

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

1381 Big Canoe Road
Decorah, IA 52101
563-546-7974

3824 Highlandville Road
Decorah, IA 52101
563-735-5974

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

December WORSHIP TIMES

Big Canoe 9:00 a.m. - Highland 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve – 4:30 p.m. at Big Canoe

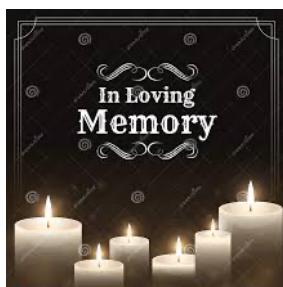
Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. at Highland

Sunday, December 26th - Joint Service 10:00 a.m. at Big Canoe



Advent Wreath Readings & Lighting of candles

are needed for the season of Advent. We are asking anyone or a family to sign up to read and light the wreath candle. A sign-up sheet will be available by the bulletins at each church. Please sign up and help out this Advent Season.



Memory Lights. The white lights at the church this year will be lit again by Gary & Bev Stortz and Mitch & Amanda Stortz in memory of both Michael Stortz and Brady Stortz. The blue bulbs on the bushes at the entrance of the church may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one for \$5.00 per bulb. Please send a list of loved ones, along with the number of bulbs that you wish to purchase to Big Canoe Lutheran Church, Tree of Memories, 1381 Big Canoe Road, Decorah, IA 52101

Luther League

- Sunday, November 7th Luther League gave a \$600 check to Central Furniture Rescue along with four truckloads of furniture, and a \$600 check to NE Iowa Food Bank. The circle ladies also donated 35 quilts. Thank you to both congregations for all of their efforts with these donations. We were glad for KWWL-TV's presence to record these gifts.
- Our December meeting will be December 19 after church. They will have a Christmas party and meeting members are welcome to buy and wrap up a \$10 gift for a fun gift exchange. They will also set goals for 2022 so bring your calendars and ideas.
- A big thank you to Cody Forde for donating pumpkins for the Luther League in Sunday school to carve in the month of October.

Sunday School Christmas

Program is December 12th at the 9 a.m. church service. The congregation is welcome to bring bars & cookies. The social concerns committee and Luther League will be serving refreshments in the basement after the program.

Thanksgiving Offerings

- Highland's Thanksgiving offerings went to the Decorah Free Clinic.
- Big Canoe's Thanksgiving offerings went to the Decorah Food Pantry.

INFO, DATES & THANK YOU'S:

- **Rebecca Circle** will meet on December 1st at 6:30 at Big Canoe.
- **Highland Council** meets with Pastor Gies at noon on Sunday, December 5th.
- **Joint Council** will be December 12th at Highland after 11:00 a.m. worship service to talk about call process, budget, joint property details, and Interim Pastoral contract details for 2022.
- **Hannah Circle** will meet Tuesday, December 7th, 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Bigler's home.
- **BC WELCA** – no general meeting for December.
 - They are collecting items for Bremwood. They are asking the congregation to help with this project. Items needed for each bundle are:
 - 1 bath towel, 1 wash cloth, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, and solid deodorant.
 - Other optional items are dental floss, chapstick, lip gloss, comb and brush.
 - These items will be put in a basket in the church entry way. Items must be new. Any amount of items are welcome.
 - Please call Emma Thompson with questions – 563-382-4002.
- The **LWR truck** was loaded on Saturday, November 6th at Olson Explosives. There were generous donations from the Upper Iowa, Little Flock, and Shechem Clusters, also a Luther College group, St. Ansgar in Waterloo and St Peter in Elma. There were a total of 896 boxes filled with 1723 quilts, 959 personal care kits, 2217 school kits, 545 baby care kits, 77 fabric kits and 12 blankets. Thank you to all that donated and contributed in any way – Dee & Sandy.
- A big **THANK YOU** to Steve and Laurie Emery, Amy O'Regan, Vern Gavle, Sue Darling, Carlo Maki and four men from Zion Lutheran of West Union for helping with the loading. Also, THANK YOU to all who contributed in any way with the quilts and kits Big Canoe sent. Our totals were: 80 quilts, 57 school kits and 17 fabric kits.
- **Thank you** to Mike Jewel for his donation that was given Big Canoe in memory of Ethel (Helgeson) Jewel. The funds were used to purchase crab apple trees for the lawn around the church grounds and for altar candles. Thank you to Mike for this donation in memory of Ethel.
- **Highland's offering boxes for 2022** are here and will be at church soon.
 - If people do not want to use their boxes for some reason I would appreciate it if they would write their box number in the memo line.
 - Also I would like to recommend that people would write the amount of their donation next to the \$ sign instead of a check mark or something else. This is to help to ensure accuracy.
 - if someone does NOT want a box for some reason they should call Virginia Karlsbrotten asap so that we can eliminate that.
 - Thank you to everyone for their cooperation - Virginia Karlsbrotten, Financial Secretary.

History Request:

A lady, Brady Fuller, visited Highland church this fall. She would like to find a picture of the Saxvik house that sat across the road from Big Canoe Church. Mrs. Saxik was her great grandmother. If anyone has a picture of this house you can email it or send it to her or contact Sandy Gavle.

Her email is: bfuller@isabel-ok.gov

Address: Brady Fuller, Payroll clerk

City of Isabel

201 East Main

Isabel, OK 74745-4631

Big Canoe Council Meeting, November 11, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Stoen, Pastor Gies opened the meeting with Psalm 1 and an explanation of it. An emphasis was placed on "Walking the Path of Righteousness" and avoiding the path of least resistance.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor would like to involve more people in visiting the "Shut In" members of the Congregation. He has visited all of the known Shut In members and hopes to get around to all once again before Christmas.

Pastor also asked to have a one hour meeting with the Council to discuss "Topics of the Church" A motion was passed to have that meeting 17 November at 5 P.M. at the Church.

Christmas Services will be Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. at Big Canoe, Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m. at Highland, and a Joint Service at 10:00 a.m. on the 26th at Big Canoe if Highland agrees. Communion will be offered on Christmas Day and Sunday the 26th.

Minutes were approved as posted in Newsletter.

Treasurers Report:

The current balance is \$2,274. \$1,480 of the balance is designated for Benevolence. Nearly 100% of Benevolence is allocated.

A question arose as to where our Thanksgiving Offering was designated to. The Decorah Food Pantry was proposed and approved for the Thanksgiving offering.

Lutheran World Relief will be the recipient of the Christmas Eve offering.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

Old Business:

Depot Grant application was submitted 9 November. Results are pending.

Banners purchased by Luther League will be displayed on East Front wall of Sanctuary. Pat and Amy O'Regan are signing rental contract for the 22-24 Crop years.

New Business:

A proposal was made to refrain from a year of the "Living Lutheran Magazine".

The annual subscription is \$716 per year. Sandy Gavle made the motion to refrain from subscribing to the magazine for this year. Darrel Stoen seconded the motion. Subscription will be reviewed for renewal next year.

Workman's Comp Insurance was discussed regarding a letter from our Insurance Company asking us to verify that Highland also had workman's comp insurance either through Church Mutual or another carrier. After a phone call to a Highland Council Member, Highland verified that they did in fact have Workmen's Comp Insurance.

The policy regarding use of the church facilities for weddings and other functions was discussed. It was determined that the Pastor was an integral part and the final decision maker in who would be allowed to use the church for weddings.

Pastor Gies proposed a website to use for marriage counseling. He will explore options and provide details for pending costs.

Kirsten Sherman, representing the Florence Crandall estate, would like to donate funds for a funeral and or a table runner for an urn. Sandy Gavle motioned to accept the memorial, Rachel seconded the motion.

Bill noted that a couple of outlets in the kitchen were not operating. Pat will look into the problem along with Bob.

Next Council Meeting is the 2nd Thursday in December at 630 pm. Meeting was adjourned after a motion to do so.

Respectfully submitted, Pat O'Regan

Highland Council meeting was postponed until December 5th.