

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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

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

NEWSLETTER

December WORSHIP TIMES

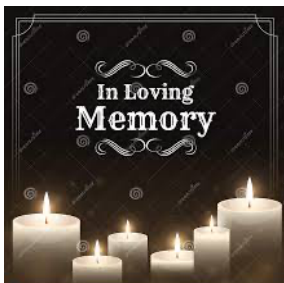
- **December 4th:**
 - Service at Big Canoe, 9:00 a.m. with coffee and bars to follow.
 - Service at Highland, 11:00 a.m. with potluck meal to follow. Big Canoe is included.
 - Bishop Kevin T. Jones of the Northeast Iowa Synod will be here for both services.
- **December 11th,** Joint service at Highland, 10:00 a.m. with Joint Council meeting to follow.
- **December 18th,** Joint service at Big Canoe, 10:00 a.m. & youth Christmas program.
 - Youth participating should be at church by 9:00 a.m.
 - Pastor will be meeting with new members at 9:00 a.m. and welcoming them to our congregation in church.
 - If you know of anyone that would like to join Big Canoe, please contact Tammy Nordheim.
- **December 24th,** Christmas Eve Candlelight joint service at Highland, 4:30 p.m.
 - Highland will host a light supper following the service for those who find themselves alone that evening. Menu will consist of chicken noodle soup, chili with fixings, beverages, Christmas goodies, etc.
 - R.S.V.P. needed by December 19th:
 - Please leave a message on the voicemail at 563-735-5974 with:
 - your name, phone number and the number of people planning to attend.
 - Limited seating is available.
 - Free will offering will be accepted.
- **December 25th,** Christmas Day joint service at Big Canoe, 10:00 a.m.



Thank you and dates!

- Please consider adding LWR to your Christmas shopping list. The items we need to finish kits are: lightweight dark color bath towels, lightweight dark color hand towels, infant socks sizes 9 months up to 24 months, 3 yards of cotton fabric 44 inches wide, 70-page notebooks, or rulers. If you knit or crochet, we can use sweaters infant sizes 9 months to 24 months, any pattern of your choice. There will be totes under the Christmas tree at Highland for donations. Monetary donations can be given to Women of the ELCA treasurer Louise Jetson.

- **Correction** - Dee and Emma made it to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with 22 twin size quilts and 8 small ones, **37+** yards of material and some children's books for the women's shelter.
- To everyone who contributed items for the **food closet**. There was a very nice variety and should be greatly appreciated.
- For all of the **donations** received in place of the Lutefisk supper. WELCA was able to give to various places we have given to in the past. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated.
- **Hannah Circle** meeting/potluck, **December 1st**, 1:30 p.m. at Big Canoe.
- **Luther League Wednesday, December 7th**, activity from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Big Canoe. We will have food and a Christmas Party, make Christmas cards, and having a white elephant gift exchange. Glenwood/Canoe Ridge churches are invited to join us.
- Next **Luther League meeting** will be **Saturday December 17th, 9 a.m. at Big Canoe**. This same day will also be the only **Christmas program practice from 10:00 a.m. to noon** (besides Sunday morning the 18th).
- **Confirmation in December:** The only confirmation class in December is **December 14th** at 6 p.m. January confirmation classes will be at Glenwood Church.
- **Church attendance:**
 - Sunday, November 6th – 114 at Big Canoe joint worship (two baptisms and 3 communions)
 - Sunday, November 13th – 52 at Big Canoe joint worship
 - Sunday, November 20th – 32 at Big Canoe joint worship
- **Offering boxes** are here for 2023. I will do them the same as last year unless someone wants something different. If so, please contact Virginia at 507-450-3878. Also please write the amount of your offering next to the \$ sign instead of an X or check mark. Highland Thanksgiving envelopes are designated for Decorah Free Clinic.



Memory Lights. The white lights at the church this year will be lit again by Gary & Bev Stortz, Mitch & Amanda Stortz, and Mark & Michelle Borreson in memory of Michael Stortz, Brady Stortz and Nathan Borreson. 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

Big Canoe WELCA 2023 Officers

Co-Presidents: Emma Thompson & Judy Shuros
 Secretary: Beverly Stortz
 Treasurer: Deb Monson
 Stewardship: Sandy Gavle & Dianne Wyatt

Monthly Sunday School family bag day

November 20th
 & December 18th

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Council Meeting, November 20, 2022

The Big Canoe church council met for its monthly meeting November 20, 2022, after regular church services. Those present were Shelly Bigler, Pat O'Regan, Bill Stoen, Rita Thomas and Pastor Gies.

Minutes for the October meeting were approved and placed on file.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$9,104.64 and \$7,283.86 in the Parsonage fund. The report was approved and placed on file.

Bill reported that the Depot grant has been approved for \$5,000. Council voted to send them a thank you note and place a thank you in the newspaper. Kelly Construction has been paid \$71,482.91 and Pat is negotiating with the insurance company about the remainder of the bill. We will see. The gutter work on the church should begin this week.

Four families have applied to join our congregation. Rita motioned, and Pat seconded that the council approve the joining. Motion was passed. The four families will be joining the church on December 18 at our Christmas Program service. They are: Seth and Cassidy Ferguson and family, Sam and Jessica Johnson, Russ and Mary Lou Gerard and Joseph Young and Evelyn Bohr family. We will welcome them into our church family with a potluck following the service. The Social Concerns Committee will serve.

Pastor will make 2 three-ring notebooks (one for each church) that contain the basic orders for regular and Communion services should he not be here. He will also begin a class for those lay people who would like to visit and give Communion to shut-ins. Pre packaged Communion kits will be purchased to be pre-blessed for distribution to the shut-ins.

Pat will be meeting with Bob to see what jobs he will be able to do to resume some of his duties at church and to determine his future plans.

The church does not have a zoom account to accommodate meetings with someone joining from another location in case of weather, sickness or distance. Liz will check with zoom about setting up an account on a month-by-month basis.

Pat informed the council that the church field is in dire need of being limed. He, as the renter, will have the ph checked and have the lime applied in the spring.

Shell Bigler reported that the rotating Confirmation classes seem to be going very well.

We are looking for new members for the council as several will be going off this year. Anyone wishing to be on the council, please let us know.

After discussion about the light situation in the front of the church Rita motioned, and Pat seconded that Bill should call Decorah Electric to come out to the church and examine our breaker box situation for the lights in the church and then submit a bid for installing the appropriate switches.

Our next council meeting will be a joint council meeting held December 11, following joint services at Highland. We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Thomas

Highland Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
November 6, 2022

Call to Order

A meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church council was called to order on November 6, 2022 by President Joyce Bjerke at approximately 11:56 a.m. at the home of Virginia & Dennis Karlsbrotten. Council members in attendance were: Virginia Karlsbrotten, Mark Sollien, Secretary Danny Dutka, Darlene Sollien, Karen Erickson and Steve Langland. Others in attendance included Treasurer Anna Jetson, church members Al Erickson and Dennis Karlsbrotten. Pastor Waldemar Gies arrived during the meeting.

Secretary Report

Secretary Dutka read the minutes of the August 14, 2022 meeting. There being no additions or corrections Steve Langland moved to approve minutes as read. Darlen Sollien seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Anna Jetson provided printed and verbal information on the finances of the church. Balances as of 11-1-2022 were: Current \$15,369.19, Benevolence \$88.00, Anniversary Fund \$375.10, Improvement Fund \$72,500.21, Scholarship Fund \$5871.05. Treasurer Jetson noted that income and distribution of the Benevolence Fund was on track with budget projections. Treasurer Jetson also reminded the Council that the offering designated for "Thanksgiving" would be going to The Decorah Free Clinic. The printed report will be filed for audit. Copies of this printed report will be available to the congregation at the church.

Steve Langland asked if the Scholarship Fund could be used for seminary students. We have given a donation from the Scholarship Fund in the past to the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders which is sponsored through the Northeast Iowa Synod. We need to look into our records for more information on our Scholarship Fund to see what the original intent was when it was created.

Pastoral Report

Pastor Gies arrived and stated he is beginning some training sessions after services to get us ready for when he leaves or when he can't be around. November 27th will be training for lay person(s) to visit shut-ins.

Pastoral Call

Virginia Karlsbrotten, member of the Call Committee stated that the ELCA has reviewed and requested some corrections to the Ministry Site Profile.

Property

Danny Dutka stated that he had called someone from the roofing company that was working on Big Canoe to see if they would provide an opinion and estimate to cure the bell tower area leaks. They did not respond to a voicemail left. A church member is in conversation with local construction people to see if they would be willing to work on this issue. Meanwhile repairs to the ceiling are being made.

Virginia Karlsbrotten stated that the driveway and parking area are usually cleared of snow by Ed Stoen. The equipment used to do that isn't suitable for doing the sidewalks and steps. Joyce and Lyle shouldn't be doing all of it. She and Dennis have done it when they can. It is felt that other able persons in the church should also help in keeping the sidewalks and steps cleared of snow even if there aren't any services scheduled. The scheduled usher for a Sunday should also assist with this.

Voicemail

Secretary Dutka stated he had Mabel Telephone Co. activate voicemail on the church phone. This had been previously approved by the Council. This will allow us to provide a recorded announcement on service times and location as well as potential cancellation of services due to inclement weather.

Christmas Schedule

Highland will host the Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at 4:30 p.m. Big Canoe to have Christmas Day service at 10 a.m.

Steve Langland presented an idea of having a light supper following the Christmas Eve service so that those who may be alone that evening can have a meal and fellowship with others. Menu could consist of chicken noodle soup, chili with fixings, beverages, Christmas delicacies, etc. Since we haven't done this before we would need a R.S.V.P. from potential attendees stating the number of people that may attend so we could plan accordingly. The R.S.V.P. should be made by December 19th to the church phone voice mail. There being consensus among the Council in the affirmative it was moved by Danny Dutka to have the supper and to have a free will offering. Motion was seconded by Mark Sollien. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion on whether it was wise to have real candles in the midst of the congregation at the Christmas Eve service resulted in a motion by Darlene Sollien to purchase 100 battery operated LED candles that flicker. Motion was seconded by Steve Langland. Motion carried by voice vote. Candles being considered were at a price point of \$1.59 each which included the batteries.

Calendar

The Council discussed upcoming calendar items.

November 27 - Decorating for Christmas following a training session at Big Canoe by Pastor Gies.

December 4 - Bishop Kevin T. Jones of the Northeast Iowa Synod will be here.

9 a.m. service at Big Canoe with coffee and bars to follow.

11 a.m. service at Highland with potluck meal to follow. Big Canoe is included.

December 11 - 10 a.m. Joint service at Highland with Joint Council meeting to follow.

December 18 - 10 a.m. Joint service at Big Canoe to include a Christmas program by youth.

December 24 - 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Highland with light supper to follow.

December 25 - 10 a.m. Christmas Day service at Big Canoe

January tbd - tbd Highland Council meeting (2023 budget, etc.)

January month - 10 a.m. Joint service at Big Canoe.

January 29 - Big Canoe Annual meeting following the service.

February month - 10 a.m. Joint service at Highland

February 5 - Highland Annual meeting following the service.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Karen Erickson and seconded by Darlene Sollien. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Danny Dutka
Highland Secretary

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. Big Canoe		
Big Canoe 9:00 a.m. Highland 11:00 a.m. Communion Bishop at both services	5	6	Luther League 6:30 – 7:30 Big Canoe	8	9	10
11 Highland 10:00 a.m. Communion Big Canoe Council meeting following services	12	13	Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Big Canoe	14	15	16
18 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m. Youth Christmas program New Member welcome	19	20	Newsletter items due	21	22	23
25 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31
January 1 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.	Jan. 29 Big Canoe Annual Meeting following service	Feb. 5 Highland Annual Meeting following service	February services 10:00 a.m. Highland			

Big Canoe & Highland website:
www.bchlutheran.org



The Shared Ministry Group prepares an informational newsletter each month, which is available for churches to distribute to their congregations. The newsletter will include items of interest, worship times, and other pertinent information.

*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at linda.folstad49@gmail.com
By: December 6th for the January 2023 Newsletter



ADVENT BRUNCH

Saturday,
December 3, 2022
9:30 am
Program with
Brunch to follow

All are welcome!

~ **Shared Ministry Newsletter ~**
December 2022



All are invited to join us for Bible Study held at Highland Lutheran Church December 9th at 9:30 am! The Bible Study Group is comprised of women from area churches and meets on the second Friday of each month. Discussion centers around Bible studies in the GATHER Magazine, an ELCA publication.

If you are interested in joining a Bible Study group but are unable to attend morning meetings at Highland please contact Linda at linda.folstad49@gmail.com and suggest a meeting time that works for you. We would like to offer another meeting time and date if there is interest.

Shared Ministry Notes

The Shared Ministry Group, consisting of members from area churches began meeting approximately 18 months ago for the purpose of exploring various options for doing ministry together. Some common issues identified through group discussions, include: involvement of youth, worship attendance, post-pandemic recovery and financial concerns. As meetings continue to be held, conversations will focus on seeking out ways to "be better together" and to strengthen the church's mission in these changing times; to welcome, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to serve. All are invited to attend meetings and share in these important conversations!

Websites:

- www.womenoftheelca.org
- www.nelcasyndod.org
- www.bchlutheran.org Big Canoe/Highland Lutheran
- www.glenwoodlutheran.org Glenwood Lutheran
- www.bohilutheran.org Burr Oak/Hesper, Lutheran
- www.haugelutheran.com Hauge Lutheran

Worship Services December 2022

	December 4 2nd Sunday in Advent	December 11 3rd Sunday in Advent	December 18 4th Sunday in Advent	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day
Big Canoe	9:00 am 11:00 am Bishop Jones Preaching ***** January 2023 10:00 am: Joint worship at Big Canoe all month	10:00 am Joint Big Canoe & Highland - Worship at Highland	10:00 am Joint Big Canoe & Highland Highland Worship at Big Canoe	4:30 pm Joint worship at Highland	10:00 am Joint worship at Big Canoe
Highland					
Hesper	8:30 am	8:30 am	8:30 am	4:30 & 10:30 pm Candlelight in Burr Oak	10:00 am Worship in Hesper
Burr Oak	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am		
Glenwood	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	4:00 pm Canoe Ridge	9:00 am Lessons & Carols - joint worship at Canoe Ridge ***** 9:00 am Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023: Lessons & Carols - Lay service at Glenwood.
Canoe Ridge	Glenwood: Hanging of the Greens during worship. Meal follows the service provided by Glenwood Church Council	Canoe Ridge Sunday School Program	Glenwood Sunday School Program	6:00 pm Glenwood	
St. John's	9:30 am at St. John's	9:30 am at Hauge - Sunday School Christmas Program	9:30 am at St. John's	4:00 pm at Hauge 5:30 pm at St. John's	No worship services

Canoe Ridge/Glenwood Shared Confirmation classes

December 7 & 14: 6:00 pm light supper/class 6:30--7:30 pm at Big Canoe
January 11, 18 & 25: 6:00 pm light supper/class 6:30--7:30 pm at Glenwood

Burr Oak/Hesper shared Confirmation and Wednesday School Classes

December 7: 6:00 pm Meal 6:30--7:30 pm Wednesday School 7:00 pm --8:00 Confirmation/BO
December 14: 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Wednesday School Christmas program/BO