

# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

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

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

## NEWSLETTER

November 2021

November WORSHIP TIMES  
Highland 9:00 a.m. - Big Canoe 11:00 a.m.

### Joint worship service BIG CANOE

Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 AM

### All Saints Sunday

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

All Saints Sunday is where we remember those who have left this realm this past calendar year.

A potluck meal for fellowship between our guests and our 2 congregations to follow the joint worship service

Susan from Central Furniture Rescue will be attending church service to receive a donation check from the Luther League. At this time we have a loveseat couch that will be donated. Any other furniture items that anyone would like to donate are welcome. We will need a list of all furniture BEFORE NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> so Susan brings sufficient transport of all items. Contact Tammy Nordheim with a brief description of donations. 563-380-5572.

A representative from Northeast Iowa food bank will also be in attendance to receive their check from Luther League .

The planned hour of Big Canoe Council members discussion with our pastor will need to be rescheduled due to the Joint Worship service with special guest on All Saints Sunday.

### DATES & THANK YOU'S:

- Hannah Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30 p.m., at the church.
- Big Canoe WELCA meeting, Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> with a light lunch served by the Rebecca circle at noon. The meeting will follow at 12:30.
- *Thank you* to all who donated food and other items for the bake/garage sale and to all who helped clean before and after or helped in any other way. Many hands make it so much easier. It was a very successful event. Thank you also to all the people that were generous when buying items.
  - And thank you to all who donated in place of the lutefisk supper.
- Highland WELCA will meet November 14<sup>th</sup> following early services.
  - We want to thank everyone who donated money, items for quilts, and kits that we have assembled this fall.
- Naomi circle will meet on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Highland WELCA will be planning our Thankoffering service for November 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to everyone for all the support WELCA has received this year.

We are asking members to return to Sunday Services. Pastor Gies has a wonderful message and the Fellowship is always enjoyed.

We would also like to encourage members to continue to donate funds for the day to day operations of the church. The buildings and grounds need care, and insurance, taxes and salaries don't stop.  
If possible please be generous.

## **Luther League:**

Meeting November 21<sup>st</sup> - 12:30 at Skyline Lanes in Decorah. Bowling starts at 1:30. \$5.00 for Luther League members – includes pizza and pop. Members can bring up to 2 friends, cost is \$10 for guests. Please let Tammy know who is coming so we have enough lanes and food. December Luther League meeting and Christmas party, December 19<sup>th</sup> with a \$10 gift exchange if members would like to participate. This will take place at the church.

## **Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Parish - Joint Council Meeting - September 26, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

The Big Canoe & Highland Joint Council meeting was called to order by Highland President Joyce Bjerke on September 26, 2021 following a joint worship service and potluck. Present were Interim Pastor Waldemar Gies, Highland members: President - Joyce Bjerke, Vice-President - Alan Erickson, Council Members - Virginia Karlsbrotten and Steve Langland. Highland Treasurer - Anna Jetson. Big Canoe: President - Bill Stoen.

### **Opening Devotion**

Pastor Gies provided opening devotion and prayer.

### **Old Business**

#### Parsonage / Crop Land

There was an update on the status of the parsonage and crop land rental. There are concerns with the electrical consumption being substantially more than when Pastor Bockoven lived there. Also, per Iowa law, a cancellation notice has been sent to the current renter of the crop land so that news bids could be received for the upcoming crop year. Without a cancellation notice the lease would have automatically renewed at the same rate.

#### Website

A letter was received from a Las Vegas company offering to host the [www.bchlutheran.com](http://www.bchlutheran.com) domain name for a yearly fee of \$228.00. The .com domain is still held by the old website host based overseas, so it seems as if the letter could possibly be a scam. No action was taken by the Joint Council. (Secretary's note: The current website at [www.bchlutheran.org](http://www.bchlutheran.org) is active and has been paid up till next summer by a member of Highland.)

### **New Business**

#### Electronic Giving

The Big Canoe council has discussed implementing electronic giving which would be in addition to the current method of using cash / checks in the envelopes. This would make it possible for someone to send money to the church electronically either by using a website, app, text, phone or maybe even a special computerized device in the church. Usually there is a per transaction fee and percentage of the amount charged to the church. There are various companies that offer this as a service. VANCO is one such company that is fairly well known. Pros and cons were discussed. There would most likely be a link on our website to access this service. Highland may want to consider this service. Anna Jetson will check with the NE IA Synod to see if there are any recommendations.

#### Big Canoe Caretaker / Custodian

The Joint Council was informed that Bob Maroushek the caretaker / custodian at Big Canoe has been dealing with health issues and would be stepping down from some of his duties. Bob has sent notice that he would not be doing the mowing at Highland next year.

#### Newsletters

There have been some errors in the newsletters and bulletins which are unsettling. We will request that the secretary send a draft copy of the newsletter to Pastor Gies and the church presidents for proof reading prior to printing / publication.

### Pastor Vacation

Pastor Gies will be travelling to Colorado to celebrate his mothers birthday. Therefore, he will not be here Sunday October 17th. Each church will conduct their own service with a sermon provided by Pastor Gies.

### Call Committees

The call committees continue to work on the Ministry Site Profiles. Once they feel they are complete they will present them to the individual councils for review and further action.

### Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Joint Council is scheduled for Thursday evening December 9, 2021 at Big Canoe.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Steve Langland was seconded by Virginia Karlsbrotten. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned. The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectively submitted by, Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary  
From notes provided by Virginia Karlsbrotten

## **Big Canoe Council Meeting, October 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

Pastor Gies opened the meeting with a prayer and Pastoral Report.

His pastoral report included his intents on upcoming shut in visits and continued monitoring of the Local Covid-19 situation. He also specifically asked to meet with the council after the first late Service in November to discuss the focus of the Congregation for the upcoming year. Specifically, he hopes to meet and discuss how Both Big Canoe and Highland hope to proceed spiritually and their goals as Congregations, both individually and jointly.

A motion was made and passed to have the meeting, and Council members were tasked with discussing these goals with fellow Church Members.

Pastor was encouraged by the increased attendance at Services and hopes to continue increasing attendance. He encourages all to attend and be active in worship.

The Treasurer's report included a quarterly budget summary. Big Canoe is barely in the black with an ending balance of \$860.06.

The benevolence funding is ahead of schedule for the year, but our regular maintenance and salary expenses are dangerously close. We are hoping for additional contributions during the 4th quarter to cover continuing expenses.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously. It is available at church for review.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Garage/Bake Sale was a great success. Nearly \$2000 was raised and donated to our WELCA mission. Remaining garage sale items were donated to the DEPOT in Decorah.

Our Quilters donated several Lap Quilts to Aase Haugen & they are deeply appreciated by the residents there!

We even received reports that Lutheran World Relief members had received quilts and enthusiastically reported their great pleasure in receiving these special items.

A Big Thank you to all who Donated or made items and to those who in turn purchased them. We also continue to encourage shopping at the Depot in Decorah. The Land Rent Bid(s) were received. Pat and Amy O'Regan had the high bid of \$6500 per year (\$351.35 per acre) for the next three crop years. No other bids were identified from Highland. The Liz motioned to approve and Darrel Stoen seconded the motion. The Motion carried and was approved by the council.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

During a recent walk around the Church, damage was noted to the South West Corner of the Church. The damage is crumbling tuck point and brick failure. Bill Stoen had the Contractor working on a similar project in Decorah look at the damage.

The contractor noted that the damage needed attention in the near future. They would most likely not be available after 1 November. An estimate of \$6240 was provided by Krause Konstruktion Company.

The Council acknowledged the damage and moved to table the repairs until it could be further discussed at the upcoming annual meeting. Several Courses of action to raise funds included, Benefit events, Cash Fund Raisers and other options.

Additional Bids will be solicited as required. Member input to this solution is always welcome. Pat O'Regan motioned to table the issue until after the annual meeting. Liz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of purchasing a new laptop computer, supporting camera and blue tooth speaker along with expendable supplies prompted a motion by Sandy Gavle to continue getting final prices so we could submit a grant request to the Depot for the purchase. Pat Seconded the motion and motion passed. Bill Stoen will prepare the proposal to submit to Depot in November.

Lisa Bullerman and members of the Council will be reviewing current Church Role to identify active and partially active members of the Congregation. This information is necessary to provide the Call Council.

A motion was proposed to purchase new Altar Candles. The current candles are becoming discolored. The total cost for 30 new candles is \$90. The \$90 is available from remaining funds from a memorial donation. Motion passed. Candles will be ordered.

Pat motioned to adjourn at 8:15. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Pat O'Regan

## **Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting - October 17, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

The October 17, 2021 meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church council was called to order by President Joyce Bjerke at approximately 9:30 a.m. Others in attendance were Vice-President Al Erickson, Secretary Danny Dutka, Lyle Bjerke, Mark Sollien, Steve Langland and Treasurer Anna Jetson.

### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Dutka read the minutes of the August 15, 2021 meeting. A typographical error was noted. Langland moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Erickson seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Jetson presented her report. There is one budgeted benevolence disbursement to be made yet when the funds are available. Balances as of October 8, 2021 are: Current \$10,528.47, Benevolence \$294.00 (86% of budgeted has been paid out), 125th Anniversary \$355.10, Improvement \$49,390.05, Scholarship \$5858.06. Treasurer Jetson asked the council if some of the monies borrowed from the Improvement Fund for Current expenses in the years 2017, 2018, and 2019 should be repaid. Consensus of the Council was to wait till the end of the year and see where we are at for Current Fund balance. Langland moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and file for audit. Sollien seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

## **Pastoral Report**

There was no report provided as Rev. Gies is traveling to Colorado to visit his mother who is celebrating her 100th birthday.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Call Committee**

Steve Langland, Chair of the Highland Pastoral Call Committee reviewed the Ministry Site Profile that they have been working on. This profile has to be completed and submitted to the Synod so that they can review. Once they approve we can move to the Interviewing stage of the call process. A couple of wording changes were suggested. Another step will be to coordinate our submission timing with Big Canoe. Moved by Sollien to approve the Ministry Site Profile for submission. Motion seconded by Erickson. Motion carried by voice vote. The Council gives a big Thank You to the Call Committee for their hard work in completing this phase of the call process.

### **Website**

Danny Dutka provided a follow-up to information brought forth at the Joint Council regarding the website. He sees no reason to pay an unknown entity to recapture the old .com address since the new .org address has been paid for and the new webpage is functioning fine. We just need to make sure the newsletter, bulletins and our Facebook page has the correct website address. Also, we need to periodically check that internet search engines are giving correct information.

### **Electronic Giving**

The Council further discussed the possibility of offering electronic giving. This comes with a cost to the church. Most vendors charge a per transaction fee as well as a percentage of the amount. Consensus of the Council was to drop the idea since our membership is older therefore less likely to use this feature as well as few in numbers. This decision does not affect the ability of Big Canoe to pursue this for their church.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Voicemail**

Danny Dutka brought forth an idea to add voicemail features to our church phone. The thought was that we could provide an announcement of our worship time, contact information for the interim pastor, or if the worship service is cancelled due to weather. The calling tree would still be done by council in case of cancellation. We would like to be able to access these features from an offsite location. President Bjerke will stop at the phone company and inquire about this.

### **Septic Tank Maintenance**

Danny Dutka suggested that it might be a good idea to have the septic tank pumped out before winter as a preventative maintenance item. Council agreed that this should be done. President Bjerke will arrange to have it done.

### **Upcoming Events / Dates**

- November Worship Times - Highland @ 9 a.m. Big Canoe @ 11 a.m.
- Burr Oak Lutheran Church Meatball Supper – Wed., November 3, 4 to 8 p.m. (Drive-Up only)
- Highland Council - Sunday November 14 after the 9 a.m. service
- Shared Ministry Meeting - Sunday November 14 at Canoe Ridge @ 1 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Langland moved to adjourn, Erickson seconded, Motion carried by voice vote.

The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully submitted by Danny Dutka - Highland Secretary

# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6  <b>Fall Back</b> 6 Set your clocks back one hour before bed on Sunday.
7 JOINT SERVICE 10:30 a.m. AT BIG CANOE ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Luther League fund raiser check presentations Communion services	8 Naomi Circle mtg.	9 Naomi Circle mtg.	10 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	11 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:30 p.m.	12	13
14 HI 9:00 a.m. Council meeting HI WELCA meeting BC 10:00 Sunday School BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	15 Newsletter items due	16	17 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  Big Canoe WELCA meeting	18	19	20
21 HI 9:00 a.m. Thankoffering service BC 10:00 Sunday School BC 11:00 a.m. Luther League-12:30 Skyline Lanes	22	23	24 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	25 	26	27
28 HI 9:00 a.m. No Sunday School BC 11:00 a.m.	29	30	December 1 Confirmation at BC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	December 2	December 3	December 4
December 5 BC 9:00 a.m. BC 10:00 Sunday School HI 11:00 a.m. Communion services	<b>BIG CANOE ACOLYTING</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – Christopher Phillips 14 <sup>th</sup> – Christopher Phillips 21 <sup>st</sup> – Ryan Bigler 28 <sup>th</sup> – Ryan Bigler	<b>HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – Danny Dutka 14 <sup>th</sup> – Dennis Karlsbroten 21 <sup>st</sup> – Lowell Walhus 28 <sup>th</sup> – Lyle Bjerke	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Big Canoe &amp; Highland website:  <a href="http://www.bchlutheran.org">www.bchlutheran.org</a> </div>			