

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

Mailing address: Highland Lutheran Church P.O. Box 155 Highlandville, IA 52149

July

NEWSLETTER

2026

Worship Services:

Big Canoe 1st & 3rd Sunday at 10 am

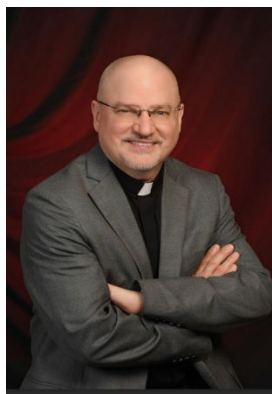
Highland 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10 am

5th Sunday dates:

March 29, November 29 at Big Canoe

May 31, August 30 at Highland

1st and 2nd Sundays with Holy Communion



Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker:

219-916-8535

Email: matthew.becker@valpo.edu

Churches email:

bchlutheran@gmail.com

To call and leave a message for either church or Pastor Becker: 563-546-7974

Dear friends and members of Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches,

Please join me in praying for those in our midst who are in need of healing. This prayer was written by Donald Houston Stewart:

Grant Thy healing power and presence, O Lord,
Upon all who sorrow, or are distressed in spirit and mind;
Upon all anxious, defeated, and troubled souls,
Upon those everywhere who seek forgiveness and restoration,
Who hunger for enlightenment and communion with Thee;
Upon us all, bestow again the authority of Thy Holy Spirit
and the Peace of Thy communion with us.

Begotten in Thy Light, deliver us from all darkness.
Lifted by the powerful tide of Thy creative purpose,
save us from all despair and loneliness.
Pour out upon us the Power of Thy healing purpose
so that knowing ourselves created afresh by the
dominion of Thy Love, our hearts may be in our time
the cradle of Thy coming again in transforming power

Through Him who lives and reigns with Thee, world without end.
Amen.

See you in church!
Pastor Becker
6-24-26



Pastor Becker's Sunday morning Bible Class

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

Watch our Worship Services on **YouTube**
bchlutheran.org

or

Live Broadcasts on **Facebook** by going to Big Canoe Lutheran Church and liking the page.

Upcoming Events

Wed, July 1 (6:30pm): Adult confirmation instruction

Fri, July 3 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)

Sun, July 5 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe

Sun, July 5 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Big Canoe – 6th Sun after Pentecost (green)

Wed, July 8 (1pm): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Wellington Place

Wed, July 8 (6:30pm): Adult confirmation instruction

Fri, July 10 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)

July 10-12: Highlandville Fest

July 11-25: Pr. Becker will be conducting research in church and university archives in Germany

Sun, July 12 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the Fellowship H. at Highland – Pr. Gies

Sun, July 12 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Highland – 7th Sun. a. Pentecost – Pr. Gies

Sun, July 12 (after worship): Highland WELCA meets

Tues, July 14 (2pm): Gather Bible study at Highland

July 16-19: Triennial gathering of ELCA women in Des Moines

Sun, July 19 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the F. H. at Big Canoe – Pr. Gies

Sun, July 19 (10am): Worship/Big Canoe w/baptism of Daniel Christen – 8th Sun. a. Pentecost – Pr. Gies

Wed, July 22 Newsletter deadline for August.

Sun, July 26 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland

Sun, July 26 (10am): Service of the Word at Highland – 9th Sun. a. Pentecost

Sat, Aug 1 (10:30am): Funeral for Linda (Stoen) Miller – Big Canoe

Sun, Aug 2 (8:45am): Bible class (Gospel of Matthew) meets in the F. H. at Big Canoe

Sun, Aug 2 (1:30 pm): Visitation and Funeral for Richard Amundson – Big Canoe

Opportunity to host a student from another country:

CIEE (<https://www.ciee.org/>), an organization that places international high school students in American homes for a semester or the whole school year, is **looking for host families in Iowa**. Four students, ages 15-16, from Germany, Norway, Brazil, and Spain, are looking to be placed in Iowa during this coming school year. For more information, see Bill Stoen.

We want to make our church family aware of our approximate financial situation:

Big Canoe's Offering

Mar: \$8,553 for current; \$650 for benevolence.
Apr: \$10,975 for current; \$480 for benevolence.
May: \$6,87 for current; \$755 for benevolence.
June 7: \$1,696 for current; \$335 for benevolence.
June 14: \$925 for current; \$35 for benevolence.

Highland's Offering

Mar: \$3,728 for current; \$262 for benevolence.
Apr: \$4,096 for current; \$643 for benevolence
May: \$3,709 for current; \$367 for benevolence.
June 7: \$305 for current; \$15 for benevolence.
June 14: \$1,325 for current; \$185 for benevolence.

In-person worship attendance:

Average attendance in Mar: 54
Average attendance in Apr: 63
Average attendance in May: 45
June 7: 48
June 14: 38

Online worship views (Facebook and YouTube):

Mar: 2,128 views
Apr: 624 views
May: 1,720 views

What's ahead is even better than what's behind. "We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13).

A prayer for the coming week: "Merciful God, make us die to sin every day so that we may rise to live in newness of life through Jesus, our Savior. Amen."

"Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind!"

Please scan the QR code below if you would like to donate online to either church.
Thank you for supporting the ministry of Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches.

Big Canoe



Highland



Dear Members and Friends of Highland Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you.

Highland Lutheran Church has always been a place where faith, fellowship, and service come together to support one another and our community. As we continue our ministry, we are seeking your support for our first annual Side-by-Side Ride, which will replace our traditional Ice Cream Social fundraiser. The ride is scheduled for August 23, with August 30 designated as the rain date.

A dedicated committee has been working hard to plan this exciting new event, and preparations are going very well. We have already received generous commitments to provide the meat, buns, and sweet corn for the meal, for which we are very grateful.

To make this fundraiser a success, we are asking for support from the members and friends of Highland Lutheran Church. We ask each family for a donation of \$30 toward the Side-by-Side Fund. If every member participates, even with this modest gift, we can help ensure the success of this event and support the ministry of our church.

Donations of any amount are sincerely appreciated. Your generosity reflects Christ's love in action and strengthens our church's ability to serve others.

Please prayerfully consider making your contribution at your earliest convenience. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, or mailed to our financial secretary, Virginia Karlsbrotten at 3871 Locust Rd., Decorah, IA 52101. Please be sure to designate that the donation is for the side-by-side ride.

We will also be seeking volunteers to help make this event a success. While the Side-by-Side Ride will require fewer volunteers than our former Ice Cream Social, there will still be a variety of opportunities to assist before, during, and after the event. We hope you will consider sharing your time.

Thank you for your faithful support of Highland Lutheran Church and for helping make our first annual Side-by-Side Ride a successful and enjoyable event for all.

In Christ's Service,

Highland Lutheran Church Side by Side Committee

Dennis and Virginia Karlsbrotten, Myron and Judi Krauskopf, Mark and Darlene Sollien, Karen Erickson, Danny Dutka.

Join us for a Side by Side Ride & Sweet Corn Boil

Sunday, August 23, 2026

(rain date August 30)



*Highland Lutheran Church
3824 Highlandville Road
Decorah, IA 52101*

11:15: Registration and Meal

(You do not need to ride to join us to eat)

12:00 noon: Ride Begins

The \$10 meal will include grilled brats, hotdogs, sweet corn, bar/cookie, and beverage.

Registration is \$10 Per person, a meal is an additional \$10 per person, please pay at the registration tent upon arrival. Pre-registration is encouraged by going to the bchlutheran.org website, clicking on the news & events tab, then on Highland SXS Ride to fill out the form.

Please enjoy a slow ride through the beautiful hills and valleys of the Highlandville area. The ride starts and ends at the Highland Church.

*Everyone is welcome to attend the
10 am worship service with Pastor Becker*

Highland Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2026

Call to Order: President Myron Krauskopf called the meeting to order at 11:17 AM.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Becker provided a prayer.

Attendance: President Myron Krauskopf, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer/Council member Dan Dutka, Council members Gary Halverson, Eric Selness, Gary Selness and Pastor Matthew Becker. Not present Vice President Ed Stoen.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Becker provided the Council with his May 2026 Monthly Pastoral Report. He wanted everyone to know that there will be no service at Highland Church on June 28, 2026, a special Ecumenical Service will be held at Burr Oak in connection with Laura Days.

Shared Ministry will be meeting on June 23, 2026. A joint Ecumenical Service with the Shared Ministry Congregations will be held on September 20, 2026, at the parsonage with a potluck meal afterwards.

Pastor Becker and Detra are very grateful for Dan Dutka's work at the parsonage for putting in AC.

Pastor Becker informed Council he will be going to Germany for professional development in July 11-24, 2026. He did talk to Pastor Gies about Worship Service during his absence and he will be here.

Request for Transfer: President Krauskopf presented Council with a Request for Transfer from the Kurt Krauskopf family into membership at Highland. Motion by Dan Dutka to accept the request, seconded by Eric Selness, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: One correction was made on the April 12, 2026 meeting minutes. Pastor Becker informed the secretary that the Vacation Bible School will be held at Burr Oak, not Big Canoe. Corrected.

Treasurers Report: Dan Dutka provided a financial update through May 2026. Current fund balance of \$14,035.46. Benevolence fund balance of \$806.00. Anniversary fund balance of \$175.10. \$700 has been paid out in the benevolent fund for 2026. \$300.17 was paid out for the ten hymnals. The improvement fund balance of \$15,598.56, with the two \$10,000 CD's. Dan contracted 1,000 gallons of LP at \$1.53 per gallon.

Discussion by Council. Filed for audit.

Old Business:

Side by Side Ride. Dennis Karlsbrotten presented an update. He stated it will require a lot of volunteers. WELCA will be in charge of the meal (tentatively brats, sweet corn, cookies and lemonade). Ride will last about 2-2 ½ hours. Date is August 23, 2026, with a rain date of August 30. There will be a pre-sign up and a liability waiver requirement.

There will be no alcohol consumption on the Church property. The number of vehicles involved in the ride is unknown at this time. The route has tentatively been set. There will be more meetings before the event.

Extend Handicap Railing. Dan Dutka reported he would like to extend the railing up to the back door. He would order a couple more posts and railing. Council consensus.

Report on Finishing Basement Doors. Dan Dutka reported the basement doors and sacristy windows are done except for painting. He will be looking for volunteers to paint at a later date.

No other old business.

New Business:

Bell Improvements. Myron Krauskopf and Dan Dutka informed Council on the steeple. Dan Dutka was in the steeple when it was raining and found a leak on the North side, nothing on South side. Myron Krauskopf informed Council he will be contacting Alvin Yoder. Dan also stated that when he was in the steeple, the bell wheel has been fixed in the past and needs improvement again. It is the original wood wheel and over 100 years old. He will be talking to Dick Weis welding shop about trying to fabricate some type of metal repair. Council discussion.

Basement Sump Pump. Nothing has been done yet.

Electricity in Storage Shed. Dan Dutka reported he will be running a temporary service to the storage shed for the upcoming ride event. He also thought a speaker should be installed outside by the patio and wired into the speaker system. Council discussion.

No other new business.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting by Gary Halverson, seconded by Eric Selness, motion carried. Adjourned at 12:38 PM.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary
Next Meeting: August 9, 2026.

Big Canoe Council Meeting – May 24, 2026

Minutes

Council members present: Beth Ferguson, President, Matt Bigler Vice president, Deb Monson Secretary, Bill Bullerman, Steve Nordheim, Eric Stoen and Sawyer Wise. Laurie Emery, Treasurer and Pastor Becker.

Bill Stoen was present to discuss insurance matters.

The meeting was opened with Pastor Becker giving a prayer.

The following fee schedule was adopted by the church council:

Funerals: No alcohol allowed either at the rehearsal or the actual wedding ceremony.

Use of the church (non-members)	\$100.00
Meal use of the Fellowship Hall (WELCA)	100.00
Custodian	75.00
Cemetery Assoc. (paid to whomever from the church helps with the funeral)	100.00
Organist	150.00
Pastor (members/non members) including graveside services	200.00
Cemetery plot	750.00

Weddings:

Use of church (non-members)	\$200.00
Meal use of the Fellowship Hall	100.00
Custodian	75.00
Wedding Committee	100.00
Organist	150.00
(\$200.00 if extra music/practice is required. Musicians must practice with the organist to participate in the wedding)	
Pastor (non-members)	200.00
Pastor (members) Honorarium	150.00

Activities:

Use of church for activities by church members	\$ -0-
Use of church for non-church activities, effective July 1, 2026	100.00

Baptisms:

Non-members no church charge	\$ -0-
Use of Fellowship Hall	100.00
Custodian	75.00

Motion by Eric Stoen, seconded by Bill Bullerman. Motion passed unanimously.

Insurance Liability only for Pastor. Council members and use of church with an annual cost of \$1,359.00

Motion to purchase liability insurance at a fee of \$1,359.00 annually by Eric Stoen, seconded by Steve Nordheim. Motion pass unanimously.

A check will provided to American Family Insurance (Bill Stoen) on 05-26-26 with an application to be completed by Bill and Seth.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction given by Pastor Becker.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson, Secretary 06-23-26



He Restores
My Soul

Shared Ministry Newsletter

July 2026



*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at linda.folstad49@gmail.com

By: July 15th for the August 2026 Newsletter

Come and join us for an after-noon of



Bible Study and fellowship at Highland Lutheran Church on Tuesday, July 14th at 2:00 pm! Bible studies are from the GATHER magazine, an ELCA publication. The Bible Study group meets each month on the second Tuesday at Highland at 2:00 pm. Bring your Bible and join the conversation as together we explore God's message for us. All are welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD ...

Plans are underway for Campfire Worship/ Marshmallow Fellowship later this summer, and a Community Worship Service and Potluck meal this fall. Watch for more details about these special events in upcoming newsletters as they become available!



Side-by-Side Ride & Sweet Corn Boil



Date: Sunday, August 23, 2026
(rain date Sunday, August 30)

Location: Highland Lutheran Church
3824 Highlandville Road; Decorah, IA

Schedule

11:15 - Registration and Meal

(You do not need to ride to join us for the meal)

12:00 Noon— Ride begins. Ride begins and ends at Highland Church

Must register to ride. \$10 per person. Pay at the Registration Tent upon arrival. Pre-registration is encouraged by going to the website bchlutheran.org. For more information click on News & Events tab—then Upcoming Events

\$10 for the meal which includes:

Brat, Sweet Corn, Dessert and Beverage.

This will be a slow ride through the beautiful hills and valleys of the Highlandville area.

Worship at Highland at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Have you ever wondered:

What happens to the LWR kits and quilts we put on the truck in Decorah?

What is the difference between a baby care kit and newborn kit?

What is Global Health Ministry?

What do they do with all those rolled bandages?

Join us for a day trip and find out!



Tuesday, August 18, 2026

6:00—6:30 am: Gather and depart from Big Canoe Lutheran Church

9:30 am: Arrive at LWR warehouse in St. Paul for the tour. Lunch to follow.

Tour and volunteer opportunity at Global Health Ministries in Fridley follows lunch. There will be shopping options after the tour.

The plan is to return back to Big Canoe by 7 or 8 pm.

\$20 for transportation. Meals and shopping on your own.

RSVP to Anna Jetson by 8/15/2026. Call or text 952-240-9569 or email amjetson@yahoo.com. (Additional drivers may be needed)

Worship Services ~ July 2026

	July 5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	July 12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	July 19 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker <u>WEBSITE:</u> bchlutheran.org	<i>8:45 am—Bible Study/ Big Canoe (Gospel of Matthew)</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC at Big Canoe	<i>8:45 am—Bible Study/ Highland (Gospel of Matthew)</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC at Highland.	<i>8:45 am—Bible Study Big Canoe (Gospel of Matthew)</i> 10:00 am Service of the Word at Big Canoe	<i>8:45 am—Bible Study Highland (Gospel of Matthew)</i> 10:00 am Service of the Word At Highland
Burr Oak Hesper <u>WEBSITE</u> bohllutheran.org Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Deacon	8:30 am - Joint Worship/HC in Hesper (Pr. Lenth leading) <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i>	8:30 am - Joint BO/H Worship in Burr Oak	8:30 am - Joint BO/H Worship in Burr Oak	8:30 am—Joint BO/H Worship in Burr Oak.  <i>Hymn sing</i>
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson <u>Facebook:</u> Hauge and St. John's Lutheran Churches	Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge	Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's	Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge	Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's
Glenwood <u>WEBSITE:</u> Glenwoodlutheran.org Canoe Ridge	10:30 am Worship 8:30 am Worship	8:30 am Worship 10:30 am worship	10:30 am Worship 8:30 am Worship	<i>Nordic Fest in Decorah No Worship services at Glenwood or Canoe Ridge</i>

Upcoming Events

- July 16-19: Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines
- Aug. 18: Tour of LWR Warehouse & Global Health Ministries/volunteer opportunity at GHM
- Aug. 23: Sweet Corn Boil and UTV Ride at Highland Lutheran. (Rain date August 30th)
- Sept. 11-13: Hesper/Mabel Steam Engine Days. **Sun. Sept. 13:** 9:00 am Ecumenical Worship on the grounds
- Sept. 20: Community Worship and Potluck at Big canoe—Tentative date
- Oct. 25: Lutefisk Supper at Glenwood

Next Shared Ministry Meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 9:00 am ~ Highland Lutheran Church



BIG CANOE & HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JULY

			1	2	3	4
					10 am Pr. Becker worship service Green Lea Manor (Mabel)	
5 8:45 am Bible class @ BC 10 am Worship service	6	7	8 1pm Pr. Becker worship service Wellington Place Freeport	9	10 10 am Pr. Becker worship service Green Lea Manor (Mabel)	11 Pr. Becker leaves for Germany
12 8:45 Bible class @ Highland 10 am Worship service with Pr. Gies Highland WELCA meets	13	14 2pm Gather Bible study at Highland	15	16	17	18
19 8:45 am Bible class @ BC 10 am Worship service and Baptism with Pr. Gies	20	21	22 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	23	24 Pr. Becker returns from Germany	25
26 8:45 Bible class @ Highland 10 am Worship service	27	28	29	30	31	

To submit information for the monthly newsletter, please email Judi Krauskopf at jrydopn@gmail.com or text 563.380.5758

We need people to sign up to serve as **lay readers, communion assistants, and ushers** for our Sunday services! The sign-up sheets for July-Sep are now available in the back of the nave at Big Canoe. There are now sign-up sheets for each congregation.

Thank you for being a volunteer!

10 AM Worship services

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Worship Assistants

Date	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Comm Assist	Ushers	Coffee
July 5	Emma & Laurie	Rita			
July 19	Emma & Laurie				

Altar Guild: Green Paraments July 5 - 26

Highland Lutheran Church Worship Assistants

Date	Altar Guild	Lay Reader	Comm Assist	Ushers	Coffee
July 12	Judi		Myron & Judi		
July 26	Judi				



Pastor Becker wants to keep the **prayer list** updated. Please let him know if any of the above names may be removed from the list, or if any new names need to be added to the list.

Hunter, Vern G., Sandy, Katelyn, Bob, Linda, Hailey, Brooke, Loren, Barb, Jim, Randy, Maria, Gerald, Ron, Scott, Michael, Dennis, Karen, Norman, Keith, Kristy, and Stacy.



Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches
1381 Big Canoe Rd
Decorah, IA 52101

