

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

October 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 Karlsbrotten, Financial Secretary

Church Secretary

Judi Krauskopf
563-380-5758
jrydopn@gmail.com

Pastor Becker's Sunday morning Bible class has a new time! At 9 am each Sunday, class will last about 40 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, while your child is attending Sunday school, why not join us in the Nave.

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 AND THEIR MINISTRIES.

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 code below.



BY MAIL:

Big Canoe Lutheran Church
1381 Big Canoe Road
Decorah, IA 52101

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

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.

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

For this week, a prayer I recently came across:

Come, Light serene and still;
Our darkened spirits fill
With Thy clear day.

Guide of the feeble sight,
Star of grief's dark night,
Reveal the path of right,
Show us Thy way. Amen.

See you in church!
Pastor Becker
9-23-26

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

Our current **prayer list**: Norman, Michael, Arlene, Ron, Hailey, Brooke, Kristy, Maria, Randy, Bernice, Don, Lisa, Stacy, Harlan, and Hunter. We praise the Lord that Karen's melanoma has gone away!

Important Upcoming Events

Oct 3 - (10am-10:30am): Blessing of the animals in the **parking lot at Big Canoe** – Feast of St. Francis

Oct 4 (9am): Bible class in the nave at Big Canoe

Oct 4 (9am): Sunday school in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe

Oct 4 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Big Canoe – 19th Sun. a. Pentecost (green)

Oct 4 - Big Canoe welcomes new members Jon, Debra, Lucas Aske and Heidi Jo & Garrett Wise

Oct 10 (9am-noon): Big Canoe Bake & Quilt Sale w/Lefsa demonstration/sale (Big Canoe)

Oct 11 (9am): Bible class in the nave at Highland

Oct 11 (9am): Sunday School in the fellowship hall at Highland

Oct 11 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion at Highland – 20th Sun. a. Pentecost (green)

Oct 18 9am Bible class in the nave at Big Canoe

Oct 18 9am Sunday school in the fellowship hall – Big Canoe

Oct 18 10 am Worship Service at Big Canoe - red

Oct 18 (11am-3pm): Meatball Dinner at Big Canoe

Oct 25 9am Bible class Highland – fellowship hall - No Sunday school

Oct 25 10am Reformation Sunday w/ Holy Communion – Highland- red

Nov 7 7:30-10:30 LWR truck at Olson Explosive's parking lot

Nov 8 10 am Thank Offering Service – Highland

Nov 14 5 pm Saturday evening Worship service at Big Canoe.

Nov 15 NO SUNDAY SERVICE at Big Canoe

M
A
R
K

Y
O
U
R

C
A
L
E
N
D
A
R

Reminder for Big Canoe members, that the cemetery lot and care has been raised to \$750 for both members/non-members.

A new policy for cremations in the Big Canoe cemetery is that they must be in a certified vault for cremations. Foundations for stones need to be 2 feet thick.

"Green Burials" was a topic coming up more frequently. This is when a person dies, they are wrapped in cloth. They have to be placed in the ground within 48hrs. The cemetery committee has not made a discussion whether to allow this or not. **We would like to know if there is anyone thinking of this? We voted to give a 30-day notice so we can bring it to a vote if necessary.**

We are once again repairing some old stones in the middle of the cemetery. If you would like to donate to this cause, checks can be written to Big Canoe Cemetery on the memo line write "fixing stones".

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.

Memorializing veterans: If anyone has information about a veteran in the Big Canoe Cemetery and would like to share their story, we will be picking 3 for Veterans Day and 3 for Memorial Day to honor. Please contact Tammy Nordheim [563-380-5572](tel:563-380-5572)

The **joint council** voted to begin holding **one Saturday-evening service (5pm-5:45pm)** in the months where there are five Sundays. Pastor and council leaders will decide which Saturday that will be in those four months that have five Sundays. This is a trial experiment! **The Saturday evening service will take place at Big Canoe November 14th. There will be no worship service on Sunday, November 15th.**

Postville Relief: Area congregations continue to support Postville families affected by the Agri Star fire. High demand items include baby formula, diapers (sizes 3, 5, 6, 7), feminine pads, fragrance-free wipes, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. Sign up on the [Midterm Recovery Volunteer Form](#) to help with distribution of food and supplies and in other ways. Monetary gifts to the Postville and Decorah food pantries, the Northeastern Iowa Synod ELCA fire relief fund, and Catholic Charities are also needed.

Give: decorahpantry.org/give • [Northeastern Iowa Synod ELCA](#) • catholiccharitiesdubuque.org/postville • Postville Food Pantry, Box 1129, Postville, IA 52162

Here is an email that bchlutheran received:

To Whom it May Concern (and feel free to share),

My name is Crystal Duffy, and I am the library director at Postville Public Library, and I am one of the organizers for the Postville Fire recovery. I also happen to sing in the Decorah Chorale, and I was so touched to hear that several of the congregations in your area are teaming up to help our community. I am unable to attend our performance due to child rearing responsibilities, but I wanted you all to know how much this means to me as someone who cares about our community, and how much our residents have benefited from generous folks all over Northeast Iowa like yourselves. Many of our residents have been through so much before arriving in our community, it breaks my heart to see them also suffer through this period of instability. But much harm has been mitigated through the donations of many in our region.

Thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Crystal Duffy

**MEETBALL DINNER
BIG CANOE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1381 Big Canoe Rd, Decorah

**Sunday, October 18, 2026
Serving: 11am – 3 pm**

MENU:

*Meatballs
Potatoes & Gravy
Buttered Carrots
Dinner Rolls
Assorted Salads
Bars and Cookies
Coffee, Milk, Water*

Youth Confirmation Class

Sunday, October 4 at Big Canoe
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.

**BIG CANOE PARKING LOT
OCTOBER 3 AT 10 -10:30 AM**

**The blessing of Saint Francis of
Assisi** for **pets** is a special prayer
and religious ceremony that
honors animals as part of God's
creation and asks for their health,
protection, and well-being.

let's make
LEFSE

As part of the Art Tour

On **Saturday, October 10**
(9am-noon), Big Canoe
WELCA will be hosting the
Big Canoe Bake & Quilt Sale.

Laurie Emery and Judy Shuros
will be demonstrating how to
make lefse.

In addition to baked goods,
quilts, and table runners, there
will be **lefse for sale.**

Big Canoe WELCA is
collecting for the **personal
care kit for LWR** through the
end of October. Anyone who
does not wish to shop but
wants to donate should
contact Emma Thompson or
Deb Munson.

The personal care kit
includes: one light-weight
bath-size towel (20x40 up to
52x27); two or three bath-size
bars of soap in original
packing (equal to eight to nine
ounces); one adult-size
toothbrush in original packing
or multi-packs that can be
separated into envelopes; one
sturdy comb; one metal nail
clippers (can be finger or toe
clippers; attached file is
optional).

There will be a tub in the
church entry for items.





Shared Ministry Newsletter

October 2026



Please submit
information for the
monthly Shared

Ministry newsletter, to
linda.falstad49@gmail.com

By: October 15th for the
November 2026 Newsletter

GATHER

Bible Study:
2 pm Tuesday,
October 13, 2026 at
Highland Lutheran Church.
Come and join us!



St. John's
Lutheran
Church

(1538 Big Canoe Road
Decorah, IA)

GARAGE SALE And BAKE SALE!

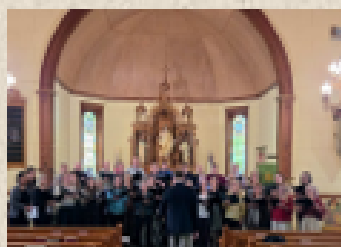
Friday, October 2nd
9:00 am—5:00 pm
Saturday, October 3rd
9 am—NOON

*Sponsored by St. John's
& Hange WELCA*

You are invited!

Decorah Lutheran Church
WELCA invites area WELCA
Women to their Fall
Program on Thursday,
October 15th at 2 pm. The
program will feature the
Decorah Ukulele Orchestra, a
local musical group. Come for
a fun afternoon of music,
including "Oldies" and
Desserts! If questions contact
Cheryl Bergan at
563-382-4225

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine!"



The Second Annual Shared Ministry Community
Worship & Potluck Dinner event was held at Big
Canoe Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 20,
2026. Pr. Matthew Becker, Pr. David Werges &
Pr. Randy Kittelson led worship, along with Pr. Jen
Thomas, assistant to the bishop for Shared Ministry
and Development of the Northeast Iowa Synod,
ELCA. Musical selections by Decorah Chorale enhanced the beauty of worship,
and blended voices of the Chorale and congregation were a glorious offering of
praise to God. The blessings of a bountiful and tasty potluck and warm
fellowship rounded out the day, and we look forward to planning for the Third
annual event! Offerings received were designated for victims of the Agri-Star
fire in Postville. See below a "Thank-You" from an organizer of the recovery
efforts:

*My name is Crystal Duff, and I am the library director at Postville Library. I am
one of the organizers for the Postville Fire recovery. I also happen to sing in the
Decorah Chorale and was so touched to hear that several of the congregations in
your area are teaming up to help our community. I am unable to attend our
performance due to child rearing responsibilities but I wanted you all to know
how much this means to me as someone who cares about our community, and
how much our residents have benefitted from generous folks all over Northeast
Iowa like yourselves. Many of our residents have been through so much before
arriving in our community. It breaks my heart to see them also suffer through
this period of instability. But much harm has been mitigated through the
donations of many in our region. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*



BIG CANOE LUTHERAN CHURCH MEATBALL DINNER

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Serving: 11:00 am—3:00 pm (Church Basement)

MENU: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Buttered Carrots
Dinner Rolls, Salad Bar, Cookies, Bars, Coffee, Milk, Water
Cost: \$15 Pay at the Door Children 5 and under are FREE

CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

For more information/Questions Call:

Bev Stortz: 563-546-7739, Amanda Stortz: 563-419-4882
Janice Thorson: 507-251-5214, Deb Monson: 563-379-4764
Shirley Bigler: 563-546-7788, Detra Becker: 219-916-8577

CLENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

Sunday, October 25, 2026—Serving Noon—3:00 pm

MENU: Lutfisk, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn
Lefse, Rolls, Rommegrot, Desserts

Advance tickets only: \$25/Adults \$10/Ages 6-12 FREE/Age 5 & under

If questions or to order tickets call the Church office: 563-202-2554

Worship Services ~ October 2026

	October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	October 18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	October 25 REFORMATION SUNDAY
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker <u>WEBSITE:</u> bchlutheran.org	<i>9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Big Canoe</i> <i>9:00 am—Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC at Big Canoe Welcoming new members	<i>9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Highland</i> <i>9:00 am Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at Highland</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC at Highland.	<i>9:00 am—Bible Study in the nave at Big Canoe</i> <i>9:00—Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe</i> 10:00 am Service of the Word at Big Canoe <i>11 am—3 pm:</i> <i>Meatball Dinner at Big Canoe</i>	9:00 am—Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at Highland 10:00 am Service of the Word at Highland
	Hesper <u>WEBSITE</u> bohlutheran.org Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Deacon	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am— Worship/HC <i>"All Saint's Sunday"</i> <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC "Affirmation of Baptism"
Burr Oak St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson <u>Facebook:</u> Hauge and St. John's Lutheran Churches	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am— Worship/HC <i>"All Saint's Sunday"</i> <i>9:30 am Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC "Affirmation of Baptism"
Glenwood <u>WEBSITE:</u> Glenwoodlutheran.org Canoe Ridge	9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/Glywd.	8:30 am worship/HC First Grade Bible Presentation 9:30 am Sunday School/Glywd 50th year Confirmation Reunion 10:30 am Worship/CR	10:30 am Worship 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glenwood 8:30 am worship /CR	No Worship services Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner at Glenwood

"GOD does not need your good works, but your neighbor does" ~ Martin Luther

SHARED MINISTRY TOUR

Late in August a group of women from Shared Ministry Churches traveled to the Twin Cities. Main purpose of the trip was to visit the Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministry facilities, and to deliver a supply of rolled bandages prepared by our various church groups. While at Global Health Ministries those on the tour also took part in a small mission project printing mailing labels for boxes of items in preparation for shipment. The tours were very interesting and informative as we saw the inner workings of these facilities and visited with some of the caring and dedicated workers that help make the process run so smoothly. It was a day well-spent and very heartwarming to see all the quilts, kits and medical supplies donated by generous folks, ready to be sent to those in need around the world. God's Work, Our Hands! Thank you to Anna Jetson from Highland Lutheran Church for planning the trip, navigating us through city traffic and delivering us safely back home!



Delivery of rolled bandages!



Lutheran World Relief – Quilts & Kits



Printing and labeling boxes at GHM

SHARED MINISTRY COMMUNITY WORSHIP & POTLUCK – Sunday, September 20, 2026

Thank you to Big Canoe Lutheran Church for hosting and to all who helped make this a successful and joyful event!



Big Canoe Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner



**Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Carrots, Dinner Roll,
Salad Bar, Dessert**

Sunday October 18, 2026

Serving in church basement 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Cost: \$15.00 Pay at the door
(children 5 and under free)**

**Carryouts available
No Pre-Sale**

For More Information/Questions Call:

**Bev Stortz 563-546-7739, Amanda Stortz, 563-419-4882
or Janice Thorson, 507-251-5214 Deb Monson 563-379-4764
Shirley Bigler 563-546-7788 Detra Becker 219-916-8577**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	 Life is a beautiful ride. Enjoy the journey! -v-	29	30	1 Goodbye September	2	3 Blessing of Animals Big Canoe parking lot if it rains under the shelter picnic area
4 Big Canoe 9 am Bible class -Nave 9 am Sunday School - FH 10 am Worship service w/Holy Communion Reception new members Youth confirmation class	5	6	7 In a society that has you counting your money, steps, calories, and pounds, be a rebel and count your BLESSINGS.	8	9	10 Big Canoe 9am - noon Quilt and Bake Sale Lefsa demonstration
11 Highland 9 am Bible Class-Nave 9 am Sunday School - FH 10 am Worship service w/Holy Communion	12	13 Highland 2 pm Gather Bible Study	14	15	16	17 SWO Field trip to Black Hawk County
18 Big Canoe 9 am Bible class - Nave 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship service Meatball Dinner 11-3pm	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 God, please remind me that no matter how hard today is, You are with me.	24
25 Highland red 9 am Bible class – FH No Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Reformation Sunday w/Holy communion	26	27	28	29	30	31  Daylight Saving Time Ends TURN THE CLOCK BACK

INVITATION FOR LADIES: Decorah Lutheran Church's WELCA invites you to our fall program on October 15, at 2p.m. We will be hosting a local musical group, The Decorah Ukulele Orchestra. This eclectic group has a love for music and practices on Sunday afternoons at the Senior Hospitality Center in Decorah. Please join us for a fun afternoon of music, including "oldies" and dessert. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Bergan at 563-382-4225.

Mabel Community Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on October 6, Tuesday, at the Community Center from 12-6pm. Please call 1-800-Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Mabel, MN to schedule an appointment.

Bible +

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

① **WORRIED** 1 PETER 5:7

② **AFRAID** ISAIAH 41:10

③ **OVERWHELMED** PSALM 61:2

④ **LONELY** PSALM 23:4

⑤ **ANGRY** EPHESIANS 4:26-27

⑥ **SICK** JAMES 5:14-15

⑦ **TIRED** MATTHEW 11:28-30

⑧ **HOPELESS** ROMANS 15:13

⑨ **UNLOVED** JOHN 3:16

⑩ **CONFUSED** PROVERBS 3:5-6

GOD'S WORD IS YOUR LIFELINE
HE'S ONE CALL AWAY

St. John's and Hauge WELCA
 Garage and Bake Sale
 at St John's Church,
 1638 Big Canoe Rd. Decorah
 Friday, October 2nd 9 am – 6 pm
 Saturday, October 3rd 9 am - noon

Ladies,

Mom and I have a start to 8 personal care kits and 15 baby care kits. If anyone wants to contribute here is a list of items needed:

8 4-ounce bars of soap
 4 sturdy combs
 8 metal nail clippers
 10 pairs of new socks (sizes 6 to 24 months)
 8 new hand towels
 30 4-ounce bars of mild soap, like ivory

Thank you,
 Anna J

2 pm
Gather Bible study meets the
 second Tuesday of the month
 at
 Highland Church

Welcome to Highland:
 Sarah Ostern, Kurt
 Krauskopf, Miranda
 Schnitzler, Tate, Everly,
 Camryn, Carson Krauskopf

Welcome!
 WE'RE EXCITED THAT
 YOU'RE HERE!

Welcome to Big Canoe:
 Debra, Jon and Lucus Aske
 Heidi Jo and Garrett Wise

Sept/Oct. Sunday School



6+k

NA

Misc:

1. Music will start to be incorporated in Oct.
2. Snacks are provided.
3. Each session has a video to go along

13+k

NA



20+k

9am: Sunday School Kick off!

1. How Joseph was Kind
2. I wonder What is Fair

4+k

9am: Sunday School

1. I Wonder What it Means to Listen
2. I wonder Why People Take things

11+k

9am: Sunday School

1. I Wonder Why People Say No to a Party
2. I Wonder What Belongs to God

18+k

9am: Sunday School

1. I Wonder How We Love God and Others
2. Free play





Highland WELCA held its fall Bazaar and meal on September 27. Each year it is wonderful to see all the creative items that are brought. It is a great time to enjoy the fellowship and laughter knowing that the money raised will be used to help others.

Thank you to all who donated to the Bazaar in anyway! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Top photo: L to R: Darlene Larson-Sollein, Lousie Jetson, Anna Jetson, Karen Erickson, Barb Lund, Joyce Bjerke, Judi Krauskopf. Back: Kristy Selness, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Detra Becker, Anastacia Wold, Sunday DeBoer.

Bottom Photo: 2026 WELCA President Karen Erickson

Big Canoe & Highland WELCA: Judi will be working on the 2027 WELCA Booklets. Please get her the information needed to complete the booklets by November 15.

- 1. Will need meeting dates, hostesses, officers, altar guild committee.**
- 2. Any corrections or additions, birth dates, addresses, phone numbers, would appreciate current email addresses, etc. Thank You!**





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