

# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

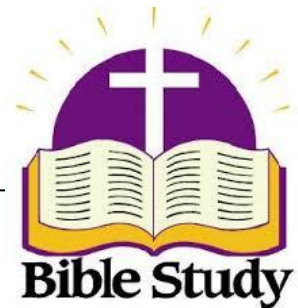
Big Canoe - 1381 Big Canoe Road – Decorah, IA 52101  
563-546-7974

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

## NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

- **Sun., Dec. 1: 10:00 a.m. worship at Highland**
- **Wed., Dec. 4 (5:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent soup supper (Big Canoe)
  - Free will offering will go to Barbara Dullknife of Pine Ridge Indian, S.D. She cares for children ages newborn to 10 years old.
- **Wed., Dec. 4 (6:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent service (Big Canoe)
- **Sat., Dec. 7 (9-11 a.m.):** Practice for the Children's Christmas Program (Big Canoe)
- **Sun., Dec. 8 (10 a.m.): Children's Christmas Program and soup luncheon (Big Canoe)**
- **Sun., Dec. 8 (1:30 p.m.):** Hops and Hymns at Barneys, Burr Oak
- **Wed., Dec. 11 (5:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent soup supper (Highland)
- **Wed., Dec. 11 (6:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent service (Highland)
- **Sun., Dec. 15: 10:00 a.m. worship at Highland**
- **Sun., Dec. 15 (after worship):** Joint Council Meeting of BC/HI (Highland)
- **Wed., Dec. 18 (5:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent soup supper (Big Canoe)
- **Wed., Dec. 18 (6:30 p.m.):** Midweek Advent service (Big Canoe)
- **Sat., Dec. 21 (2 - 4 p.m.):** Open House at the Parsonage (House blessing at 3pm)
- **Sun., Dec. 22: 10:00 a.m. worship at Highland**
- **Tues., Dec. 24 (4:30 p.m.):** Christmas Eve service (Big Canoe)
- **Wed., Dec. 25 (10:00 a.m.):** Christmas Day service (Highland)
- **Sun., Dec. 29: 10:00 a.m. worship at Highland**
- **Sun., Jan. 5: 10:00 a.m. worship at Big Canoe**



## Thank you

Thank you!!!! to everyone who donated, made, assembled and loved the 40 school kits, 33 quilts, 21 personal care kits, 20 baby care kits, 7 fabric kits, and 2 blankets that packed into 16 boxes for Lutheran World Relief from Highland.

Thank you for your generosity of 59 pounds of food and \$7.00 in cash donated to the Decorah Community Food Pantry. If you have extra egg cartons, plastic bags, or brown paper bags they will take them and put them to use.

### Pastor Becker's Sunday-morning Bible Class

8:45 a.m. each Sunday  
fellowship hall of the church of service.  
The class will last about 50 minutes.  
For the next few months,  
the focus will be on the Psalms.  
Please consider taking advantage of this  
educational opportunity  
as a way to grow in your Christian faith.

Pastor Becker • 219-916-8535 • [matthew.becker@valpo.edu](mailto:matthew.becker@valpo.edu)

#### Office hours:

Wednesdays at Highland, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays at Big Canoe, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays at Big Canoe, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

While he plans on taking Mondays off, he can be reached at any time by his cell for emergencies.

**Memory Lights.** The white lights at the church this year will be lit again by Gary & Bev Stortz, Mitch & Amanda Stortz, and Mark & Michelle Borreson in memory of Michael Stortz, Brady Stortz, and Nate Borreson. The blue bulbs on the bushes at the entrance of the church may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one for \$5.00 per bulb. Please send a list of loved ones, along with the number of bulbs that you wish to purchase to Big Canoe Lutheran Church, Tree of Memories, 1381 Big Canoe Road, Decorah



## **Big Canoe Council Meeting November 10, 2024**

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order. Pastor Becker gave the prayers.

Council members present: President Brian Bigler, Vice President Steve Emery, Secretary Deb Monson, Treasurer Laurie Emery, and council members Bill Bullerman, Vern Whitaker, and Shelley Bigler.

There was no secretary's report to give.

Laurie Emery gave her treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was approved and placed on file.

Laurie advised that it would be beneficial for the church and parsonage to be set up on an even paym system. Even pay fuel costs would be \$535 a month for the church and \$202 for the parsonage. The fuel provider is Farmer's Union Coop of Ossian.

Shelley made the motion to establish an even pay system with Farmer's Union Coop. Bill seconded the motion, motion passed.

A letter has been received from Church Mutual that they will be dropping the church's insurance coverage on 12/31/24 due to recent claims by the church.

Pastor Becker said he learned at the synod meeting that churches are to contact the synod office as to other possibilities that may be available.

The annual policy cost is \$12,000.00. It was discussed to put the current insurance rate the church is paying into a short term savings account until an insurance provider can be found.

Bids would be taken and put to a congregational vote. Pastor will provide a number to the synod office for Brian to explore the options.

The rental of the church land will be discussed at the next joint meeting. A bid of \$265 per acre for 18 acres has been received and will be reviewed before March 1, 2025.

The Upper Iowa River Conference has requested a donation.

The church's annual Benevolence budget of \$8,100 was discussed. Could the Thanksgiving offering be used for the church's Benevolence monies so we can meet our budget.

It should be posted in the monthly newsletter the names of the ushers who will be serving to pass the offering plate.

Pastor Becker updated the council as to the home visits he made to the housebound congregants. Pastor will visit the housebound once a month.

Motion to adjourn by Steve, seconded by Vernoe, meeting was adjourned.

Meeting closed with Pastor Becker giving prayers.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson, Secretary

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Communion			Midweek Advent Service - Big Canoe 5:30 soup supper 6:30 worship			10:00 to 11:00 Children's Christmas Program Practice
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Children's Christmas Program and soup luncheon Big Canoe			Midweek Advent Service - Highland 5:30 soup supper 6:30 worship			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Communion			Midweek Advent Service - Big Canoe 5:30 soup supper 6:30 worship			Open House at the Parsonage 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. House blessing at 3:00
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland		Christmas Eve Service 4:30 p.m. Big Canoe	Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m. Highland			
29	30	31	January 1 2025	January 2 2025	January 3 2025	January 4 2025
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland						January worship services at Big Canoe



## Shared Ministry Newsletter December 2024



\*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at [linda.folstad49@gmail.com](mailto:linda.folstad49@gmail.com)  
By: December 15th for the January 2025 Newsletter

All are invited to join us for Bible Study held at Highland Lutheran Church Friday, December 13, 2024 at 9:30 am!  
Discussion centers around Bible studies in the GATHER Magazine, an ELCA publication.  
Bring a Friend!

Let Anna Jetson know if you are in need of a copy of the Bible Study.  
Remember if school is delayed or cancelled, Bible Study is also cancelled.

**LOOKING AHEAD** Shared Ministry Meeting

A meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 9 am at St. John's to finalize Lenten Round Robin plans and discuss other activities.



### Coming up in December . . .

#### Burr Oak Lutheran Church WELCA

##### Advent Brunch

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 9:30 am

*Come and share the sweetness of Christmas as we journey along to the birth of Jesus through song and scripture. All are welcome!*



#### Burr Oak—Hesper Lutheran Parish

##### "Hops & Hymns"

at Barney's in Burr Oak  
Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 1:30 pm

*Join us at Barney's and spend a fun afternoon singing cherished Christmas Hymns and enjoying a favorite beverage!*

#### Shared Ministry Meeting Highlights Lenten Worship Planning


Lenten Worship services will again be Round Robin in 2025. This year we welcome members of Washington Prairie, who will also be participating with us. A meal will be served at 6:00 pm with worship at 7:00 pm. Choir rehearsal will take place at 5:30 pm for those who enjoy singing and would like to participate.

Ash Wednesday worship on March 5th at St. John's in Locust begins the Lenten schedule. Pastors from Shared Ministry Churches will rotate leading worship along with guest pastors from the Synod Office: Pr. Liz Bell, Assistant to the Bishop, and Pr. Kristen Corr Rod. An offering will be collected for the Decorah and Mabel Food Shelves.

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**Lenten Bible Study** LED BY Pr. Randy Kittelson will be held at Winneshiek Wildberry Winery on Wednesday mornings during Lent. ALL are welcome! Watch Shared Ministry Newsletter for more details.

## Worship Services ~ December 2024

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	Christmas Eve December 24 Christmas Day December 25	December 29
 <b>Highland &amp; Big Canoe</b> Pr. Matthew Becker	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland <i>Sunday Bible Study 8:45 am</i>	<i>8:45 Bible Study.</i> 10 am worship/ Christmas Program. Soup luncheon at Big Canoe	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland <i>Sunday Bible Study 8:45 am</i>	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland <i>Sunday Bible Study 8:45 am</i>	<i>4:30 pm Christmas Eve/Big Canoe</i> <i>10 am Christmas Day/Highland</i>	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland <i>Sunday Bible Study 8:45 am</i>
<b>Hesper</b>  <b>Burr Oak</b> Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Deacon	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship  10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship  10:00 am Worship	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship  10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship  10:00 am Worship	<i>4:30 &amp; 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship in Burr Oak/HC</i>  <i>10:00 am Christmas Day in Hesper/HC</i>	10:00 am - Joint Worship/ Hymn sing in Burr Oak
<b>Canoe Ridge</b>  <b>Glenwood</b> Pr. Matthew Russler	8:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge/ HC 9:30 am Coffee/CR  10:30 am worship at Glenwood	10:30 am - worship at Canoe Ridge/ HC  <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 8:30 am worship at Glenwood/HC 9:30 am - Coffee/Glwd	8:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30—Coffee/CR  10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program at Glenwood	10:30 am - worship at Canoe Ridge/ HC  8:30 am worship at Glenwood/HC 9:30 am - Coffee/Glwd	<i>Dec. 24: 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship at Canoe Ridge</i>  <i>Dec. 24: 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship at Glenwood</i>	<i>Hymnsing</i>
<b>St. John's &amp; Hauge</b> Pr. Randy Kittelson	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's <i>Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge <i>Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's <i>Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge <i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Joint Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion at Hauge</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's <i>Coffee Hour</i>

#### Websites:

[www.WomenoftheELCA.org](http://www.WomenoftheELCA.org)  
[www.NELAsynod.org](http://www.NELAsynod.org)  
[www.bchlutheran.org](http://www.bchlutheran.org) Big Canoe/Highland Lutheran  
[www.glenwoodlutheran.org](http://www.glenwoodlutheran.org) Glenwood/Canoe Ridge  
[www.bohlutheran.org](http://www.bohlutheran.org) Burr Oak/Hesper Lutheran  
[www.haugelutheran.com](http://www.haugelutheran.com) Hauge/St. John's Lutheran

#### Upcoming Events: 2024-25

Dec. 7: 9:30 am—Burr Oak Lutheran Advent Brunch  
 Dec. 8: 1:30 pm—Hops & Hymns at Barney's in Burr Oak  
 Jan. 15: 9:00 am—Shared Ministry Meeting at St. John's