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-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.