

**Big Canoe Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. on 29 January 2023.

Pastor Gies opened with a Devotion.

Rita Thomas-Hurd read the previous Annual Meeting Minutes. The minutes were approved as read.

Auditor's Report: The Auditors reported that all reports balanced out, with no corrections required.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved as published in the Annual Report. Laurie noted that Benevolence receipts were met ahead of schedule.

Pastoral Overview was presented by Pastor Gies, a correction was made regarding Cemetery numbers, with 7 funerals being attributed to Big Canoe and 1 of the 8 belonging to Highland. Pastor Gies commended Both Big Canoe and Highland for their decision to combine and rotate Sunday Services on a monthly basis.

Other Committees reported, annotated in Annual Report.

Council Elections: Brian Bigler, Steve Emery and Kathryn Thompson were nominated and received a vote of unanimous consent.

The Elsie Osmundson and Grindeland Committees were combined into a new "**Financial Oversight Committee.**" After a debate and nomination of members as follows:

- Darrel Stoen
- Tammy Nordheim
- Carey Nordheim
- Connie Amundsen
- Brian Bigler
- Liz Schafer
- Lisa Bullerman

Tammy Nordheim motioned for the creation of the committee and a dissolution of the previous separate committees. Amy O'Regan seconded the motion. A proposal of unanimous consent was offered by Pat O'Regan. The motion passed. The committees are to meet twice annually to monitor investments.

Additional Committee assignments were as follows:

Auditing Committee:

Connie Amundson
Earl Arneson
Rita Thomas-Hurd
Michelle Borreson

Nominating Committee:

Sandy Gavle
Darrell Stoen
Pat O'Regan

Conference Spring Assy Delegates:

Pastor Gies
Bill Stoen

Synod Assy Delegates:

Heather Vilaro
Pastor Gies

Property Committee:

Pat O'Regan
Amy O'Regan
Liz Schafer
Rita Thomas-Hurd

Social Concerns Committee:

Sandy Gavle
Bill Stoen
Amy O'Regan
Laurie Emery
Tammy Nordheim

Sunday School/Parish Education:

Shelley Bigler
We are looking for additional members for this committee

Cemetery Committee:

Tammy Nordheim
Carey Nordheim
Matt Amundson
Eric Stoen
Steve Emery
Sandy Gavle

Shared Ministry Representatives:

Bill Stoen
Pastor Gies

Old Business:

Property Committee reports Church Roof Repairs and repairs to both houses and barn were completed. The insurance paid all except \$12,731. Those moneys came from Depot Grants of \$7500 and \$5231 from the parsonage account. Bill Stoen made the applications for a \$5000 grant and was approved. Those funds were immediately applied to the rain gutter bill. A total of more than \$121 thousand was spent on repairs.

There is a request from Synod to discuss using the Parsonage as a potential housing for Seminarians. The Congregation voted to severely restrict that action until a definite plan was proposed by the Synod, and approved by the Council. Pat O'Regan will discuss options with the Synod Representative.

The Erling Dalaker fund was discussed. After debate, it was determined to split the Balance on hand, \$29051 as of 12-31-22 equally between the Big Canoe Church Operating Fund and The Cemetery Fund. Lis Schafer made the motion, Matt Bigler seconded and the motion passed.

The Tuck point project remains incomplete. Bids are being solicited. Bill Stoen has already contacted 2 contractors and Pat O'Regan has contacted one.

Lawn Repair around church remains to be done after the roofing project. The property committee will address when the weather gets warmer.

The Call Committee has completed the paperwork and will meet with Synod Representative in March to discuss future options.

The Cemetery Committee reported that a contract was let to Matt Amundson to do mowing last summer and fall after volunteers had mowed during May through July.

Ladies Aid:

The Burial Pall was completed and is available for use at Funerals. Colleen Bigler did the Sticking and Embossing.

WELCA reported that 468 quilts had been completed over the past year.

There was no Lutefisk Supper, and alternative fund raisers are being discussed; to include Chicken Dinners and The Easter Breakfast. It was approved to continue with Easter Breakfast/Pie Auction. Allocation of Funds generated are to be determined.

Luther League has \$16180.25 in current assets. There are normally 5-8 youth who participate in Luther League activities. They try to schedule monthly activities. Currently, the only member of that committee is Shelley Bigler.

Cemetery and Grounds Care. Pat O'Regan thanked all those who had donated time and effort to keeping up the Cemetery and Grounds while Bob was recovering.

New Business:

Cemetery Care: It was discussed and concluded that Bob Marousek was unable to continue his duties maintaining the cemetery. Bid are being received for 2023 maintenance and mowing of cemetery grounds. There are currently 4 bids received with more anticipated. Cemetery Committee hopes to have final decisions by mid-March 2023. Funding of the cemetery will be augmented by Big Canoe Church. A total of \$10,000 was approved as a ceiling. The cemetery was expected to request funds based on their income and expenses.

The cemetery Committee proposed that the new lot rates as of 1 March 2023 were as Follows: \$350 per member after 1 year's membership in church. \$700 per lot for non-members. Tammy Nordheim made the motion, Laurie Emery seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Church Grounds and Church Maintenance and Cleaning: As of this moment, there is no replacement identified for Bob, our caretaker. It was discussed that Bob continue to monitor the church mail, heating and other

functions that he was physically able to do. Time will tell if he is able to assist with mowing around the Church grounds. The parsonage grounds will continue to be mowed by the tenants of the parsonage using the Church lawn mower. Volunteers will assist with mowing and weed-eating around the Church and caretakers home as needed. More to be determined as the spring progresses.

Any and all persons who provide services such as mowing and snow removal or other services are to submit bills to the church for re-imburement. Council will approve as needed.

2023 Budget of \$155,960 was motioned for approval by Rita Thomas-Hurd, Steve Emery seconded the motion and the motion passed. An additional \$10,000 was allocated for proposed Tuck Point repairs.

The Parsonage lease is up for renewal in June/July.

Pastor Gies Contract is up for renewal in June/July

Interest from Grindeland Fund (10%) will be allocated to the Decorah Food Pantry. Shelley Bigler made the motion, Matt Bigler seconded and the motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Pat O'Regan, Rita Hurd-Thomas seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pat O'Regan



Big Canoe WELCA would like to challenge both churches together to increase the amount of personal care kits for the LWR Truck. Last year the combined total was 120. We will collect until Sunday, April 30th so we can box them up as the truck loads on May 6th. There will be a container for this at each church.

- One personal care kit includes:
 - 1 light weight bath towel (20 x 40 to 52 x 27)
 - 2 or 3 bath size bars of soap in original packaging (8-9 oz.)
 - 1 adult size toothbrush in original packaging or multi packs can be separated into envelopes
 - 1 sturdy comb
 - 1 metal nail clippers (can be finger or toe clipper, attached file is optional)

Big Canoe Church Cleaning

We are not setting a special day but hope that volunteers will come forward as either an individual or a group to help, whenever it works for you! There will be a list of areas that need to be cleaned on the table in the entryway so you can pick & choose and please cross off what you have done. Keep in mind of some upcoming events:

Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 22nd, Easter Breakfast/WELCA Cluster Meeting on Saturday, April 22nd.

Bring your pails, rags, vacuum cleaners or anything else you think you may need. Many hands make light work. Bob will also have cleaning supplies on hand. Questions, please call Emma at 563-419-4222 or Judy at 563-546-7922.



Highland Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

February 5, 2023

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of the Highland Evangelical Lutheran Church of Winneshiek County, IA was called to order by President Joyce Bjerke at approximately 12 Noon with approximately 20 people in attendance. President Bjerke made a few comments about the past year.

Opening Devotions

Interim Pastor Waldemar Gies recited a prayer.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Danny Dutka read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held February 5, 2022. There was a minor correction to be made, the addition of the words "Disaster Relief" following the acronym E.L.C.A. in the **Lenten / Easter Worship Services** section. Steve Langland moved to approve the minutes as read with that correction. Darlene Sollien seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Anna Jetson spoke to the 2022 year-end report as found in the packet. Per the report:
Benevolence: Beginning balance \$583.00, Receipts \$3683.00, Disbursements \$4266.00. Ending balance \$0.00

Current: Beginning balance \$2608.22, Receipts \$46,845.09, Disbursements \$33,082.92, Ending balance \$16,370.39.

Anniversary Celebration Fund: Beginning balance \$365.10, Receipts \$10.00, Disbursements \$0.00, Ending balance \$375.10.

Improvement Fund: Beginning balance \$60,415.12, Receipts \$12708.47, Disbursements \$426.83, Ending balance \$72,696.76.

Scholarship Fund: Beginning balance \$5,859.54, Receipts \$21.33, Ending balance \$5,880.87.

Treasurer report will be placed on file for audit.

Pastor's Report

Interim Pastor Waldemar Gies called attention to the printed Pastoral Acts page in the packet. There was one baptism for Nadia Victoria Wold, daughter of Anastasia and Eric Wold on Sunday, October 23, 2022. Lucas Edward Stoen, son of Ed Stoen was confirmed on Sunday, May 1, 2022. There were 4 funerals: Norma Halse on May 10, 2022; Evelyn Langland on August 12, 2022; Douglas Champagne on August 27, 2022; Bradlee Neil Karlsbrotten on September 20, 2022.

Secretary note: Pastor Gies may not have personally conducted all of the above listed acts.

Pastor Gies said he was happy that Highland and Big Canoe are joining together in worship and other events and that he may have been bragging to other clergy about it.

He would like to have people join him at 9:15 a.m. before worship for what he has termed "Caffeine and Christ" for either bible study, bible stories or other discussion.

Needs to follow-up on the education of lay people how to conduct worship services and be able to bring communion to shut-ins. Also wants to collaborate with the synod on "licensing" of individuals to be able to serve communion at a worship service.

Pastor's Report (continued)

Mentioned that he is not leading confirmation classes but that there is a Shared Ministry between Big Canoe, Glenwood and Canoe Ridge. Adam Starrett, interim pastor of Glenwood and Canoe Ridge is overseeing the classes with assistance of mentors.

Call Committee

The Pastoral Call Committee consists of Karen Erickson, Virginia Karlsbrotten and Steve Langland. Steve Langland stated that corrections to the Ministry Site Profile had been made at the request of the E.L.C.A. The Call Committee is scheduled to meet with the Synod on February 28th for information on how to conduct an interview.

WELCA Report

Attention was called to the financial report provided in the packet. Beginning balance January 1, 2022 was \$459.12. receipts \$6075.00, disbursements \$5646.72, ending balance December 31, 2022 \$887.40.

Naomi Circle Report

Attention was called to the financial report provided in the packet. Beginning balance January 1, 2022 was \$78.38, receipts were \$135.00, disbursements were \$75.01, ending balance December 31, 2022 was \$38.37.

The Naomi Circle is being discontinued due to being the only Circle left of the Highland WELCA.

Property Committee Report

- **Roof:** Danny Dutka spoke of trying to find a contractor available to repair the roof in the bell tower area due to an ongoing leak. One contractor finally did come out to look at the situation and provided a proposal which was an all-encompassing refurbishment of the bell tower roof and siding as there seem to be multiple areas that are showing signs of leakage. That proposal was close to \$70,000. He stated he had left a voicemail for the company that had worked on the Big Canoe roofing project and they failed to return a call. Dennis Karlsbrotten is also speaking with a local company that may take on the project. Meanwhile the ceiling in the sanctuary has been repaired with protection installed in the attic.
- **Windows:** The east window of the addition has been replaced. A vinyl window was donated. Ward Budweg did the installation. The 2 south awning windows still need to be replaced but are not in as bad shape as the east one was.
- **Landscaping:** A landscaping company had been contacted to redo the landscaping on the north side of the addition once the old plantings were removed by church members. This plan was canceled due to time constraints and it was suggested that we should be able to do the whole project ourselves. This project still needs to be done once everyone is on the same page as to the scope of the project and who will be doing what.
- **Copier:** A multifunction office machine has been donated to Highland as of January 2023. The machine was used to produce the Annual Meeting packet complete with double sided pages.

Joint Property Report

Danny Dutka spoke of the recent re-shingling of the parsonage and barn. This was done in conjunction with a re-shingling project that Big Canoe undertook on their church and custodian's house. Between insurance proceeds and funds in the parsonage checking account there was no additional outlay of dollars from us. Pat O'Regan, President of Big Canoe negotiated the insurance settlement.

The parsonage has new renters as of summer of 2022. They are paying rent plus reimbursing for the cost of electricity and propane for heating. These funds go into a separate checking account.

The glass on the vinyl windows in the dining room and living room of the parsonage has fogged up. The windows have a glazing bead so it is possible that the glass can just be replaced.

Highland Annual Meeting Suspended

Danny Dutka moved to suspend the Highland Annual meeting and convene the Annual Meeting of the Highland Cemetery Association. Steve Langland seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Highland Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

- Dennis Karlsbrotten called the Highland Cemetery Association Annual Meeting to order.
- Dennis called attention to the printed financial report submitted by Mark Selness in the packet. - Dennis stated that some trees need to be trimmed around the cemetery to allow for more efficient mowing and snow removal. Steve Langland moved to allow the tree trimming as deemed necessary. Motion was seconded by Karen Erickson. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Mark Sollien's 5-year term on the Cemetery Association is up. He agreed to another 5-year term basically nominating himself. There were no other nominations. Moved by Joyce Bjerke to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mark. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Mark Sollien moved to adjourn the Highland Cemetery Association Annual Meeting and reconvene the Highland Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Eric Selness. Motion carried by voice vote.

Highland Annual Meeting (reconvened)

President Joyce Bjerke called the Highland Lutheran Annual Meeting back to order.

Auditing Committee Report

Dennis Karlsbrotten, Eric Selness, Al Erickson reviewed the financial records of the church. Dennis said that everything appeared to be in order.

Nominating Committee Report / Elections

- **Council:** Al Erickson and Anna Jetson have agreed to serve on the Council. President Bjerke asked for additional nominations from the floor. A motion by Steve Langland to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Al and Anna was seconded by Dennis Karlsbrotten. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- **Nominating Committee:** Nominations from the floor were opened. Mark Sollien, Steve Langland, Danny Dutka, and Karen Erickson agreed to serve on the nominating committee. A motion by Louise Jetson to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was seconded by Darlene Sollien. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- **Audit Committee:** Nominations from the floor were opened. Joyce Bjerke, Louise Jetson and Steve Langland agreed to serve. Danny Dutka moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was seconded by Eric Selness. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- **Mutual Ministry Committee:** Nominations from the floor were opened. Anna Jetson and Steve Langland agreed to serve. Danny Dutka moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot was seconded by Mark Sollien. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Voting Member Representatives

- **Upper Iowa River Conference Assembly** - Sunday February 12 @ 2 p.m. Decorah Lutheran Anna Jetson and Danny Dutka agreed to represent us.
- **Northeast Iowa Synod Assembly** - June 9-10 @ Luther College. Anna Jetson agreed to represent us. Another voting member T.B.D.
- **Aase Haugen Senior Services Annual Meeting** - Thursday March 23 @ 6 p.m. Steve Langland and Karen Erickson agreed to represent us.

2023 Budget

Treasurer Anna Jetson called attention to the proposed budget as printed in the packet and explained a few differences from the 2022 budget. Mark Sollien moved to adopt the budget of \$68,180.00, Louise Jetson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- **Depot Outlet grant:** Danny Dutka suggested that we apply for a Depot Outlet grant to cover the expenses of high-speed internet for the upcoming year to allow for live streaming of worship services when held at Highland. A suggestion to include the cost of the necessary equipment needed to do the live streaming. A motion by Anna Jetson to apply for a Depot Outlet grant for internet service and equipment to live stream services was seconded by Mark Sollien. Motion carried by voice vote.
- **Post Office Box:** President Joyce Bjerke suggested that we consider getting a P.O. Box at the Highlandville Store. Currently our mail goes to Big Canoe. There has been confusion with insurance companies knowing the difference between a mailing address and a physical address. The P.O. Box could also be used for the Cemetery Association as some of that goes to Mark Selness' home address which is out of the area. A motion by Danny Dutka to obtain a post office box at the Highlandville Store was seconded by Dennis Karlsbrotten. Motion carried by voice vote.
- **AED Training:** President Bjerke stated that she has been in discussions with someone that does training on the Automatic External Defibrillator. They can provide training for up to 6 people at the time. Consensus was that we should get this scheduled before springtime.
- **Donation:** Gary Halverson stated that he had an extra snow blower in his possession and decided that he would donate one to Highland as it is apparent that it is needed. A round of applause commenced.

Adjournment

Danny Dutka moved to adjourn. Louise Jetson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Danny Dutka

Winneshiek County 4-H Omelet Breakfast

Sunday, March 5th

8:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Winneshiek County Fairgrounds - Community Building

Fees for service will be used to off-set direct expenses and to support the 4-H Youth Development County Extension Program.

Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting

February 5, 2023

Call to Order

The organizational meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church Council was called to order by outgoing President Joyce Bjerke on February 5, 2023, following the Annual Meeting. Attending the meeting were: outgoing President Bjerke, outgoing Secretary Danny Dutka, Vice-President Mark Sollien, Virginia Karlsbroten, Steve Langland, Karen Erickson, newly elected Council members Anna Jetson and Al Erickson.

Election of Officers

President

Karen Erickson nominated Steve Langland for President, Darlene Sollien moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Steve as President. Mark Sollien seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President Langland took over conducting the meeting.

Vice-President

Anna Jetson nominated Mark Sollien for Vice-President. Virginia Karlsbroten moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Mark as Vice-President. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Secretary

Karen Erickson nominated Darlene Sollien for Secretary. Virginia Karlsbroten moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Darlene as Secretary. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Anna Jetson presented a printed report on current finances of the church. The report was placed on file for future audit.

Appointments

Treasurer

Darlene Sollien moved that Anna Jetson be re-appointed Treasurer. Karen Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Financial Secretary

Karen Erickson moved that Virginia Karlsbroten be re-appointed Financial Secretary. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Other

The Council reviewed other committee assignments so that a 2023 Directory could be completed.

Council Meeting Dates

The Council proposed dates for upcoming meetings. The dates are April 16, August 13, October 15 of 2023 and January 7, 2024. Meetings are to begin at 8:30 a.m. prior to 10:00 a.m. worship services. Joint Council meetings are traditionally held in June and December, those dates and times are T.B.D. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Additional meetings can be called as needed.

Adjournment

Darlene Sollien moved that the meeting be adjourned. Al Erickson seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danny Dutka, Outgoing Secretary



**HIGHLAND MEMBERS
DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT CONTACT
INFORMATION?**

Please share your current email and preferred phone number with one of the council members. Al Erickson, Karen Erickson, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Steve Langland, Darlene Sollien, Mark Sollien, or Anna Jetson.



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meeting
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WELCA MEETING

Wednesday, March 15th

Quilting – 8:30 to Noon

Light lunch for those who wish to attend quilting and come for the meeting

Meeting will start around 12:30.

All are welcome!



A big thank you to all from both churches that contributed to the Bremwood bundles. We will deliver them sometime after March 15th and give you a total later.

We will continue to collect until then.

March 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month! Take time this month to recognize social workers in your life and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we want to give thanks to all our social workers who do such important work every single day. Without you, LSI wouldn't be able to provide the essential services that Iowa families need.

Our social workers provide a variety of services to families in Iowa, such as crisis child care, in-home programs and classes for parents. These services provide families the support and education they need to care for their young children.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Social Work is Rewarding Work

A child saying "mom" for the first time at 3 years old, a parent getting a job that brings them joy – these are successes that are important to Mallory Berkenpas, Service Coordinator in LSI's Early Childhood department in Sioux City.

Mallory has been an employee of LSI for more than a decade, and has held many different roles in supporting children and families. "My heart lies in working with children and families and prevention work, because I've seen the value in it. I see how important it is. I wish more people knew and understood and valued the work that is done in the early childhood period because it is so crucial," said Mallory.

She expressed that one of the most rewarding parts of her job is being able to see, experience and walk this journey alongside these families, who along the way, make these small or big strides – whatever that means for them.

"Maybe the child says 'mom' for the first time at 3 years old, which is something that has happened in our program. That's a big win for this child that didn't speak from zero to three years old, and did because of the interventions we helped that family find," said Mallory. "All of those successes are so important to me and also my staff – being able to see them grow, build their skill set and feel good about their work."

"Social work can be so hard... so I think being able to see those small and big wins along the way is important," said Mallory.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lenten Service Burr Oak 7:00 p.m.	2 Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. Big Canoe	3 Good Shepherd World Day of Prayer	4
5 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m. Communion	6	7	8 Lenten Service Glenwood 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m. Highland 10:00 a.m.	13	14	15 Lenten Service Hesper 7:00 p.m. WELCA Meeting- BC	16 Newsletter items due	17	18
19 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.	20	21	22 Lenten Service Big Canoe 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.	27	28	29 Lenten Service St. John's or Hauge 7:00 p.m.	30	31	April 1
April 2 Highland 10:00 a.m.						

Big Canoe & Highland website:
www.bchlutheran.org