have served Springdale Lutheran Congregation:

A.C. and H.A. Preus, 1850-1856

P. M. Brodahl, 1856-1868

A. Jacobson, 1868-1878

Adolph Bredeson, 1878-1881

Peter Isberg, 1881-1883

O. P. Syftestad, 1883-1890

Severin Gunderson, 1890-1947

Hector Gunderson, 1930-

SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

The first Norwegian settlers in Springdale came from Telemarken, Valdres and Sogn. Some had stopped in Illinois, some in Muskego or Manitowoc, Wisconsin, but not until they found Springdale did they feel

at home. "Eureka" would probably have expressed their feelings. However, necessity is a hard master; a shelter and means of sustenance had to be provided.

Their next concern was Spiritual Nurture. Consequently in March 27, 1850 Rev. J.W.C. Dietrichsen came here from Koshkonong, and preached to a large audience which had assembled from miles around. The services were conducted near a large oak tree on the Tore Spaanem farm. No air-conditioning was needed in that cathedral. Eighteen children were baptized at this meeting. Among them were the following who became life members of the Springdale church: Mrs. Ole Rockstad, Halvor and Sorn Sorenson and Andrew O. Grinde.

On January 18th, 1851, with John I. Berge as chairman, a meeting was held to solicit support for a visiting pastor, and for religious school for the children. The following gave required support: Aslak Lie, Thore T. Spaanem, John I. Berge, Ole Sorenson Quistrud, Knud E. Dokenes, Harold H. Hoff, Nils H. Grasdalen, Knud Sorenson Quistrud, Levor A. Lien, Ole O. Lie, Ivar T. Aase, Erik E. Solve, Halvor H. Grasdalen, Arne H. Hoff, Tosten T. Rue, Andres K. Lundene, Henrik J. Skagen, Ole Sanderson Oyer, Kittil N. Luraas, Erick Olson Skindrud, and Mikkell Larson Tollebraaten.

Ole Arneson Ruste was engaged to teach school at a salary of \$8.00 per month, meeting in the various homes.

The following were enrolled in the religious day school that year: Lars Olson Oyer, Knud Severson Lien, Knud Aslakson Lie, Anne Svenungsdatter, Kari Aslaksdatter, Ragnild Levorsdatter Lien, Halvor Aslakson Lie, Lukris Olsdatter Oyer, Andres Syverson, Bergit Jorgensdatter Lie, Bergit Olsdatter Oyer, Marit Levorsdatter Lien, Marie Halvorsdatter Overboe, Halvor H. Grasdalen, Knud Anderson, Johannes Hendrikson Skagen, Eric Syvertson, Nils Kittilson Luraas, Tov Svenungson.

The Norse immigrants in Springdale were associated with fellow countrymen in Blue Mounds, Vermont, Perry and Primrose. So when a visiting pastor came to one area, the religious services conducted by him were well attended by gospel hungry settlers from these scattered communities.

At such a service conducted at the Thore T. Spaanem farm on March 27, 1951, thirty communicants are listed in the records. As these form a nucleus for our church organization, their names are adequately important to record here: Tor Kittleson, (2), Kittle Tovson (1), Aslak Lie (2), Levor A. Lien (2), Syver A. Schavelden (2), Ole Olson Lie (2), Thore Spaanem (2), Margit Spaanem (1), Svend T. Spaanem (1), Knud E. Dokkenes (1), Knud M. Lien (2), Eric O. Skindrud (2), Kitter Olson Hauge (1), Harald H. Hoff (1), Arne Hoff (2), Knud H. Lie (2), Live J. Lie (1), Halvor Grasdalen (2), Britta Halvorsdatter (1).

On October 14, 1951, 46 communicants were listed, and on Dec. 12, the same year, 22 names were recorded. This shows that the settlers were religious minded.

The Grim Reaper visited the settlement too, and a cemetery was established in 1847, in Sec. 6. The first burial seems to be that of Ingebright Berge.

Discussions for building a suitable house of worship were held from time to time while services were conducted in the homes and at schoolhouses or in the open, when weather permitted.

On January 10, 1861, it was decided to buy 2 acres of land from Mr. M. Allen for a church and graveyard site. The price on this piece of land was \$40.00. It is located in Sec. 8, on the present U.S. Hy. 18, about 2 miles east of Mt. Horeb. It is the location our church and cemetery has occupied thru these past 90 years.

The following were elected as a building committee: Thore T. Spaanem, H. Johnson, Knut Lee, Erick Skindrud, Thos. Urdahl. John I. Berge, was elected treasurer, and Mikkel Johnson Borlaug was elected trustee. The church was to be built 48 x 32, and 20 ft. high, with a tower 25 to 30 ft. high above the roof. The contractor was W. P. Class from Verona. Erick Skindrud "staked out" the foundation. Besides the building committee, Thore Spaanem, Nils Grasdalen, Arne Hoff and Erick Skindrud were appointed to see that all work was satisfactory.

In the fall of 1862 the exterior of the church was painted by Anton Kammen, who was paid \$14.75 for the job. It called for two coats of paint on the church, and three on the tower. The congregation

furnished the material, a total of \$16.25 which included a 75 cent brush!

In the "old country" a bell was always a part of the church equipment. Our early settlers missed this Call to Worship. It was a sound they wanted to hear again. But a bell required a more substantial tower or steeple than the one built on the church, so interest was aroused and funds were raised. A new steeple, the present one, was built in the early fall of 1877. Ole Rockstad built the foundation, and Iver Kleven of Springdale and Ole Jordet of Black Earth built the super-structure.

On November 14, 1877 the church bell was installed. It is a Meneely bell of 1000 pounds weight. It was cast in West Troy, N. Y. in 1877. It cost \$300.00 collected in free will donations. Andres O. Grinde hauled it here from Milwaukee with a team of horses.

The altar and pulpit were also built in 1877. In July 1883 the steeple was damaged by lightning. Iver Kleven undertook to repair it at a cost of \$234.00. The stone wall under the steeple was also repaired, and a new chimney built.

An item from our church records, dated November 15, 1879 shows the resourcefulness of our pioneer members. It was unanimously decided to have those farthest away bring the wood for church heating, and those nearest by were to do the janitor service.

Springdale had been supplied with pastors who also served Perry, East Blue Mounds, and Vermont. With traveling conditions as they were then, this arrangement was too hard on the pastor, so at a meeting on June 16, 1881 it was decided to separate from Perry, and with East Blue Mounds and Vermont call our own pastor. In 1883 Rev. O. P. Syftestad accepted the new call, and became the first really local pastor to serve the parish, which is still intact.

Building is a mark of growth. In 1894 there were discussions of enlarging and improving the church.

Under the viril direction of Rev. S. Gunderson, who had served as our pastor since 1890, building plans and bids submitted by Kleven brothers Knut and Gilbert were accepted, and work on the new church started in the spring of 1895.

The members donated much work especially in tearing down the old structure. The steeple was left intact, as that was solidly built only 18 years before.

The total cost of the building and decorating was \$2400.00. A furnace was installed by H. T. Lerdahl of Madison at a cost of \$130.00.

On September 15, 1895, Dist. Pres. Pastor T. H. Dahl, assisted by Pastors H. Voldal, Perry, G. T. Rygh, Mt. Horeb, Th. Eggen, Madison, A. Jacobson, a former pastor of Decorah, Iowa and the

local pastor, Rev. S. Gunderson, dedicated the new church with fitting ceremonies.

The following years were busy with our participating in the United Church building projects, and the parish plan for a new parsonage. Locally we needed more cemetery space and fence and hitching post repairs so the horses would stand until the services were over.

On September 28, 1902 Springdale Congregation observed its 50th birthday. On that occasion Rev. S. Gunderson mentioned that Erick Skindrud and Arne Hoff, who were among the 30 first communicants listed in our records were still with us.

By 1923 car parking became a problem; so George O. Rockstad, an active member, kindly granted the congregation an area along his farm in front of the church, which is still retained as a parking lot.

The Kvindeforening or Ladies Aid which was organized in 1885 under the direction of Rev. O. P. Syftestad, has had an important part in the growth of the congregation and church life during its 67 years of existence.

A Pigeforening or Young Women's Society was also an important link in the women's church activities. In time the Pigeforening merged with the Ladies Aid.

For several years the need for an assembly room for the church organizations,

and especially for the young people, was felt. The feasibility of excavating a basement under the church was discussed, and found possible. So early in 1928 this task was undertaken.

The earth under the church is solid lime rock, so great precaution was necessary in blasting with dynamite. A modest assembly room plus a small kitchen, which at that time seemed adequate, were provided. For heating the church, a new wood and coal burning furnace was installed.

The church auditorium was painted by the famous church decorator, Mr. Carl Christianson of Milwaukee.

Memorial art windows given by individual families or organizations were installed by Mr. Carl Reiman of Milwaukee at a cost of \$1010.00.

These many fine improvements completed, the congregation decided to celebrate their birthday. So November 4th, 1928, the 76th anniversary of Springdale Congregation became a gala event. The weather was ideal and it was estimated that more than 800 people were present. A 60 x 40 tent was erected outside the church for the accomodation of those who were unable to get inside, and where the dinner was served by the ladies of the congregation.

The Rt. Rev. J. A. Aasgaard delivered a masterly sermon based on the 78th Psalm. Neighbor pastors, E. R. Anderson and

J. H. Myrvang spoke, as did Atty. Ole Eggum of Whitehall, Wisconsin whose parents were leaders in our early church history.

The junior and senior choirs under the direction of organist Cora J. Sorenson added much to the festivities.

A Young Peoples Luther League was organized on March 29th, 1929. In spite of its shifting membership, it continues to do excellent work in keeping the young people interested in church. There has never been a lack of capable leaders.

In October 1929 a standard Sunday School was organized. A staff of unselfish and devoted teachers has helped make the religious education of our congregation an example worth following.

Ordination services for the two sons of Rev. S. Gunderson, Gerhard and Hector, were conducted in the Vermont Church, on June 22, 1930. Since the youngest son, Hector Theodore DeWet was called to assist his aging father in this parish, he was also installed at this ordination service by the Rev. J. A. Aasgaard, president of our church synod.

Two years later, in 1932, Rev. Hector Gunderson accepted the call to be pastor in charge and his 81 year old father was honored with the title of Pastor Emeritus and the privilege of doing as much or as little parish work as the two pastors planned.

On a beautiful Indian Summer day,

November 19, 1933 another impressive service took place in Springdale. This was the ordination into the Holy Ministry of Orlando M. Skindrud, sone of Mr. Martin Skindrud. District president Rt. Rev. J. M. Green was the ordinator. Rev. Skindrud's ancestry form an unbroken line of devout Springdale church people, which makes him truly, a son of the congregation. His ordination was an all day event with neighboring pastors assisting the Revs. Gundersons. The choir and several local people participated in the impressive ceremony.

The English language came gradually into use in the church from 1910 and on. Rev. S. Gunderson insisted on the change in favor of the young people and the non-Norwegian members who came to church or who were our neighbors. So we continued as Norwegian Lutherans in name only.

After 1925 Rev. S. Gunderson preached three Norse Services in Springdale. The last one in 1942. The last service he conducted alone in Springdale was on November 30, 1941. He was then 88½ years old. He also took part in the 90th anniversary of our church which was celebrated a year later on Oct. 4, 1942.

On January 24, 1943 Rev. S. Gunderson fell on rough ice and broke a hip. This incapacitated him for some time, but his grit and determination helped him to get about again, so that he was able to attend the 90th anniversary of the Vermont Congregation on October 6, 1946. He made a speech there, which was transcribed on a record for future interest.

Rev. Severin Gunderson died July 14, 1947 having passed his 94th birthday. His funeral held in Springdale church was large and impressive. For more than 50 active years he ministered to our spiritual needs, and his influence will be felt for generations to come.

A new financial system was started in 1935 with Ben R. Mavis as treasurer. He has continued in that capacity since.

The Church Constitution was translated from Norwegian to English with revisions in 1937.

In 1937 electricity became available under the rural electrification act. (R.E.A.) On September 19, 1937 the lights, memorial fixtures, and many other memorial gifts were dedicated at a beautiful evening service.

In 1941 the Ladies Aid gave the church an American flag and the flag of the church, in memory of Mrs. Rev. S. Gunderson, who passed away in death July 8, 1941, age 83 years, mother of eight children.

Up to 1942 our annual Fall Mission Festivals had been all day meetings, but since then they have been forenoon meetings only. A summer offering to missions is held to augment the annual mission obligation which figures at \$5.00 per confirmed person. Special projects have always been assumed as the synod has requested them.

There were no musical instruments in the church during the first years. The

Klokker or hymn-leader started the hymns, using a pitch pipe for the right key.

According to church records the first reed organ was purchased in 1889.

Shortly after this a group of young members of the congregation met and practiced singing together, to assist the hymn leader with songs for worship. A church choir was developing gradually as a fruit of the "singing school" conducted by the Klokker and religious school teacher, Ole A. Lee, who served Springdale from 1881 until his health failed. He died in 1919.

Our first organist was Miss Anna Skindrud, now Mrs. H. T. Thompson. Others known to have served as organist are: Miss Clara Edwin (deceased), Miss Martha Gilbertson (Mrs. T. H. Mithus), Miss Sophie Gunderson (Mrs. H. M. Mason), Miss Cora J. Sorenson and Mrs. Russell Marquardt.

In 1948 Miss Cora J. Sorenson, who was our faithful organist since 1907, voluntarily gave a Wurlitzer Electronic, two manual organ to the church. On Sunday evening, November 5, 1950 Mr. Bertram Webber of Madison gave an organ recital on this organ, which fully demonstrated its tone quality and beauty. The Congregation is deeply grateful to Miss Sorenson for this generous gift, which she specially designated as a memorial to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Sorenson.

Miss Sorenson, as well as the previous organists, worked hard to direct choirs which have been a big asset to our church life. Mrs. Lloyd Julson has done well in assembling and directing a Junior Choir.

Synodens Salmebog and later Landstads Salmebog were in use before the Lutheran Hymnary became our present hymnal. These inherited hymns, which for religious power and beauty, cannot be surpassed, should continue in use and be preserved for future generations.

In 1947 the women members of Springdale Congregation were given full voting privileges. Church improvements were contemplated, and a campaign for building funds was started.

The great majority favored enlarging the basement and installation of a modern heating plant. A building committee was elected and meetings held to discuss plans and means.

Meanwhile Rev. Hector Gunderson's health became a grave concern and in April 1949 he was given six months leave of absence from his parish work. He underwent two serious and painful operations under Mayo Clinic Doctors and needed time to recuperate.

During Rev. Hector Gunderson's absence, his pastorate was cared for by theological student Maynard Midthun. We were happy when Rev. Gunderson was able to officiate alone again in Springdale on April 23, 1950.

At a special meeting called by the building committee on November 30, 1949 Rev. Hector Gunderson was present in an invalid chair to encourage the congregation to go forward.

By a vote of 55 to 19, it was decided to remodel the church according to elaborate and expensive architect plans shown. The trustees were also instructed to have the steeple repaired, and lightning rods installed. Because of the difficulty of obtaining workmen and materials during the war emergency years the church improvements were slow and costly.

More than \$20,000 were spent in the construction of additional space above and below ground and for general improvements. An oil furnace was installed, and a well was drilled which alone cost \$559.00. With modern pumping equipment, running water was available to the kitchen and rest rooms and hot water always on tap became a reality.

An enlarged library room and a beautiful Fellowship Hall as well as a commodious, well equipped kitchen make meetings in Springdale a pleasure.

By this time the church auditorium needed renovating too. The 1951 annual meeting decided to have the church auditorium cleaned and painted in part and the floor sanded. The Ladies Aid provided the finishing touch by carpeting the aisles. This was completed in 1951-1952.

At the 1949 business meeting pastor Hector Gunderson reminded the congregation of the approaching centennial of our church. Plans were discussed, and three women were appointed to consider the matter, and make recommendations to the next annual meeting.

This Preliminary Centennial Planning Committee presented a set of recommendations to the 1950 annual business meeting, which were accepted, and have been helpful to the general committee. One recommendation was that the history of the congregation be compiled at a nominal cost.

We have tried to record the highlights of the Springdale Lutheran Congregation during its century of existence.

A hundred years is a long time in the life of a man, but a short time in the life of the Christian Church.

If we have through this chronicle been able to impress upon the present and future generations the earnest desire of the church to unders, to build and maintain a suitable place for religious services, despite numerous disadvantages, we feel the future of this church will be safe in their stewardship.

In humble gratitude to God for His mercy and protection in the years past, We Dedicate this simple history of the Springdale Lutheran Congregation to all

past and present members and to those
whom we hope will be consecrated members
for generations to come.

History Committee

Mrs. Martin J. Bang, author

Miss Grace Thompson

Mr. Arthur J. Sorenson

Rev. Hector Gunderson,
advisory members

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SPRINGDALE

From earliest days Springdale Lutheran congregation has been mindful of God-given responsibilities to teach her children the fundamentals of Christian religion.

The Early Skole Laerer

In the early beginnings of the congregation the children were instructed by men who were especially trained and educated as religious school teachers. In those early days they were called Skole Laerer. They conducted schools in especially appointed homes of the various neighborhoods. Through the years 1851-1919 the following served as school teachers: J. I. Berge, Ole Arneson Ruste, Aslak Lee, Hans Hegrud, Andres Vaage, and Ole A. Lee. There may have been others, the records not always properly identifying a teacher from a Klokker.

Klokkers

Some of these laymen, in addition to teaching, held the position of klokker. The early klokker led the congregation in hymn singing and hymn study, and offered the opening and closing prayers at the Sunday service. Ole A. Lee and Christen Anderson were the last to serve as klokkers in the formal worship services, giving only the above designated prayers.

Vacation Bible School

Since the earliest years the children of the congregation received special Christian training during the summer months. Originally it was four to six months, then four to six week terms which were taught in the several district school houses of the parish area. The classes were from nine to four o'clock, and the courses of study included Catechism, Explanation, Bible History and Hymn singing. Parents of the children contributed the salary of the teachers. These schools were earlier called "Parochial Schools", in later years were better termed "Daily Vacation Bible Schools". With time these summer schools were most frequently taught by the women of the church. Among the first of these to teach was Mrs. Sarah Syftestad, wife of the late Rev. O. P. Syftestad. Occasionally young men, students from our church colleges or seminary, were secured to teach. The vacation school has always been a very effective teaching agency in the church.

Sunday School

Arrangements for Sunday School teaching were somewhat elementary at first. Children were taught in many homes in Sunday sessions by devout mothers. By congregation order some neighborhoods held Sunday School classes in the country district schools. Among these were the early beginnings of Sunday School classes at the Klevenville school taught by Miss Annie Sletto. Without a central meeting place the Sunday Schools were weak and spasmodic.

Upon the completion of the church parlors in 1928 it was possible to secure the interest and organize the present Sunday School. In October 1929 a standard Sunday School was organized. The graded system recommended by the synod was adopted. In recent years the Teacher's Training Course, prescribed by the Synod Board of Education, has been studied by the Sunday School teachers under the leadership of pastor Rev. Hector Gunderson. Classes have been held from September to June, all children of the congregation enrolled with few exceptions. The following have served as superintendents - Miss Cora Sorenson, Mrs. George Brager, Mrs. Elmer Magnuson, Mrs. Truman Dunlap, and Mrs. Harold Monum.

Catechetical Instruction

The Norwegian people did not find it natural to call this study confirmation class or catechetical instruction, so they said, "han laeser for presten" -- that is, "he reads for the pastor".

Today he is a confirmand who enrolls when he is in eighth grade and completes his second year of instruction with Confirmation in the spring of his freshman year in high school. This procedure for catechetical instruction is recommended by the synod as directed at one of its church conventions.

The two year confirmation course was begun in 1946, the classes meeting with the pastor at the parsonage study on Saturday mornings, which had been customary since about 1905.

In this manner Springdale Lutheran congregation, from the date of its organization to its centennial observance, attempts to fulfill Christ's command -- "to teach" and "to observe" all things which He has commanded His followers to do.

HISTORY OF THE SPRINGDALE LADIES AID

The Springdale Kvindeforening was organized in the Spring of 1885 under the direction of pastor O. P. Syftestad.

The first regular meeting was held on May 12, 1885 at the home of Erick and Daardi Skindrud. The first president was Mrs. Peter H. Brager. Besides Guro Brager, the president, eight other women are known to have been charter members, namely: Brita Grinde, Beret Stugard, Kari Lunde, Guri Rue, Daardi Skindrud, and the Misses Oline Skindrud, Sering Brager and Ragnild Lunde. They met once a month, meetings commencing at one P.M. Most of the members walked to the meetings, often several miles. Some drove a horse. Few men drove their wives there or attended.

Ten cent dues were collected, and a modest lunch was served. They subscribed to a

Mission paper, and would read aloud from it besides Scripture reading for devotion. All were busy, sewing or knitting, and the finished articles were sent to the then Homme Orphans Home, at Wittenberg, Wisconsin or to the Indian Mission.

As soon as a few dollars were available in the treasury, it was sent to our Mission field in Madagascar, China, or Africa; or to some home Mission or benevolence.

The fine Christian spirit of the first members attracted others, and by the end of the first year, the membership had trebled.

Upon the death of Rev. Syftestad in February 1890, Rev. A. Jacobson served as pastor until the arrival of Rev. Severin Gunderson in September of 1890. Rev. Gunderson's genial personality and boundless energy, greatly encouraged attendance at our meetings.

At first the Norwegian language was used exclusively but gradually English came into use and now we are known as a Ladies' Aid.

A Pigeforening or young women's society had been an efficient link in our church life but when the church parlor was ready, a regular Young Peoples Luther League was organized, and the young women of our church either joined it or the Ladies Aid, or both.

In 1932 three Dorcas societies were organized as auxiliaries to the Ladies Aid. It is inconvenient for a large group to do hand work at its meetings, so these Dorcas groups make articles which are sold at our annual bazaar, thereby greatly increasing our Ladies Aid treasury. They are a vital and efficient force in our church today.

The Ladies Aid has also sponsored food sales and a few dinners, which have been very remunerative.

"In Unity there is Strength", so Springdale Ladies Aid has for years been a faithful member of the W.M.F., supporting all its departments. We have sixteen members on the Life Membership, and one hundred thirty-seven on the Cradle Roll.

On June 19, 1935, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. Mrs. Lydia Bredeson Sundby, general president of the W.M.F. at that time was present, and gave an interesting and inspiring talk. At that time also, two of our charter members were present, Mrs. Serine Brager Lukken, and Mrs. Oline Skindrud Granum. Mrs. Ragnild Lunde Nelson sent a letter of greetings. Two of the ladies who joined during the first year also were present. Now our earliest members have gone to their eternal rest, but their spirit of service is ever present.

Our membership has varied with population changes. At present we

have fifty^{nine}-one members. Mrs. Sarah Sorenson who was a faithful member for more than 60 years, died March 13, 1952.

Our congregation and Ladies Aid is not large compared with many, but we are strong because we agree on fundamental issues and work very well together in harmony. To be an inspiration for good in our church is our aim.

Through the years our organization has helped missions at home and abroad.

We have assisted schools, churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions.

We have helped needy and famine stricken sections of this and other lands. We have through memorials, and other donations cheered the sick and the bereaved.

We have given to Red Cross, War Chests, Y. M. C. A., and to other Christian war relief agencies.

We supported the synod Centennial Appeal, Lutherdale Bible Camp, United Christian Education, and the Lutheran Student Foundation. We give yearly support to the Religious Schools in our congregation. Through past years, we have always responded generously with finances for local church improvements and repairs.

During the most recent building program called our 100th Anniversary Building Project, in which we built a completely new and enlarged church parlors and kitchen with all modern facilities, the Ladies Aid has given \$3000.00 to the building fund, besides providing many costly items for the kitchen, Fellowship Hall and church auditorium.

We thank God for the privilege to serve and humbly ask His continued blessing.

THE SPRINGDALE NORWEGIAN PIONEER CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

The first Norwegian cemetery in Springdale, and the oldest in western Dane County, is located on section eight on an elevation in the north-western section of Springdale, and at that time in close proximity to the first Norwegian settlement of the township established in 1846.

This cemetery was established in 1847, a year after the first Norwegian settlement had begun, and was dedicated by the Rev. A. C. Preus on April 10, 1850. It is not known who was the first person buried there. The first interment recorded is that of Ingebret Berge, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John I. Berge who died September 7, 1849. There are fifty or more members of pioneer families interred in this cemetery. The location of many of the graves was originally marked with simple memorials, most of them designed and prepared by Aslak Lee, that disintegrated with time and gradually disappeared, and with the tilling of the soil over this burial ground the exact location of the graves is unknown. This burial place continued in use until the year 1863 when the cemetery adjoining the Springdale Lutheran Church located about a mile south that had been established in 1861 came into general use.

With the passing away of the older generations and fearing that all trace of this burial place would be obliterated, Mr. Albert K. Sorenson, whose

mother and two brothers lie buried in this cemetery, felt that a suitable monument should be erected on this hallowed burial ground to perpetuate the memory of the persons interred there. In the year 1900 he initiated a movement for a permanent memorial and enlisted the aid of relatives he could locate through personal inquiry and by appeals made in Norwegian and English language publications of those who had any of their people buried there, and succeeded in learning the names of most of the fifty or more persons interred in this cemetery. Funds were raised by subscription, that is by appealing to relatives of the deceased here and elsewhere and contributions from interested friends, and a substantial monument was erected there on September 15, 1901 on a plot of land twenty-five feet square conveyed to the Springdale Lutheran Church as a perpetual possession.

The obelisk monument standing seventeen and one-half feet high consists of a shaft and two bases of Bedford stone with the polished die of Barre granite. On the east face of this memorial is engraved the following Biblical passage: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me though he die yet shall he live". On the north side is found the following inscription: "The first Norwegian cemetery" - "Erected in 1901 to the memory of those buried here from 1847 to 1863." On the west side the inscription reads "Among the fifty or more dead buried here are the following:

Kari Berge Sorenson
Soren Sorenson
Gustave Sorenson
Ingebret Berge
John Berge
Johanna Urdahl
John Urdahl
Kari Bingham
Marie Bingham
Annie Bingham
Ole D. Shutvet
Ole Thompson
Hermod Sorom
John Nelson
Knud Spaanum
Ole Spaanum
Aslaug Spaanum
Marget Grasdalen
Halvor Grasdalen
Harold Brager
Lari Lunde

Anton S. Lunde
Tore Grasdalen
Dora Kalsket
Christ Olson
Ole A. Lee
Anna Levorson
Maria Levorson
Olea Skindrud
Ole M. Skindrud
Olene Skindrud
Andrew Bohle
Johan H. Hoff
Arne Roang
Halvor Roang
Beota Roang
Knut E. Bang

The present cemetery adjacent to the Springdale Lutheran Church, also in Section 8, was established on two acres of land purchased from M. Allen on January 10, 1861 at a cost of forty dollars. It is not definitely known when the first interment was made there, but is assumed that burials were made shortly after the cemetery was acquired. The pioneer cemetery continued in use until 1863 probably by families having other members previously interred there.

SPRINGDALE WAR RECORD

The Springdale Lutheran Congregation has been well represented in the various branches of services in all major wars in which our country has been engaged.

The men from Springdale who served in the War between the States include:

Peter H. Brager
John Lunde
Iver Olson
Hans O. Opsal
Austin Shutvet

Due to the absence of a Springdale Honor Roll for the Civil War, this may not be a complete list.

The following names appear on the Honor Roll for the first World War:(1917-18)

Oliver Lee
Olai Thompson
Hans Moen
Charles Spaanem
Almer Kobbervig
Adolph Bangs
Theodore Olson
Melvin Colby
Gerhard Gunderson
Harvey Field
Melvin Thompson
Adolph Solve
Jimmie Lunde
Selmer Colby
Albert Lee
Oliver Olson
Otto Brager
Henry Kobbervig
Paul Olson
Irvin Erickson

The second World War (1941-45) also had its honor roll of young men and one young lady from Springdale. These names appear on that Roll:

Raymond C. Lunde
Lester A. Shutvet
Gordon A. Grimstad
Lyle R. Shutvet
Wesley E. Bakken
Arnold J. Bohle
Harold E. Marty
William J. Marty
Amos H. Thorson
Stanley L. Shutvet
Eugene R. Showers
Gerald W. Julson
Wesley E. Field
Phillip Lee
Ted O. Lingard
Melvin E. Lingard
LaVon Marty
Jerrold Moen
Dean Dodge
Glennis Haugland
Robert Marty
Donald Oimoen
Donald Julson

Of these, Gordon A. Grimstad was lost at sea under battle.

In addition to those whose names appear on the honor rolls, we have several members of Springdale who are veterans who have joined our congregation since their terms of service.

Rev. O. M. Skindrud, while serving as pastor of the Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church, enlisted in the U. S. Army Chaplaincy. He served as Chaplain on a troop transport ship from Sept. 25, 1943 to April 1946. He was commissioned a Major

before he returned home to his pastorate near Clinton, Wisconsin.

Gordon A. Grimstad died on November 27, 1943 in the Mediterranean Sea, as a result of the sinking of a British transport by enemy action.

Chrystal Adeline Swiggum entered Naval Service March 25, 1944, served 27 months, was commissioned Lieutenant (J.G.). Later married Wesley Bakken, and is an active member of Springdale Congregation.

The following young men are in service at the time of this writing:

Raymond C. Lunde
Roger Field
Charles Julson
John Marty
Robert Marty
Glenn Thompson
Lee Thompson
Elmer Magnuson, Jr.

Each Memorial Day the graves of our departed veterans are decorated with flags and wreaths by the American Legion Post #113 of Mount Horeb. These men are so honored:

Peter H. Brager
Hans O. Opsal
Austin Shutvet
Iver Olson
Albert Lee
Gordon Grimstad, for whom a tree is
planted on the cemetery

CONGREGATION OFFICIALS 1952

Pastor -- Rev. Hector D. Gunderson

Assistants to the Pastor -- Harvey
S. Field, Arthur J. Sorenson

Trustees -- Gustave Haugland, Otto
Hanson, Quintin Stenseth

Secretary -- C. A. Sorenson

Treasurer -- Ben R. Mavis

Custodian -- Halvor O. Bakken

Organist -- Cora J. Sorenson, with
Mrs. Russell Marquardt
substituting

Ladies Aid Officers -- Mrs. Joseph R.
Olson, president and
Mrs. Fredrick Heuser,
Mrs. Elmer Magnuson,
and Mrs. Arthur Swiggum

Joy Olson, V.P.
Luther League -- Mrs. Vernon Edseth,
president and Jerome
Haugland and Jeanne Ayers

Dorcas No. 1 -- Mrs. Fredrick Heuser,
president and Mrs. Elmer
Magnuson and Mrs. Arthur Bilse

Dorcas No. 2 -- Mrs. Wesley Bakken,
president and Mrs. M. Star-
czynski and Mrs. Stanley Ayers

Dorcas No. 3 -- Mrs. Arthur Soper,
president and Mrs. Hector
Mrs. C. Bohle, V.P. Gunderson

Cemetery Board -- Vernon Edseth,
Jerome Skindrud,
C. A. Sorenson,
Ben Mavis

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Building Committee -- Harvey S. Field,
chairman, and Ben R. Mavis,
Thorvald Odegaard, Quintin
Stenseth, Elmer Magnuson,
Mrs. Arthur Bilse and
Mrs. J. E. Olson

General Centennial Committee -- Rev.
Hector Gunderson,
C. A. Sorenson, Mrs. Arthur
Soper, Mrs. Otto Hanson,
Miss Grace Thompson

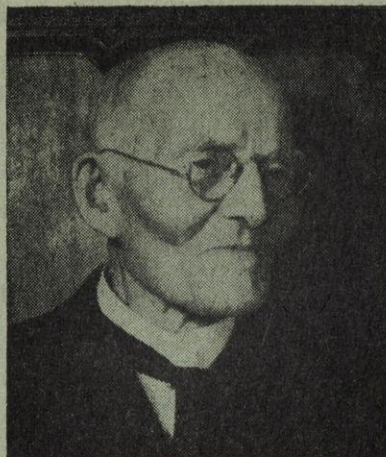
Invitations -- Mrs. Ben R. Mavis, Mrs.
Arthur Bilse, Mrs. Harvey
Field

History -- Mrs. Wesley Bakken, Mrs.
George Brager, Mrs. Martin
Bang, Arthur J. Sorenson,
Grace Thompson

Registration -- Mrs. Jerrold Moen,
Mrs. Alice Thompson,
Miss Lois Hanson,
Miss Eleanore Olmoen

Pictures and Displays -- Mrs. Carl
Bohle, Mrs. Alvin Heimenstine,
Mrs. Sever Brostuen,
Susie Eggum, and Laura Lee

Mimeographed by
Mrs. Orton L. Johnson



Pastor Severin Gunderson
1890 - 1947



Pastor Hector Gunderson
1930 —

