Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church News

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

November 2026

Worship Services:

Big Canoe 1st & 3rd Sunday at 10 am
Highland 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10 am
1st and 2nd Sundays w/Holy Communion

5th Sunday dates:
March 29, November 29 at Big Canoe
May 31, August 30 at Highland

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

2026 Big Canoe Leadership

Seth Ferguson, President
Matt Bigler, Vice President
Deb Monson, Secretary
Bill Bullerman, Council
Steve Nordheim, Council
Eric Stoen, Council
Sawyer Wise, Council
Appointed
Laurie Emery, Treasurer
Lisa Bullerman, Financial Secretary

2026 Highland Leadership

Myron Krauskopf, President
Ed Stoen, Vice President
Kristy Selness Secretary
Gary Halverson, Council
Eric Selness, Council
Danny Dutka, Council
Gary Selness, Council
Appointed
Danny Dutka, Treasurer
Virginia Karlsbroten, Financial Secretary

Church Secretary
Judi Krauskopf
563-380-5758
bchluthsecretary@gmail.com

Pastor Matt's Sunday morning Bible Class

At 9 am each Sunday, class will be in the nave of the church of service and last about 45 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!

Parents! Consider coming while your child is attending Sunday School.

Sunday School

9am - 1st and 3rd Sunday
at Big Canoe in the Fellowship Hall
9am – 2nd Sunday
at Highland, Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF BIG CANOE AND HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

We have several options to receive your offering:

ELECTRONICALLY:
via our website, bchlutheran.org. Click on the "Support" link on the page. Or via the QR codes below.

Big Canoe

Highland

BY MAIL:
Big Canoe Lutheran Church,
1381 Big Canoe Road, Decorah, IA 52101.

Highland Lutheran Church,
P.O. Box 155
Highlandville, IA. 55149

Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker:
219-916-8535
Email: matthew.becker@valpo.edu
Email for both churches: bchlutheran@gmail.com
Website: bchlutheran.org
General Phone:
563-546-7974

Unanswered calls will go directly to voicemail. Please leave a detailed message with a call back number and it will be directed to the appropriate person to return your call.

In case of a pastoral emergency while Pastor Matt is away, (Nov 1-4) please contact Pastor Werges at (641-220-0205)

November 1st

This month marks the beginning of a season for reflection and quiet transformation. Let this month be a time to shed old worries and make room for new intentions. Embrace the calm that November brings and allow yourself to find meaning in each small step forward. The journey toward growth doesn't need to be rushed-it simply needs to be true.

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

Sunday is All Saints Day. In the worship service the faithful from our two congregations who have died in the past year and have entered the church triumphant will be remembered. Their names will be read aloud, and candles will be lit. Holy Communion will be celebrated. In this Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's special meal, the faithful on earth are united with the faithful in heaven. As we hear in the Communion liturgy: "…and so with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn..."

In both the Big Canoe chancel and the Highland chancel, the communion rail is a semi-circle. Why is that? Simply put, where the semi-circle ends, the fellowship of both congregations continues. The faithful departed, the saints, the hosts of heaven, the choirs of angels—they complete the circle! We are united with all the company of heaven in a circle of Christ's own making. Remember this each time you are kneeling at the altar, preparing to receive the sacrament. Completing the circle at the altar are all the saints, all the faithful who have gone before us, the whole army of martyrs (witnesses), our loved ones who have died in the Lord. They are all with us in the Great Circle of God's holy people. And that includes you, too, baptized and forgiven sinner that you are!

I was reminded of this comforting truth recently when I came across some reflections by the Swedish Lutheran pastor and theologian Bo Giertz (1905-98), in his 1939 book, *Christ's Church*:

> Where the circle ends at the chancel wall, the fellowship still continues; in the churchyard is the resting place of the dead, the Lord's faithful, who now are partakers of the great banquet in heaven. They are with us as a great cloud of witnesses, they continue the small circle of people around the altar in my parish church, a circle that widens and is extended both back in time through the centuries and forward into the eternal world. It is a table fellowship without end. Shoulder by shoulder they are with us: our own faithful ancestors who once received the sacrament here at this altar, saints and martyrs elsewhere through the ages, and finally the Lord Himself and His apostles in the glorious kingdom in heaven above where the circle comes to its conclusion. This is "*communio sanctorum*," the communion of saints in Christ's kingdom of grace. Celebrating the Lord's Supper with my brothers and sisters in Christ, I am connected with the saints who sit at the Lord's Table in the heavenly kingdom. I am counted as one of God's holy people. (Bo Giertz, *Christ's Church*, 7th ed., trans. Hans O. Andrae [Verbum, 1991], 117)

Keep these reflections in mind the next time you receive the Lord's Supper. Keep them in mind every time you kneel at the semi-circle of the altar rail. It really is a circle that is completed by the heavenly host!

See you in church!
Pastor Becker
10-29-2026

With Appreciation to Pastor Matt and Detra:

Pastor Matt,

With hearts full of gratitude, we want to thank God for you.

For the effort you give that few ever see. For the quiet prayers you lift up. For the tears you've wiped away in private. For the steady love and faithful care, you offer to those God has placed under your guidance, we celebrate you.

May the Lord pour out his blessings on your life, refresh your spirit each day, and surround you with his peace and joy. May he strengthen you to walk faithfully and boldly in all He has called you to do.

Your service matters. Your impact reaches farther than you know. You are prayed for, appreciated, and truly loved.



Detra,

So much of what you do happens quietly behind the scenes (even putting out a tree fire).

Whether you are offering a warm hug, listening when someone needs to talk, helping out with ministries, or just bringing your amazing energy to church, you make our community feel like home.

You work so hard alongside Pastor Matt, and we are incredibly lucky to have you.

Thank you for all you do with such a grateful heart. You are prayed for, appreciated, and truly loved.

Praying God's continued blessing upon the both of you and your family.

With love from your church family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 31: (4:30-6:30pm): "Trunk or Treat" event in both church parking lots. Everyone is welcome to patriciate! We've been advised that Highlandville Rd is still closed BUT you can cross where the county is replacing the bridge at your own discretion over the weekend.

Nov 1: Daylight Savings Time Ends!
Nov 1-4: Pastor Becker is serving as the presenter at a pastor's conference in Orlando, FL

Sun, Nov 1 (9am): Sunday school meets in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
Sun, Nov 1 (9am): Bible class in the nave at Big Canoe – Pr. Brian Scott (Lutheran World Relief)
Sun, Nov 1 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (BC) – All Saints (white) – Pr. Brian Scott (LWF)
Sun, Nov 1 (10am): Blessing of the LWR quilts in the worship service at Big Canoe

Sun, Nov 8 (9am): Bible class in the nave at Highland
Sun, Nov 8 (9am): Sunday school in the fellowship hall at Highland
Sun, Nov 8 (10am): Communion and Thank offering Service at Highland – 24th Sun. a. Pentecost (green)
Sun, Nov 8 (after worship): Potluck meal and Highland WELCA meeting after.

Tues, Nov 10 (9am): Shared Ministry Meeting (Hesper)

Fri, Nov 13 (10am): Pr. Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)

Sat, Nov 14 (5pm): Saturday evening worship service at Big Canoe – 25th Sun. a. Pentecost (green)

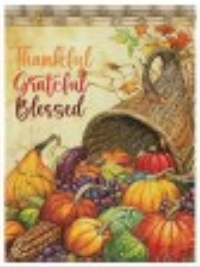
Sun, Nov 15 (9am): Bible class in the nave at Big Canoe
Sun, Nov 15: No children's Sunday School today
Sun, Nov 15 (10am): Service of the Word at Big Canoe – 25th Sun. a. Pentecost (green)
Sun, Nov 15 after worship service Youth confirmation class

Sun, Nov 22 (9am): Adult Bible class in the nave at Highland
Sun, Nov 22 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Highland – Christ the King Sunday (white)
Sun, Nov 22 Highland council meeting after worship service

Wed, Nov 25 (6:30pm): Special Thanksgiving Eve worship service at Highland (white)

Sun, Nov 29 (9am): Sunday school in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
Sun, Nov 29 (9am): Adult Bible class in the nave at Big Canoe
Sun, Nov 29 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Big Canoe – First Sun. in Advent (blue) (5th Sun.

THE CHOSEN SERIES | SEASON 6 Trinty Lutheran Church (SG), Outreach Team is excited to sponsor "The Chosen" series at Spring Grove, MN Cinema for FREE! Concessions will be available for purchase. Showing dates at the Cinema: Tuesdays November 17 & 24; December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; January 5.



SHARED MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Please submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, to linda.folstad49@gmail.com

By: November 15th for the November 2026 Newsletter

GATHER



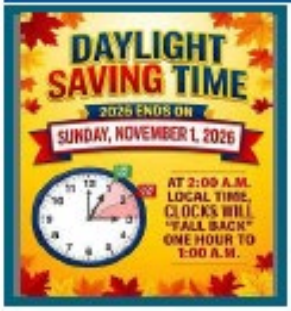
Bible Study:
2 pm Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at Highland Lutheran Church.
Come and join us!
Everyone is welcome.

Election Day Communion

November 3, 2026 at 12:00 pm

Center for Faith & Life
Luther College

Campus and community members are invited to attend this brief worship service that includes prayer, scripture, and communion as we remember our connection to one another in the body of Christ. While this is a worship service in the Christian tradition, all who desire to be present in this spiritual space are welcome to attend.





BURR OAK LUTHERAN CHURCH

2358—360th St. Decorah

MEATBALL SUPPER

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 4:00 pm—6:30 pm
Drive Thru only

MENU: Meatballs, "Real" Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Coleslaw, Green Beans, Pumpkin Pie.

ADVANCE TICKETS (Preferred): $15

Tickets available at: Letterwerks, Red Roxy Quilt Co., Viking State Bank & Trust, Barney's Bar & Grill, Bluffton Resort & Bar, Highlandville Store, KVIK Radio.

Proceeds go toward local charities and church improvements.

Burr Oak WELCA Advent Brunch

At Burr Oak Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 5, 2026 ~ 9:30 am
Program: "The Christmas Gifts"

Come and join us for the program, refreshments and fellowship.
All are welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD . . .



Big Canoe Lutheran Church will be celebrating a milestone anniversary in 2028! Plans are in progress for holding a special 175th anniversary worship service on Sunday, September 17, 2028 at 3:00 pm. A catered meal will be served at the church following worship. More details will be available as the time draws nearer. We hope you will keep this date open on your calendar and plan to join us in celebrating this special occasion in our church's history!

AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
Wednesday, November 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Scheie Lutheran Church (43117—160th St. Mabel, MN)
Everyone is welcome!



Worship Services ~ November 2026

	November 1	November 8 *Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*	November 15 *Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*	November 22	November 29 *1st Sunday in Advent*
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker **WEBSITE:** bchlutheran.org	***9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Big Canoe*** **9:00 am—Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe** 10:00 am Worship/HC at Big Canoe. Blessing of LWR Quilts	***9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Highland*** **9:00 am Sunday School In the Fellowship Hall at Highland** 10:00 am Worship/HC at Highland. *Thank Offering*	**SATURDAY, November 14** **5:00 pm** Evening worship at Big Canoe. **SUNDAY November 15** **9:00 am** Bible Study in the nave at Big Canoe 10:00 am Service of the Word at Big Canoe. No SS	**9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Highland** 10:00 am Worship/HC at Highland +++ **WEDNESDAY November 25** **6:30 pm** Thanksgiving Worship at Highland	9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Big Canoe 10:00 am Worship/HC at Big Canoe +++ **WEDNESDAY December 2** **5:30 Pm** Midweek Advent Supper at Big Canoe. 6:30 pm Advent Worship in Fellowship Hall
Burr Oak **WEBSITE:** bohlutheran.org Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer, Deacon **Hesper**	8:30 am Worship/HC *9:30 Coffee Fellowship* *All Saint's Day* 10:00 am Worship/HC *Affirmation of Baptism*	8:30 am Worship *9:30 am Coffee Fellowship* 10:00 am Worship	8:30 am Worship/HC *9:30 Coffee Fellowship* 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am—Worship *9:30 Coffee Fellowship* 10:00 am Worship	8:30 am—Joint Burr Oak/Hesper Worship in Burr Oak. Coffee Fellowship following worship
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson Facebook: Hauge and St. John's Lutheran Churches	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	Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge	Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's
Glenwood **WEBSITE:** Glenwoodlutheran.org **Canoe Ridge**	9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/HC at Glwd. 8:30 am Worship	8:30 am worship 9:30 am Sunday School/Glwd 10:30 am Worship	9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am Worship 8:30 am Worship	8:30 am worship 9:30 am Sunday School/Glwd 10:30 am Worship	Glenwood/ Canoe Ridge worship at Glenwood. Hanging of the Greens NO Sunday School



Remembering Our Departed Loved Ones

During our worship service on **Sunday, November 1st**, we will formally remember the members of our congregations and loved ones who have entered their eternal rest over the past year.

Big Canoe: Kenny Roeder, Marjorie Wilkins, Richard Amundson, Linda Miller, Vernon Gavle, Norman Forde.

Highland: Evelyn Halverson, Steve Langland, Adeline Langland.

"Lord, watch over my loved one and bring healing, comfort, and peace."

Our current **prayer list**: Paul, Janna, Steven, Beth, Michael, Arlene, Ron, Hailey, Brooke, Kristy, Maria, Randy, Bernice, Don, Lisa, Stacy, Harlan, Hunter, Charlie and Lorenza. If you know of someone who needs to be included in our public prayers, please complete a prayer card. If someone may be removed from our corporate prayers, please inform Pastor Becker.

We encourage members to submit prayer needs or share answered prayers.

The **pictorial directory** is now available to pick up, one directory per family. Please see Judi Krauskopf or Virginia Karlsbroten (for Highland) and Tammy Nordheim or Kris Bigler (for Big Canoe).



Pastor Matt was in Paul Hexom's (Sioux City) area and stopped for a homebound visit and delivered his pictorial directory! Way to go PB!





We want to thank Mark Borreson for the QR code metal stand that he made. Its home is just inside the cemetery fence entrance. Anyone stopping at the Big Canoe cemetery will be able to scan the QR code to donate.

The blessing of the quilts and kits at Big Canoe will take place on November 1st, during the special All Saints Sunday service. On that day, Pastor Brian Scott of Lutheran World Relief will be the guest minister. While Pastor Matt attends a Pastors' conference in Florida. 1-4.

Big Canoe WELCA has quilts for sale if you would like to purchase.

BC WELCA will meet November 4TH at 1pm

Recently the **Big Canoe Council** adopted a **revised list of fees** for events (e.g., weddings, funerals) that take place at Big Canoe. The new fees are posted on a list in the kitchen at Big Canoe. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Becker.

A cemetery lot and care at **Big Canoe Cemetery** is now $750 for both members and non-members. Cremations in the cemetery must be in a certified vault for cremations. Foundations for stones need to be two-feet thick. The Big Canoe Cemetery Association is in the process of discussing so-called "green burials" (corpse wrapped in cloth and buried within 24 hours). Please let Tammy Nordheim know if you are considering such a green burial. (The Association needs at least a thirty-day notice so that it can vote on the matter.) The Cemetery Association is once again repairing old stones in the middle of the cemetery. If you would like to donate to the cause, checks can be written to Big Canoe Cemetery Association. Please indicate on the check "for fixing stones." Also, please inform a cemetery committee member if you see a hazard in the cemetery or something broken or not right. Please do not let children lean or climb on the stones! We also want to memorialize the veterans who are buried in both church cemeteries. If anyone has information about a veteran in either the Big Canoe Cemetery or the Highland Cemetery and you would like their story told, please contact Tammy Nordheim, Dennis Karlsbroten, or Pastor Becker. We will be selecting an individual for this coming Veterans Day as well as for next year's Memorial Day.

The November **WELCA meeting at Highland** will take place after the **potluck** meal on Sunday, **November 8.** The worship service that day will be the Thank offering Service.



Reminder: Big Canoe- The Saturday evening service will take place at 5pm on November 14th.
Note: There WILL be a Bible class at 9 am and Sunday worship service on Sunday, November 15th at 10 am. No 9am Sunday School.

The **youth confirmation class**-The next in-person confirmation class will be at Big Canoe on November 15. (Confirmation class will not meet in person on November 1 because Pastor Becker will be out of town.) Please keep Brenden Thompson and Isabella Gipp in your prayers as they continue to deepen their faith through the study of the Holy Scriptures and the Small Catechism.

A Big Heartfelt Thank You!

Big Canoe WELCA would like to express their deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make our recent **Bake & Craft Sale** and **Meatball Dinner** a wonderful success. Whether you spent hours in the kitchen, labored over handmade crafts, set up tables, or stopped by to support us, your time and generosity means the world to our church family. (Sorry no pics of the dinner were submitted).







For too long, our sanctuary missed a vital piece of its heartbeat. In October, that silence was beautifully broken. Seeing and hearing our children raise their voices together in praise for the first time in a very long time was a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and the bright future of our faith. A profound thank you goes to our Sunday School teacher, Kjersten Folstad, whose dedication, patience, and love kept the music alive in their hearts until they could share it with us all.

Left to right: Waylon Folstad, Colton Jaster, Sylvia Folstad, Paetyn & Amelia Wise, Natalie & Haven Borreson, Nolan Jaster, Shane & Celia Ferguson. Sang "Jesus Loves Me".





November 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Big Canoe** 9 am Bible class -Nave 9 am SS – FH 10 am Worship service w/Holy Communion	2 Last day to vote by absentee ballot	3 GO VOTE!	4 1pm Big Canoe WELCA PB out of town 1st- 4th emergency contact Pr. Werges	5	6	7
8 **Highland Potluck** 9 am Bible Class-Nave 9 am SS - FH 10 am Thank offering service w/Communion. POTLUCK WELCA meeting	9	10 9 am Shared Ministry meeting at Hesper 2pm Gather Bible Study at Highland		12	13 10am Green Lea Manor Worship service by Pastor B.	14 **Big Canoe** 5pm worship service
15 **Big Canoe** 9 am Bible class - FH 9 am NO SS 10 am Worship service	16	17 	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 **Highland** 9 am Bible class – FH No Sunday School 10 am Worship Service w/ Communion Council meeting	23	24	25 **Highland** 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship service		27	28
29 **Big Canoe** 9 am Bible class -Nave 9 am Sunday School 1st day of Advent 10 am Worship service w/Holy Communion	30	1	Count Your Blessings Not Your Problems	3		

101planners.com

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

Big Canoe's Offering

Oct 4: $2,988 for current; $60 for benevolence.

Oct 11: $1,115 for current; $285 for benevolence.

Oct 18: $1,855 for current; $20 for benevolence.

Oct 25: $1,830 for current; $10 for benevolence.

Highland's Offering

Oct 4: $520 for current; $65 for benevolence.

Oct 11: $1,455 for current; $205 for benevolence.

Oct 18: $480 for current; $10 for benevolence.

Oct 25: $677 for current; $65 for benevolence.

In-person worship attendance:

Oct 4: 65

Oct 11: 33

Oct 18: 77

Oct 25: 45

Online worship views (Facebook and YouTube):

Oct 25: 348 views

Today is the youngest you will be for the rest of your life. "Make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good" (Ephesians 5:16).

A prayer for the coming week: Almighty God, keep us in communion with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



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