

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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

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

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

- Mar-Apr: Contact Pastor Becker if you would like him to bless your home during Lent
- Sat, Mar 29: Memorial service for Martin Marty in Minneapolis
- Sun, Mar 30 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Psalms) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 30 (9am): No Sunday School
- Sun, Mar 30 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Fourth Sunday in Lent (purple)
- Wed, Apr 2 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Apr 2: Lenten supper (6pm), choir practice (6:30pm), and worship (7pm) at Glenwood
- Thurs, Apr 3 – Mon, Apr 7: Pastor Becker is attending a theological conference at Duke University, NC
- Sat, Apr 5 (8:30am): Spring cluster for Highland women.
- Sun, Apr 6 (8:45am): Bible class (led by Pastor Gies) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Apr 6 (9am): Children's Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Apr 6 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Fifth Sunday in Lent (purple) – Pr. Gies
- Wed, Apr 9 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Apr 9: Lenten supper (6pm), choir practice (6:30pm), and worship (7pm) at Madison Lutheran
- Sun, Apr 13 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Psalms) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Apr 13 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Palm Sunday (purple)
- Thurs, Apr 17 (6:30pm): Maundy Thursday service at Big Canoe
- Fri, Apr 18 (6:30 pm): Good Friday service at Highland
- Sun, Apr 20 (8am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Big Canoe – Easter Sunday (white)
- Sun, Apr 20: No Sunday School or adult Bible class on Easter Sunday.
- Sun, Apr 20 (9am): Easter breakfast and pie auction at Big Canoe (to support the Luther League)
- Sun, Apr 20 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Highland – Easter Sunday (white)
- Sun, Apr 27 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Apr 27 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Second Sunday of Easter (white)
- Sat, May 3 (7:30am): LWR Truck at Olson Explosives, Decorah
- Sun, May 4 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 4 (9am): Children's Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 4 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Third Sunday of Easter (white)

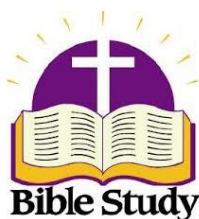
Pastor Becker's

Sunday-morning Bible Class

8:45 a.m. each Sunday fellowship hall of the church of service.

The class will last about 50 minutes.

Please consider taking advantage of this educational opportunity as a way to grow in your Christian faith.



Pastor Becker • 219-916-8535 • matthew.becker@valpo.edu

Office hours:

Wednesdays at Highland, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays at Big Canoe, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays at Big Canoe, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

While he plans on taking Mondays off, he can be reached at any time by his cell for emergencies.

Highland Church Council Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2025

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:26 AM.

Attendance: President Anna Jetson, Vice President Al Erickson, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Council members Myron Krauskopf, Gary Selness, Ed Stoen and Pastor Matthew Becker.

Opening Devotions: Anna Jetson provided opening devotions from “Jesus Listens”.

Secretary’s Report: Kristy Selness read 2-2-2025 Reorganization Meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Al Erickson, seconded by Gary Selness, carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Dan Dutka provided an update on Treasurer’s report. Income year to date (Feb 28, 2025), current \$6169.00, benevolence \$586. Expenses year to date (Feb 28, 2025), current \$11,542.42, benevolence \$0. Balance of current fund \$25,136.49, benevolence \$1,536.00.

Dan discussed how to improve on return of investments of Scholarship and Improvement Funds. CDs or other accounts may bring in better rates of interest for these funds. Motion to authorize Dan to look for better options by Myron Krauskopf, seconded by Al Erickson, carried.

Anna Jetson suggested Scholarship Fund management be tabled until next meeting.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Becker reviewed his monthly report with Council. He mentioned that approximately 500 per week are visiting on-line through Facebook.

Thank you Communication: Received thank you from Pastor Becker and Detra for a gift certificate.

OLD BUSINESS

Updates to Pastoral Membership List: Please email changes to Pastor Becker.

Property Committee: Dan Dutka informed Council of updates to water system at the parsonage and on Highland church property (gutter quotes and repairs to outside back door).

Appreciation Gift: Motion by Myron Krauskopf, seconded by Gary Selness, to give Dan Dutka \$500.00 in appreciation for all his work at the church and parsonage, carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of training for Communion Assistants, Ushers, and Janitor tasks: Anna Jetson provided an updated list for review of Usher/Janitor tasks. Council made some adjustments. The updated list will replace the Janitor tasks on the back of the Altar. Discussed common cup communion, tabled for later review.

Review the Highland Constitution/Bylaws for updates: Tabled for next meeting.

Pastor Becker’s Goals for 2025: Pastor Becker provided Mission/Vision/Purpose handout in preparation for June 21, 2025 congregational retreat.

Aase Haugen Capital Campaign: Reviewed on how to raise funds, 3 year commitment. Tabled for later meeting.

Coffee Chats: Anna Jetson informed Council LSI is scheduled for March 23, 2025.

Adjournment: Motion by Myron Krauskopf to adjourn meeting, second by Dan Dutka, carried. Adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Becker.

Respectfully Submitted: Kristy Selness, Highland Secretary

During March and April, Highland Women of the ELCA will be collecting:

- adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging)
- sturdy comb or pick-style comb
- sturdy nail clipper (can be fingernail or toenail)
- 4 oz bars of mild or unscented soap

There is a tote at Highland to leave donations. If you are not a shopper and wish to donate by cash or check, there is a smaller container at Highland to leave donations. Please make checks out to Highland Women of the ELCA.

Global Health Ministry uses pillowcases to protect kits during shipping so if you have an abundance of pillowcases that you do not use, we will take them to GHM next time we go there.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Spring Cluster meeting will be held at Highland Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Coffee will start at 8:30 a.m., followed by a speaker and a brief meeting.

Big Canoe WELCA wishes to thank those who have gave items for the food closet so far, which have been taken there. We will leave a tote in the church entry for donations. There is a container for donations if you won't wish to shop. A tote will also be there for **LWR personal care kits items** which are:

- One Lightweight bath size towel (20x40 up to 57x27)
- Two or three bath size bars of soap in original packaging (8 to 9 oz).
- One adult size toothbrush in original packaging or multi packs can be separated.
- One sturdy comb.

Announcements:

Reminder of service locations:

- 1st and 3rd Sundays service will be at Big Canoe.
- 2nd and 4th Sundays service will be at Highland.
- March & August, the 5th Sunday service will be at Big Canoe.
- June & November, the 5th Sunday service will be at Highland
- All services will continue to start at 10 a.m. Pastor Becker will include each month's worship schedule in his weekly devotion (sent out by email in mid-week and printed for Sunday morning).

We **need individuals to sign up to help with the worship services** at Big Canoe & Highland. Sign-up sheets are available on the table by the side entrance to Highland. Please consider helping with our worship services!

The children's **Sunday school** began last Sunday at 9 am at Big Canoe. Eight children participated. Yeah! We need parents to bring their young children to Sunday school on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and a group of individuals to agree to help teach on those two Sundays each month. Pastor Becker has all the materials. We just need people to participate! For more information, talk with Anna Jetson, Tammy Nordheim, or Pastor Becker. **Next Sunday school class** will be **Sun., April 6**, 9am at Big Canoe.

Worship planning sheets are available at both Big Canoe and Highland. Please sign up today to participate as Scripture readers, communion assistants (council members), and ushers. There is also a space to sign up to provide treats and coffee after worship.

We want to make our church family aware of our approximate **financial situation**. Keep in mind, offering amounts at both churches have tended historically to be larger toward the end of each year.

Highland's offering:

- January: \$3028 for current and \$234 for benevolence.
- February: \$3441 for current and \$352 for benevolence.
- Mar 2: \$510 for current and \$40 for benevolence.
- Mar 9: \$535 for current and \$120 for benevolence.
- Mar 16: \$830 for current and \$115 for benevolence.

Big Canoe's offering:

- January: \$9643 for current and \$170 for benevolence.
- February: \$4495 for current and \$460 for benevolence.
- Mar 2: \$1685 for current and \$325 for benevolence.
- Mar 9: \$1335 for current and \$275 for benevolence.
- Mar 16: \$1750 for current and \$111 for benevolence.

All loose offering or cash in the offering plate goes to the hosting church. Please use a generic offering envelope from the entry to designate your offering to go to the other church.

In-person worship attendance:

- February 16th: 35
- February 23rd: 42
- March 2nd: 59
- March 9th: 61
- March 16th: 67
- **March 23rd:**

Online worship views (Facebook):

- January: 1,996 views
- February: 1,865 views
- March 2nd: 438 views
- March 9th: 271 views
- March 16th: 490 views
- **March 23rd:**

Luther League met at the parsonage last Sunday. Our next meeting will be at the parsonage on Sunday evening, **April 27**, at 5 pm.

The NE Iowa Synod Assembly will take place on Saturday, June 7, in Cedar Falls. Alongside Pastor Becker, the delegate from Big Canoe will be Rita Hurd-Thomas, while the delegates from Highland will be Danny Dutka and Steve Langland. Another delegate needs to be selected from Big Canoe.

Procedure for Holy Communion (for future reference): At Big Canoe, people should come to the altar via the side aisles and return to their pew via the center aisle. At Highland, people should come to the altar via the center aisle and return to their pews via the side aisles. When in doubt, follow the direction of the ushers.

Calling Tree and Church Directories

- Within this newsletter, you will find the calling tree and directory for Highland Church.
- Big Canoe is in the process of updating their calling tree and directory.
 - The calling tree will be placed in the entry of the church.
 - Members are asked to check their name and phone number and mark any changes necessary.
 - It is our hope that we will share these documents in the May newsletter.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1			5
			<p>Lenten Bible class (Winn. Wildberry Winery) 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Lenten supper (6pm), choir practice (6:30pm), worship (7pm) at Glenwood</p>	<p>Thurs, Apr 3 – Pastor Becker attending a theological conference at Duke University, NC</p>		<p>Spring cluster for Highland women 8:30 a.m.</p>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Communion</p> <p>Highland WELCA meeting after service</p>			<p>Lenten Bible Class (Winn. Wildberry Winery) 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Lenten supper (6pm), choir practice (6:30pm), worship (7pm) at Madison Lutheran</p>		<p>Gather Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Highland</p>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Communion Palm Sunday</p>				<p>Maundy Thursday service at Big Canoe 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Good Friday service at Highland 6:30 p.m.</p>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>Easter Sunday 8:00 Worship, Big Canoe Communion 9:00 Easter breakfast and pie auction at BC 10:00 Worship, Highland Communion</p>						
27	28	29	30	May 1	May 2	May 3
<p>8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Blessing of Kits and Quilts</p>						<p>LWR Truck Olson Explosives 7:30 a.m.</p>

HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY 2025

Council
Term Expires 2026
Al Erickson
Anna Jetson

Council Officers
President: Anna Jetson
Vice President: Al Erickson
Secretary: Kristy Selness

Council Appointed Positions
Treasurer: Dan Dutka
Financial Secretary:
Virginia Karlsbrotten

Senior Ushers
Steve Langland
Lyle Bjerke
Dennis Karlsbrotten
Larry Lane

Cleaning People
Lyle & Joyce Bjerke

Organist
Kathryn Thompson
Kjersten Folstad

Music Coordinator
Kathryn Thompson

Property & Management
Al Erickson – **Chair** (VP)
Dan Dutka
Steve Langland
Darlene Sollien (WELCA President)

Joint Property Committee
Dan Dutka
Steve Langland
Darlene Sollien (WELCA President)

Council
Term Expires 2027
Dan Dutka
Gary Selness

Board of Trustees
Al Erickson - Chair VP
Council Members

Long Range Planning Committee
Council Members
Treasurer – Dan Dutka
WELCA President – Darlene Sollien

Cemetery Committee
Mark Selness – 5 yr
Al Erickson – 4 yr
Mark Sollien -- 3 yr
Lyle Bjerke -- 2 yr
Dennis Karlsbrotten – 1 yr

Auditing Committee
Louise Jetson – 3 yr
Steve Langland – 2 yr
Judi Krauskopf – 1 yr

Nominating Committee
Virginia Karlsbrotten
Steve Langland
Mark Sollien

Mutual Ministry Committee

Council
Term Expires 2028
Myron Krauskopf
Kristy Selness
Ed Stoen

Synod Assembly Delegates
June 6 & 7, 2025
Pastor Becker
Dan Dutka
Steve Langland

Conference Assembly
February 23, 2025 2:00 pm
Stavanger Lutheran Church
Pastor Becker
Dan Dutka
Anna Jetson
Steve Langland

Aase Haugen Delegates
Pastor Becker
Danny Dutka
Karen Erickson
Steve Langland

Council Meeting Schedule
Meeting date/time is subject to change. Meetings will be odd month after 10:00 am Joint Worship at Highland

March 9
May 11
June (Joint Council Mtg)
July 13
September 14
November 9
December (Joint Council Mtg)
January 11 (Budget)

PLEASE SAVE THIS SHEET FOR WINTER OR OTHER EMERGENCY USE

Higland Church Calling Tree February 2025

President begins by calling all council members in bold print. Council members please call the family listed under your name. If you don't get an answer, go to the next name on the list so that the tree is not broken.

Council members should check with each other, the Council President and Pastor Becker to decide if church is called off. The council members (in bold) will begin the calling tree. Thank you!

<p>Anna Jetson H: 507-498-3270 C: 952-240-9569 Louise Jetson 507-498-3216</p>

<p>Alan Erickson C: 563-203-7738 Eric Selness 563-735-5414 Duane Groth 563-735-5914 Julie Kolka 563-735-5976 Lyle Bjerke 563-546-7718</p>
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<p>Ed Stoen 563-492-3954 Larry Lane 563-492-3808 Dorothy Karlsbroten 507-498-3658 Roger Casterton 507-498-5185 Robbie Casterton 507-725-5721</p>

<p>Myron Krauskopf C: 563-380-5873 Darlene & Mark Sollien 608-797-7459 Gary Halverson 507-493-5369 Dennis Karlsbroten 563-735-5765 Robert Karlsbroten 507-894-4034</p>

<p>Danny Dutka C: 507-273-3031 Lowell Walhus 563-492-3805 Marion Walhus 507-450-7894 Eric Wold 563-546-7020 Steve Langland 563-492-5734 Walter Langland 563-202-0184</p>
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<p>Gary and Kristy Selness C: 507-421-3880 Sunday Deboer 507-289-0976 Barb Lund 507-288-6303 Mark Selness 563-735-5985 Greg Wennes 507-498-5777</p>
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<p>Pastor Matt Becker c: 219-916-8535</p>

<p>Kathryn Thompson 563-379-2051</p>
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<p>Kjersten Borreson 507-429-1509</p>

<p>Radio Station KVIK 563-382-5845 KDEC 563-382-4251 KNEI 563-568-3476</p>
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Shared Ministry Newsletter April 2025



To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folsstad at Linda.folsstad4@gmail.com By April 15th for the May 2025 Newsletter



All are invited to join us for **BIBLE STUDY** held at Highland Lutheran Church Friday, April 11th, 2025 at 9:30 am!
Bring a Friend!
Let Anna Jelson know if you are in need of a copy of the Bible Study.
If school is delayed or cancelled, Bible Study is cancelled.

Women of the ELCA Leadership Event
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Noon–4:00 pm
Zoom meeting
Join us to explore what's next and how we can accomplish what God is calling us to do, collectively and individually, focused on God's mission. Pre-registration is required. Go to womenoftheelca.org and scroll down to see info on the Leadership event.



JOIN US FOR LENTEN BIBLE STUDY!
Bible Study continues at Winesapik Wilderness Winery through the Lenten season. Bible study begins at 9:00 am and is led by Pr. Randy Kirtelson on the following Wednesdays: April 2nd & April 9th.
Remember to bring your Bible! Refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

SHARED MINISTRY LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	REFLECTIONS BY:
April 2:	Glenwood Lutheran	Pr. Kristen Corr Rod
April 9:	Madison Lutheran	Pr. Randy Kirtelson

Holy Week and Easter worship will be at home churches
Meal at 6:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal at 6:30 pm – Worship at 7:00 pm

UPPER IOWA RIVER CLUSTER D SPRING GATHERING
Highland Lutheran Church ~ Saturday, April 5, 2025
Coffee at 8:30 am Meeting at 9:00 am
SPEAKER: Christopher Miculnitch from Spectrum

HESPER LUTHERAN CHURCH Women of the ELCA Spring Breakfast
April 13, 2025 ~ Serving 9:30 am—12:30 pm
Belgian Waffles, Sausages, Applesauce, Juice, Milk, Coffee
Join us for good food and fellowship!

The next Shared Ministry meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 9:00 am at Big Canoe Lutheran. We will review Lenten worship services and finalize plans for the joint worship service and gathering in Highlandville in July.

Upcoming Events

May 2: May Friendship Day. First United Methodist Church in Decorah, beginning at 9:00 am. More info to come in the May Newsletter.
May 3: LWR. Ingathering at Olson Explosives in Decorah 7:30—11:30 am
June 6-7: Synod Assembly at Bien Venü in Cedar Falls. Discounted registration fee of \$130 until May 1st. Final registration date is May 15
July 27: Shared Ministry Churches—joint outdoor worship, Potluck, Fun Day in Highlandville. More info to come.

Websites: www.WomenoftheELCA.org www.NEIA.synod.org

Worship Services ~ April 2025

	April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 17 Maundy Thursday April 18 GOOD FRIDAY	April 20 Easter RISEN	April 27 Second Sunday of Easter
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Baker Website: behlutheran.org	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm @ Big Canoe Good Friday 6:30 pm @ Highland	8:00 am— Easter Worship/HC at Big Canoe. 9:00 am— Easter Banquet & Pie Auction 10:00 am Worship/HC at Highland	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland 8:45 am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
Hesper Pr. David Werges Lina Kemmer—Deacon Website: behlutheran.org	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship	Apr. 17: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship/HC in Burr Oak. First Communion. Apr. 18: 7:00 pm Good Friday in Hesper	6:30 Easter Sunrise worship in Hesper 7:30 Easter Breakfast/Hesper 8:30 Worship/HC Hesper 10:00 Worship/HC Burr Oak	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship
Canoe Ridge Pr. Matthew Ressler Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	8:30 am Worship/HC at Canoe Ridge 9:30: Coffee Hour	10:30 am - Worship/HC at Canoe Ridge	7:00 pm— Maundy Thursday worship at Canoe Ridge	7:00 am— Easter Sunday worship at Canoe Ridge.	10:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge
Glenwood Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	9:30 am— Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am worship at Glenwood/HC	8:30 am worship at Glenwood/HC 9:30 am Coffee Sunday School at Glwd.	7:00 pm— Good Friday worship at Glenwood	9:30 am Easter worship at Glenwood	8:30 am worship at Glenwood. 9:30 am— Sunday School & Coffee Hour
St. John's & Haughe Pr. Randy Kirtelson Website: haugelutheran.com	9:30 am Joint Worship/HC St. John's 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am Joint Worship/HC Haughe 10:30 Fellowship	April 18: 6:00 pm— Joint Good Friday Worship at Haughe Lutheran	9:30 am Joint Easter Worship/HC at St. John's. No Coffee/ Fellowship	9:30 am Joint Worship/HC Haughe 10:30 Fellowship
Ridgeway Lutheran Parish Pr. Nathan Wilks Website: parish.weebly.com	9 am: Madison/HC 10:30 am: Orleans/HC	9 am: Madison/HC 10:30 am: Peace/HC	Apr. 17: 6:30 pm— Maundy Thursday Orleans Apr. 18: 6:30 pm— Good Friday Peace	7 am: Easter Sunrise /HC at Madison. 8 am: Easter Breakfast. 9:30 am Easter Worship at Orleans/HC	9 am: Madison/HC & Confirmation. 10:30 am: Orleans/HC. Confirmation and Graduate Recognition
Washington Prairie Lutheran Website: washingtonprairie.lutheran.org	10:00 am Worship	10:00 am Worship	April 17: Maundy Thursday — 7:00 pm Worship	8:00 am— Fellowship/Coffee & Rolls 9:00 am Easter Worship	10:00 am Worship