

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

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NEWSLETTER

January WORSHIP TIMES

January 2022

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

INFO, DATES & THANK YOU'S:

- **BC WELCA** – no general meeting for January.
 - Reminder that they are still 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.
 - Items will be accepted through March 13th.
- **Luther League meeting will be January 9th at 9:45 a.m.** Church service will be at 11:00 a.m. We will go to the sledding hill in Decorah by the soccer fields for some fun after church for approximately 1-2 hrs. (12:30 to 2:30 p.m.). If any family would like to provide hot cocoa or snacks, please let Tammy know.
- **Highland Auditing Committee** will meet **January 9th** following 9:00 a.m. service.
- **Rebecca Circle** will meet on **January 12th** at 6:00 at Big Canoe.
- **Highland Lutheran Church** will be hosting the **Gather Magazine Bible** study starting **January 14th** at 9:30 a.m. Bible studies will be held the 2nd Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. If schools are cancelled or have a delayed start due to weather, Bible study will be cancelled. All are welcome. You may want to bring your bible as not all scripture is printed in the bible study.
 - If you want to try it out for a session or two before subscribing, please notify Louise Jetson at 507-498-3216 so we can have a copy of the bible study available. Currently there is an introductory offer for new subscribers where it is only 9.95 for the first year. Check out gathermagazine.org or call 844-409-0576 to order your copy now. The magazine is available in electronic only or combination hard copy and electronic.
- **Highland Council** will meet **January 16th** following the 9:00 a.m. service.
- **Shared Ministry Meeting** at Hesper Lutheran Church, **January 16th** at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!
 - The focus of these meetings is for us and our neighboring churches to discuss ways we can work together in ministry. Possible future events are shared Lenten worship, World Day of Prayer service, Bible studies, if you have other suggestions (youth or men's groups have been mentioned in past conversations). The large group is looking for individuals that want to be part of a committee for 1 activity. Such that there is cross church conversations, but not such a large group working out the details. If you have questions feel free to discuss with Pastor Gies. Highland members who have attended past meetings include Danny Dutka, Anna Jetson, Louise Jetson and Steve Langland.
- **Highland Annual Meeting & Potluck will be February 6th following the 11:00 a.m. service**



Memory Lights.

A full list of the memory lights will be published in the February newsletter.

Poinsettias at the churches were given by Women of the ELCA and in memory of the following from each of their families:

- Charlotte & Lloyd Strinmoen
- Martin and Anna Monson
- Marvin and Ruby Monson
- Ryan Monson
- Oscar Lund

Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 5, 2021

Call to Order

President Joyce Bjerke called the Highland Lutheran Church council meeting to order on Sunday December 5,

2021 following the 11 a.m. worship service. In attendance were: Pastor Waldemar Gies, President Joyce Bjerke, Vice-President Al Erickson, Secretary Danny Dutka, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Lyle Bjerke, Treasurer Anna Jetson. Guests: Darlene Larson Sollien, WELCA President Karen Erickson.

Pastor Gies gave an opening prayer. He had previously requested time to have a conversation with the council. He was given the floor at this time to proceed so that he has the option to leave before the meeting adjourns.

Pastor Gies asked the attendees what changes we have had since February of this year. Some of the responses given were: we have stability, we are learning during the service, people are more involved with the service and want to be, we feel more connected to the pastor as he is amongst us (not in the pulpit), singing some different hymns, the effect that COVID continues to have, income is keeping up with expenses, we have good attendance, we are occasionally sitting in different pews, there is shared ministry conversations.

Pastor Gies then asked what our goals were besides the "keeping the doors open". Goals that can be specific, attainable, measurable. What do we need to do to grow as a congregation, what are our wants and what changes do we want or need? We need a purpose. Things to consider for the upcoming year: 1. If we want to learn we should have bible study and not just within our congregation. Maybe offer a community bible study with potluck or coffee after. 2. Challenge ourselves to read the bible in a year. 3. Work on reconnecting with people who have drifted away from our church. 4. Invite a friend to church. 5. Maybe change up our ice cream social to a "Spuds and Splits" or other event(s) to draw more interest from the public. 6. Organize the council to have better defined roll. How is our church to be known by our neighbors was another question posed to the attendees.

Secretary Report

Minutes of the October 17, 2021 meeting were read by the Secretary. Virginia Karlsbrotten moved to approve. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Anna Jetson provided printed information on the finances of the church. December 1, 2021 balances are: Current \$12,978.59, Benevolence \$365.00, 125th Anniversary \$365.10, Improvement \$49,406.56, Scholarship \$5,859.04.

Anna asked if there was any objection to renaming the 125th Anniversary fund to Anniversary or similar since we haven't been able to do a 125th celebration due to Covid. Consensus was that this would be ok. She also stated that the insurance package invoice had been received. Since there is ample funds this year the full premium will be paid instead of installments. She also has started working on the end of the year report for the Annual Meeting. Her report will be filed for audit.

Pastoral Report

Pastor Gies stated that he has provided more time and travel for the confirmation class than was originally planned. There is a search for a new teacher for the class due to an unanticipated vacancy. He would provide support to the teacher via video conferencing from his home in Rochester.

He stated that could be offering new member preparation classes, sees the need for Sunday School to have yearly goals to prepare students for confirmation class and would like to see some form of adult education.

There is conversation in the Shared Ministry group about having a "round robin" for Lenten services. The idea is that a pair of churches would offer a Lenten service to the other churches. This way he would not have to make two trips or more per week.

Each congregation should have a local person to lead services in case he cannot travel due to inclement weather.

Old Business

- A. Call Committee Report - Virginia Karlsbrotten said the committee is finalizing the Ministry Site profile for submission. There were a few minor changes suggested and discussed.
- B. Voicemail - The addition of a voicemail feature to the church phone is still being investigated.
- C. Septic tank - The septic tank has been pumped as a preventative maintenance item.

New Business

- A. President Bjerke had been approached by a member of the Depot Outlet urging us to apply for a grant as there are funds available. Therefore we are applying for a Depot Outlet grant to replace windows in the east section of the building and to replace / refresh the landscaping by the north entrance. Joyce will be presenting the request to the Depot Outlet on December 14th.
- B. There is a Joint Council meeting on December 12th following the service to construct a budget for 2022.
- C. Danny Dutka made a motion to give Pastor Gies a Christmas Bonus in the amount of \$(redacted). Al Erickson seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by, Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Joint Council Meeting

December 12, 2021

Call to Order

Highland President Joyce Bjerke called the Joint Council meeting to order at approximately 12:20 p.m. in the dining room of Highland Lutheran Church on December 12, 2021. Present were: Interim Pastor Waldemar Gies, Highland council members: President Joyce Bjerke, Vice- President Al Erickson, Secretary Danny Dutka, Lyle Bjerke, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Mark Sollien. Highland Treasurer Anna Jetson. Big Canoe council members: President Bill Stoen, Vice President Liz Schafer, Darrel Stoen, Sandy Gavle, Pat O'Regan. Big Canoe Treasurer Laurie Emery.

Opening Devotions

Pastor Gies gave opening devotions and prayer.

Secretary Report

Highland Secretary read the minutes of the September 26, 2021 Joint Council meeting. There being no corrections or additions Liz Schafer moved to approve, Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastoral Report

Pastor Gies stated that he has accumulated more mileage than desired due to extra trips needed for the confirmation classes and other things. This has cost him more than anticipated when the Interim Contract was set up. He is optimistic that part of the solution will include using technology such as video conferencing for the confirmation classes.

Old Business

Parsonage

Big Canoe Treasurer Laurie Emery provided an accounting of the parsonage finances to date. There is a separate checking account set up strictly to receive rental income and to pay expenses. Currently the parsonage rental income is \$1000 per month, out of that all expenses are paid. Expenses paid are maintenance, electricity, propane for heating. The propane has been put on an even payment plan through Farmer's Union Co-operative. Currently the account shows a balance of \$3986.44.

New Business

2021 Joint Budget

The joint councils discussed the joint budget for 2022. A suggestion to do a repeat of the 2021 figures was suggested. Ultimately it was decided to increase the Total Pastoral Ministry to \$100,000.00 from \$93,160.20 in anticipation of a pastoral call during 2022. This figure includes Interim Pastoral expenses. The categories of Parsonage & Farm \$3900.00, Administration \$7800.00, Worship & Services \$2300.00 will remain the same as 2021. Sandy Gavle moved to propose the total joint budget of \$114,000.00 to our respective congregations. Motion was seconded by Darrel Stoen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Shared Ministry

There is a proposal from area churches of Hauge / St. John, Burr Oak / Hesper, Glenwood / Canoe Ridge to have a "round robin" for Lenten services in 2022. This proposal would have the congregants do the traveling instead of the Pastors as has been common in the past. Pastor Gies had a favorable opinion of this. Consensus of the Joint Council was that this would be ok. More details to be worked out by the Shared Ministry group.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed at this time a motion to adjourn by Sandy Gavle was seconded by Pat O'Regan. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectively submitted by, Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						January 1
2 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	3	4	5 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	6	7	8
9 HI 9:00 a.m. Highland Auditing Comm. Luther League 9:45 (sledding after 11 service) BC 11:00 a.m.	10 Newsletter items due	11	12 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Rebecca Circle 6:00, Big Canoe	13 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:30 p.m.	14 Highland Gather Magazine Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	15
16 HI 9:00 a.m. Council Meeting BC 11:00 a.m. Shared ministry meeting 1:00 p.m., Hesper Lutheran	17	18	19 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m.	24	25	26 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	27	28	29
30 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m.	31	HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial 2 nd – Eric Selness 9 th – Jack Kolka 16 th – Ed Stoen 23 rd – Mark Sollien 30 th – Steve Langland				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Big Canoe & Highland website: www.bchlutheran.org </div>