

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

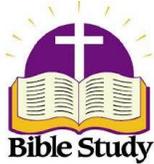
Big Canoe - 1381 Big Canoe Road – Decorah, IA 52101
563-546-7974

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NEWSLETTER

February/March 2026



Pastor Becker's Sunday-morning Bible Class

8:45 a.m. each Sunday, class will be in the fellowship hall of the church of service and will last about 50 minutes. Please consider taking advantage of this educational opportunity as a way to grow in your Christian faith. All are welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

- Sat, Feb 21 (11am): Meeting of the altar guilds of both congregations with Pr. Becker (Highland)
- Sun, Feb 22 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Feb 22 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – First Sunday in Lent (purple)
- Sun, Feb 22 (2pm): Upper Iowa River Conference (ELCA) assembly (Decorah Lutheran Church)
- Tues, Feb 24 (1pm): Pr. Becker will be talking about rural ministry (online via Crossings.org)
- Wed, Feb 25 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Feb 25 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (Pr. Becker preaching) (Hesper)
- Fri, Feb 27: Pr. Becker has a medical appointment in La Crosse
- Sun, Mar 1 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 1 (9am): Children's Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 1 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Second Sunday in Lent (purple)
- Sun, Mar 1 (after worship): Youth confirmation class meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Wed, Mar 4 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Mar 4 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (St. John's, Locust)
- Sun, Mar 8 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Mar 8 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Third Sunday in Lent (purple)
- Sun, Mar 8 (10am): Installation of Highland council members in the worship service (Highland)
- Tues, Mar 10 (10am): Pastor Becker has a Zoom meeting with leaders of *Lutheran Quarterly*
- Tues, Mar 10 (2pm): Gather Bible study (Highland)
- Wed, Mar 11 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Mar 11 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (hosted by Highland at Big Canoe)
- Fri, Mar 13 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)
- Sun, Mar 15 (8:45am): Bible student meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 15 (9am): Children's Sunday school meets in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 15 (10am): Service of the Word (Big Canoe) – Fourth Sunday in Lent (purple)
- Sun, Mar 15 (after the service): Youth confirmation instruction will take place at Big Canoe
- Wed, Mar 18 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Mar 18 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (Hauge)
- Sun, Mar 22 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Mar 22 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Fifth Sunday in Lent (purple)

Upcoming Events continued

- Wed, Mar 25 (9am): Midweek Lenten Bible class (Winneshiek Wildberry Winery)
- Wed, Mar 25 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (Burr Oak)
- Sun, Mar 29 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 29 (9am): Children's Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Mar 29 (10am): Palm Sunday service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) (purple)
- Sun, Mar 29 (after worship): Youth confirmation class meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Apr 5 (8am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Big Canoe – Easter Sunday (white)
- Sun, Apr 5: No Sunday School or adult Bible class on Easter Sunday.
- Sun, Apr 5 (9am): Easter breakfast and pie auction at Big Canoe (to support the Luther League)
- Sun, Apr 5 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Highland – Easter Sunday (white)
- Tues, Apr 14 (2pm-8:45pm): Photos of both congregations for the pictorial directory (Big Canoe)
- Tues, Apr 14 (2pm): Gather Bible study (Highland)
- Wed, Apr 15 (2pm-8:45pm): Photos of both congregations for the pictorial directory (Big Canoe)
- Apr 16-18: Pastor Becker attends the annual board meeting of *Lutheran Quarterly* in Des Moines
- Mon, Apr 20 (9am): Shared Ministry Group meeting (St. John, Locust)
- Sat, May 2: Pastor Becker participates in the special ordination service in Jos, Nigeria (via Zoom)
- Tues, May 12 (2pm): Gather Bible study (Highland)
- Fri, May 22 (5pm): Wedding rehearsal (Big Canoe)
- Sat, May 23 (3pm): Wedding of Molly Oehme and Beau Benzing (Big Canoe)

Highland Church Council Reorganizational Meeting After Annual Congregational Meeting January 25, 2026

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 2:51 PM.

Attendance: Anna Jetson, Kristy Selness, Dan Dutka, Myron Krauskopf, Ed Stoen, Gary Halverson, Eric Selness and Gary Selness.

Election of Officers:

President: President Jetson called for nominations for President.

Motion by Eric Selness to nominate Myron Krauskopf for President, seconded by Ed Stoen. No other nominations.

Motion by Eric Selness to cease nominations for President, seconded by Dan Dutka. Both motions carried.

Vice President: Newly elected President Myron Krauskopf called for nominations for Vice President.

Motion by Dan Dutka to nominate Ed Stoen for Vice President, seconded by Eric Selness. No other nominations.

Motion by Gary Halverson to cease nominations for Vice President, seconded by Eric Selness. Both motions carried.

Secretary: President Krauskopf called for nominations for Secretary.

Motion by Dan Dutka to nominate Kristy Selness for Secretary, seconded by Gary Halverson.

Motion by Eric Selness to cease nominations for Secretary, seconded by Gary Selness. Both motions carried.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer: President Krauskopf called for appointments for Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

Motion by Eric Selness to re-appoint Virginia Karlsbrotten as Financial Secretary and Dan Dutka as Treasurer, seconded by Gary Selness. Motion carried.

Next meeting: March 8, 2026, after Worship Service.

Adjournment: Motion by Gary Halverson to adjourn, seconded by Eric Selness. Motion carried. 3:03 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

Highland Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2026

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:51 AM.

Attendance: President Anna Jetson, Vice President Al Erickson, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Council Members Myron Krauskopf, Ed Stoen and Gary Selness, Pastor Matthew Becker, members Darlene Larson Sollien, Virginia Karlsbrothen, Judy Krauskopf, Detra Becker, Karen Erickson, Dennis Karlsbrothen, Larry Lane, Joyce Bjerke, Louise Jetson, Eric Selness, Gary Halverson, and Mark Sollien.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Becker opened with some thoughts on 4-H and a prayer.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Becker reviewed a letter he included in the congregational packet and his goals for 2026 which he stated were very similar to last years.

We had no baptisms or funerals.

Pastor Becker stated the membership list has been updated but if anyone has further info to contact him.

He felt the worship schedule was working well with the every other week model and should be left the same.

He decided not to make any changes to the communion service and stay with the individual cup.

Pastor Becker stated that we do have a large on-line following, not only in the United States but worldwide.

Pastor Becker was asked a couple questions. The first being during the summertime, could the Worship Service start at 9:00 AM. And the second, during the 5th Sunday Worship Service, could there be a Saturday night service instead. He thought this should be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

Secretary's Report: Kristy Selness read the meeting minutes of February 2, 2025, submitted by Darlene Larson Sollien. Motion by Dan Dutka to approve the minutes, seconded by Darlene Larson Sollien. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Dutka presented the financial report, which is included in the congregational packet. The 2025 budget was \$71,555.00. The proposed 2026 budget is \$72,241.75. Discussion by members. Filed for audit.

Dan was asked if the Aase Haugen Capital Campaign had been paid for 2025 and he stated it has been. He informed us that we have one year left of the \$1,000 commitment.

Women of the ELCA: Darlene Larson Sollien reported on the enclosed report. They will be reviewing the donations for this year at an upcoming meeting.

Property Committee: Dan Dutka reported. Dan thanked Myron Krauskopf for all the work he has been doing. Tiling on the North side is completed, the concrete project is completed, new doors in the basement on the South side have been started, and the kitchen door is in. Two replacement windows on the South side of Sacristy have been purchased to be installed later.

Joint Property Committee: Dan Dutka reported he has been working on the South porch of the parsonage to enclose it. More work has been needed due to the rotten wood. The joint council approved budget is \$6,139.00 but more funds are needed. He has applied for a \$15,000 grant at the Depot Outlet, with the \$6,139.00 as matching funds. A donation of \$1,000 has been made by a Big Canoe member. His labor is donated.

No word has been heard back from the Depot Outlet yet.

Concrete work is also needed on the outside back porch steps.

Suspend meeting for Highland Cemetery Association: Motion by Dan Dutka to suspend meeting and convene the Highland Cemetery Association meeting, seconded by Myron Krauskopf. Motion carried.

Highland Cemetery Association: Dennis Karlsbroten called the meeting to order. He reviewed the Treasurer's report provided by Mark Selness. He thanked Keith Groth, even though he is not with us, and Mark Selness for watching the CDs very carefully. They had an increase in interest of \$8454.00 last year. The balance for the end of the year is in the spreadsheet.

Dennis Karlsbroten informed that Mark Selness' term expired and a new Treasurer needs to be elected. He stated Mark does a very good job. Darlene Larson Sollien motioned to re-elect Mark Selness as Treasurer, seconded by Gary Halverson. Motion carried.

No funerals or burials last year.

Dan Dutka thanked Dennis Karlsbrotten for use of skid loader and equipment, Myron Krauskopf for grass seed donation, and Eric Selness for straw donation, to finish landscaping on North side.

Motion by Darlene Larson Sollien to adjourn Highland Cemetery Association meeting and reconvene the Highland Annual meeting, seconded by Ed Stoen. Motion carried.

Auditing Committee Report: Louise Jetson and Judi Krauskopf audited financial reports, with Dan Dutka present in an advisory position. They found financial books in order.

Motion by Dennis Karlsbrotten to accept auditing committee report, seconded by Eric Selness. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee/Election of Council: Virginia Karlsbrotten and Mark Sollien nominated Eric Selness and Gary Halverson for Council.

No further nominations.

Motion by Dennis Karlsbrotten to close nominations and elect Eric Selness and Gary Halverson for Council, seconded by Judi Krauskopf. Motion carried.

Al Erickson and Mark Sollien agreed to be on the 2027 nominating committee. No other nominations.

Motion by Louise Jetson to cease the nominations and elect the two, seconded by Dennis Karlsbrothen. Motion carried.

Auditing Committee: Louise Jetson agreed to be on the committee for next year, Judi Krauskopf agreed to be on the committee for next 2 years, and Karen Erickson agreed to be on the committee for the next 3 years.

Mutual Ministry Committee: A committee to work with the Pastor on issues. Pastor Becker stated it is a good idea but to have joint council work on this. If an issue should arise, to call a special joint council meeting.

For Info: Upper Iowa River Conference Assembly, Sunday, February 22, 2026, Location TBD. Dan Dutka and Anna Jetson stated they will attend.

Northeastern Iowa Synod Ministry Fair, June 6, 2026, Location TBD. Open to all.

Aase Haugen Senior Service, Annual Meeting, date unknown.

2026 Budget: Danny Dutka presented the 2026 budget as approved and submitted by the council. He noted several highlights in the budget.

In the benevolent, he stated there was a challenge on the Emmaus Road Foundation to increase the budget to \$500. A person stepped forward and donated \$100 towards that goal. In the Worship and Service Expense, it was questioned whether to change our envelope system. Motion by Myron Krauskopf to maintain the current envelope system, seconded by Joyce Bjerke. Motion carried. Also, wi-fi has been added to the budget.

The 2026 budget is \$78,391.75 without improvements. \$87,891.75 with improvements.

Discussion by the congregation.

Motion by Louise Jetson to approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Gary Halverson. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Update on the fundraiser for \$1000 for Aase Haugen Capital Campaign for this year. Anna Jetson requested ideas for this fundraiser. Discussion. A side by side ride with a meal of possibly sweet corn and brats was discussed. It could possibly be named the Steve Langland Memorial Side by Side Ride. Motion by Dan Dutka to attempt to plan to have a side by side ride fundraiser with the proceeds up to \$1000 go to the Aase Haugen Capital Campaign and any overage go into the Benevolent Fund, seconded by Myron Krauskopf. Pastor Becker added a friendly amendment to have Dennis Karlsbrotten to take the leadership. Anna Jetson stated this will be a congregational event. Motion carried.

No other old business.

New Business:

Sunday Attendance pads at Highland. Pastor Becker mentioned the pads are already being used at Big Canoe. They would replace the communion cards and be helpful for him to know who is attending, along with visitors who may be attending. Pastor Becker stated that he does send visitors a letter thanking them for attending. Motion by Darlene Larson Sollien to start using the Sunday Attendance Pads at Highland with a nice binder and pen holder, seconded by Eric Selness. Motion carried.

Photo Directory. The photo directory was discussed and would be a joint directory with each church having its own separate section. Pastor Becker stated it would not cost the members anything unless additional photos are ordered-purchased. Motion by Judi Krauskopf to move forward with the photo directory, seconded by Dan Dutka. Motion carried.

Steeple Repair. Dan Dutka and Myron Krauskopf reported on the proposed repair. Alvin Yoder, contractor, has proposed putting vinyl louvers on the steeple, steel roofing to match the churches roof and fix the leak area around the bottom of the steeple. A quote of \$9,500 has been received. Dan Dutka motioned to budget \$12,00 for repairs, of which \$9,500 would be paid to Alvin Yoder to match his quote, the balance to be available for contingencies, seconded by Myron Krauskopf. Motion carried.

Host Shared Ministry Lenten Round Robin Supper and Worship on March 11, 2026. Anna Jetson asked if our congregation could host this Supper and Worship. Discussion. Highland would not have room for the projected attendance (125-140) and should ask Big Canoe if they could host and Highland assist with the Supper. No motion needed.

No other New Business.

Adjournment: Motion by Ed Stoen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dennis Karlsbrotten. Motion carried.
2:43 PM

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Annual Meeting, February 1, 2026

Council members present: President Brian Bigler, Vice President Steve Emery, Secretary Deb Monson, Vernoe Whitaker, Bill Bullerman, Seth Ferguson, Kathryn Thompson, Financial Secretary Lisa Bullerman and Pastor Becker. Treasurer Laurie Emery was absent due to illness.

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order and Pastor Becker gave the opening prayer.

Secretary Deb Monson read the minutes from the 2025 annual meeting.

Lisa Bullerman requested one correction: The Financial Oversight Committee oversees the Grindeland Fund which is used for college scholarships and the Osmundson Fund which is a savings account for the church to borrow from.

A motion was requested by President Brian Bigler to approve the minutes as read with the one correction. Motion was made by Rita Hurd Thomas, seconded by Carey Nordheim. Motion passed by all voting aye.

The Auditor's Report was given by Rita Hurd Thomas. Of all the books that were submitted to be audited, all were approved.

Treasurer's Report - as Laurie Emery was absent due to illness, there was no Treasurer's Report.

Big Canoe Sunday School Program - Tammy Nordheim reported that many young children attend Sunday School and Pastor Becker has helped order materials for the classes. In the past, monies for the Sunday School Program were allotted by the church.

Luther League: Will still do the pie auction on Easter Sunday with the monies raised to be used for a trip to the Boundary Waters.

Isabella Gipp attended Ewalu Camp with the cost being paid by Luther League.

Cemetery Committee: Carey and Tammy Nordheim reported that Steve Emery and Sandy Gavle continue to water the flowers and clean and repair headstones.

Sandy Gavle did the Memorial Day dinner last year and would like to do it again this year.

The Cemetery Committee paid for the mowing last year. This may increase the amount from \$500 to \$700 per mowing. Matt Amundson signed a contract for 2025 but has not signed a contract for 2026. The Cemetery Committee made the following proposal. Of the \$6,000 paid by the church for mowing in 2025, the Cemetery Committee will reduce the amount to \$3,000 to be repaid. Brian requested a motion to accept the proposal made by the Cemetery Committee. A motion was made by Rita Hurd Thomas, seconded by Bill Bullerman and the motion passed by all voting aye.

Cemetery lot costs: Currently the cost of a single lot is \$350 for church members and \$700 for non-members. After talking with the grave digger and the funeral director, most churches are charging \$750 per lot. Other churches are charging \$850 to \$1,000 per lot. Washington Prairie will not bury any non-members. After July 1, 2026, the cost of a cemetery lot at Big Canoe will be \$750.00 for church members.

The Cemetery Committee would like to break away from the church and establish their own tax ID number. The cemetery land would need to be deeded to the cemetery. There are many logs still available in the cemetery, however, the middle part of the cemetery is sacred ground and does not allow for more burials. Tammy wants to stay on the Cemetery Committee but would like to have someone take over as treasurer.

To properly set a headstone, the cement base must be two feet deep.

Pastor Becker advised if the cemetery committee forms its own group, the church could transfer all of its assets to the cemetery in case of a church closure. This would protect all of the assets for church cemetery upkeep. The cemetery committee may need to get insurance to protect cemetery funds in case someone were to fall.

President Brian Bigler requested a motion for the cemetery committee to break off from the church to establish their own entity. Rita Hurd Thomas made the motion, seconded by Kris Bigler, and the motion passed by all voting aye.

Lisa Bullerman, Financial Secretary, gave an update on funds currently held by the church with end of year balances.

QR Code donations	\$2,123.11
Grindeland Fund	\$6,816.79
Osmundson Fund	\$28,651.24
Neuberger Berman	\$51,524.87
American Funds	\$23,123.25
Benevolence Funds	\$13,639.00

Pastor Becker stated that the QR code system has been profitable as people attending funerals and associate members have made donations using the system.

Shirley Bigler asked where the monies donated under the QR code system are credited. Lisa advised those monies go into the general fund.

The nominating committee submitted three names to replace Brian Bigler, and Steve Emery, which were Matt Bigler, Eric Stoen, and Sawyer Wise. Vernoe Whitaker stated she would be stepping down as a council member. Emma Thompson nominated Steve Nordheim, who agreed to serve if elected. Tammy Nordheim made the motion to accept the nominees, seconded by Vernoe Whitaker, and the motion passed by all voting aye.

Rita Hurd Thomas agreed to serve on the Grindeland and the Osmundson committee to replace Gary Stortz.

Sandy Gavle, Dee Wyatt, and Emma Thompson will continue to serve on the Aase Haugen Committee.

The Nominating Committee for 2027 will be Brian Bigler, Steve Emery, Kathryn Thompson, and Vernoe Whitaker.

Social Concerns Committee members are Sandy Gavle, Amy O'Regan, Laurie Emery, and Bill Stoen. Shelley Bigler volunteered to serve on the committee.

The Sunday School Committee members are Randi Jo Wise, Brooklyn Borreson, Cassidy Ferguson, Tammy Nordheim, and Pastor Becker.

Pastor Becker asked that the Big Canoe Congregation approve having a new church directory. The Highland congregation has approved a new directory. The dates for taking pictures are April 14 and 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:48 p.m. If members have their picture taken, they will receive a free directory and a free 8 x 10.

Tammy Nordheim and Kris Bigler will serve on the Pictorial Directory Committee.

Pastor announced that Big Canoe will celebrate its 175th Anniversary. The anniversary is in August but the congregation will celebrate in September as it will be cooler. Guests to consider inviting are the President of the ELCA, the King of Norway, scholars to talk about Norwegian history. Pastor Becker will give part of the service in Norwegian.

The Anniversary Committee members will be Pastor Becker, Sue Darling, Emma Thompson, Darrell Stoen, Brian Bigler, and Judy Shuros. President Brian Bigler asked for a motion to form a committee for the church's 175th anniversary. Seth Ferguson made the motion, which was seconded by Rita Hurd Thomas. Motion passed by voting aye.

Pastor Becker would like to bless the homes of the church members. An Epiphany Service was held at church.

Bill Stoen was recognized for recording services at Big Canoe and Highland.

Almost 2,000 people watch the Sunday services on FaceBook. More people are needed to assist with services. Presently communion will continue with the use of individual cups rather than the common cup.

Pastor will meet with the Alter Guilds.

Church scheduling has had favorable reviews. No complaints.

Parishioners were asked to contribute more offerings so we don't have to borrow monies from other funding.

Pastor stated his goals will remain pretty much the same.

On May 3rd Pastor will take part in a technical Ordination by Zoom to ordain his Nigerian students.

Pastor will be going to Germany in July.

Current membership at Big Canoe:

159 active, baptized members
64 inactive members
26 associate members

Current membership at Highland:

47 active, baptized members

Pastor requested a review of him being our pastor.

A spiritual meeting will be held on February 7th.

Denise Gulrud will be stepping down as secretary in about a month. Judy Krauskopf from Highland is interested and Kathryn Thompson may be interested as well.

Pastor Becker requested a statement for IRS purposes as to the rent valuation at the parsonage. The rent valuation of \$800 per month for 2026 was discussed. President Brian Bigler requested a motion to set the rent valuation at the parsonage to be set at \$800 per month. Bill Stoen made the motion, seconded by Tammy Nordheim. Motion passed by all voting aye.

Brian requested a motion that the proposed budget for 2026 be printed and in two weeks the congregation can read and approve the budget. Rita Hurd Thomas made the motion, seconded by Shelley Bigler. Motion passed by all voting aye.

A bride to be and her mother visited Lutheran churches in the area looking for a church to be married in. Upon seeing Big Canoe, the bride to be decided this was the church where she and the groom would be married. Big Canoe was selected because of its beauty. The wedding will be held over Memorial Day Weekend.

The men's restroom renovation is a work in progress and will be completed in the near future.

President Brian Bigler requested a motion to adjourn. Steve Emery made the motion, seconded by Rita Hurd Thomas. Motion passed by all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Monson, Secretary

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting - February 15, 2026

The meeting was chaired by Vice President Steve Emery and Treasurer Laurie Emery.

Congregational members were provided with a copy of the 2026 proposed budget. After a brief discussion, Vice President Steve Emery, requested a motion to accept the 2026 budget proposal. Pat O'Regan made the motion, seconded by Ben Wyatt. Motion passed by all voting eye.

The following church members were installed as the members of the council during the Sunday services on February 15, 2026. Treasurer, Laurie Emery, and Financial Secretary, Lisa Bullerman appointed the members.

Matt Bigler	Bill Bullerman	Seth Ferguson	Deb Monson
Steve Nordheim	Eric Stoen	Sawyer Wise	

A short council meeting was held. The following council members will serve as officers:

President: Seth Ferguson
Vice President: Matt Bigler
Secretary: Deb Monson (through September 2026)

The council will meet quarterly.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

Beginning March 2026, Judi Krauskopf will be replacing Denise Gulrud as the Church Secretary. She will have access to the bchlutheran@gmail.com email address - Please contact her at that email address or on her cell, which is 563-380-5758. Any newsletter items should be sent to Pastor Becker at matthew.becker@valpo.edu first.



Shared Ministry Newsletter

March 2026



*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folsstad at linda.folsstad49@gmail.com
By March 15th for the April 2026 Newsletter



All are invited to join us for Bible Study held at Highland Lutheran Church at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10th. PLEASE NOTE the change in meeting date and time! All are welcome!
NOTE: If school is delayed or cancelled, Bible Study is also cancelled.

SHARED MINISTRY MEETING
The next Shared Ministry GROUP meeting will be held Monday, April 20, 2026 at St. John's in Locust. All are welcome to attend



LENTEN ROUND ROBIN SCHEDULE

Fellowship & Meal: 5:30 pm * Choir Rehearsal: 6:00 pm * Worship: 6:30 pm

DATE	HOST CHURCH	GUEST PASTOR
February 18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Big Canoe	Pr. Dave Werges
February 25	Hesper	Pr. Matthew Becker
March	St. John's	TBD
March 11	Big Canoe	Pr. Randy Kittelson
March 18	Hauge	Pr. Jan Thomas (NE IA Synod)
March 25	Burr Oak	Pr. Kristen Corr-Rod Assistant to the Bishop - NE IA Synod

Mundy Thursday & Good Friday worship will be held in home churches.

Lenten Loose Offering will be equally divided between Northeast Iowa Community Action and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

COME AND JOIN THE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY!

A Bible study will again be offered during Lent for any who are interested, on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am at the Wineshiek Wildberry Winery. The first of 5 sessions began on February 25th and the last session will be held on the 25th of March. Our study this year, led by Pastor Randy Kittelson, will be listening to, and then studying and discussing the Biblical texts used in the second half of Handel's oratorio Messiah. It will be a hallelujah time!

Hesper Lutheran Church WELCA Spring Crunch
Sunday, March 29, 2026
9:30 am-NOON
MENU:
Belgian Waffles & Toppings
Sauces
Applesauce
Beverages
Free Will Donation
Come and join us for Brunch!
www.hesperlutheran.org

Hops & Hymns at Barneys!

Bring your family and friends and join us at Barneys in Burr Oak on Sunday, March 22nd from 2-4 pm. The Joe Cody Band will lead us in an afternoon of singing favorite hymns. Mark your calendars and come and enjoy the fellowship, music, and a favorite beverage. All are welcome!

Worship Services ~ March 2026

	Sunday March 1 2nd Sunday in Lent	Sunday March 8 3rd Sunday in Lent	Sunday March 15 4th Sunday in Lent	Sunday March 22 5th Sunday in Lent	Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker MESSIE: behnlutheran.org	8:45 am—Bible Study/Big Canoe (Gospel of Matthew) 9:00 am— Sunday School at Big Canoe	8:45 am—Bible Study/Highland (Gospel of Matthew) 9:00 am— Sunday School at Big Canoe	8:45 am—Bible Study/Big Canoe (Gospel of Matthew) 9:00 am— Sunday School/BC	8:45 am—Bible Study Class at Highland (Gospel of Matthew)	8:45 am—Bible Study Class/BC (Gospel of Matthew) 9:00 am— Sunday School/BC
Burr Oak MESSIE: bohnlutheran.org	8:30 am Worship/HC 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship/HC 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Joint Worship/HC in Hesper. 9:30 am—Noon: Hesper/WELCA Spring Waffle Brunch
Hesper Pr. David Werges Lisa Kemmer-Daneman	10:00 am Worship/HC	10:00 am Worship	10:00 am Worship/HC	10:00 am Worship	
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson Facebook: Hauge and St. John's Lutheran Churches	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge 10:30 am Coffee Hour	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's 10:30 am Coffee Hour	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge 10:30 am Coffee Hour	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's 10:30 am Coffee Hour	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge 10:30 am Coffee Hour
Glenwood MESSIE: Glenwoodlutheran.org	10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	8:30 am Worship/HC 9:30 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School
Canoe Ridge	8:30 am— Worship at Canoe Ridge	10:30 am Worship/HC at Canoe Ridge	8:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge	10:30 am Worship at Canoe Ridge	8:30 am Worship at Canoe Ridge

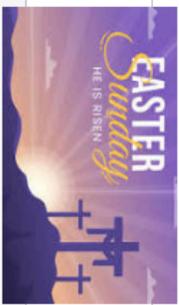
Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 8, 2026
Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour Saturday night before going to bed!



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe Holy Communion Youth Confirmation after worship	2	3	4 9:00 a.m. Midweek Lenten Bible Class Winn. Wildberry Winery 5:30 p.m. Shared Ministry meal Lenten Service St. John's Locust	5	6	7
8 8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion Installation of Highland council members	9	10 10:00 a.m. Pastor Becker Zoom Meeting with Leaders of <i>Lutheran Quarterly</i> 2:00 p.m. Gather Bible Study - Highland	11 9:00 a.m. Midweek Lenten Bible Class Winn. Wildberry Winery 5:30 p.m. Shared Ministry Meal Lenten Service hosted by Highland at Big Canoe	12	13 Pastor Becker leads worship service at Green Lea Manor - Mabel	14
15 8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe Youth Confirmation after worship	16	17	18 9:00 a.m. Midweek Lenten Bible Class Winn. Wildberry Winery 5:30 p.m. Shared Ministry meal Lenten Service Hauge	19	20	21
22 8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland	23	24	25 9:00 a.m. Midweek Lenten Bible Class Winn. Wildberry Winery 5:30 p.m. Shared Ministry Meal Lenten Service Burr Oak	26	27	28
29 8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe Youth Confirmation after worship	30	31				

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>8:00 Service Big Canoe Holy Communion 9:00 Easter Breakfast & Pie Auction, support Luther League 10:00 Service at Highland</p>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion		2:00 - 8:45 p.m. Photos of both congregations for pictorial directory 2:00 Gather Bible Study at Highland	2:00 - 8:45 p.m. Photos of both congregations for pictorial directory	Pastor Becker attends annual board meeting of Lutheran Quarterly in Des Moines through the 18th		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe	9:00 a.m. Shared Ministry Group Meeting at St. John's Locust					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland						
26	27	28	29	30		