

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

November 2025



Pastor Becker's Sunday-morning Bible Class

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

Upcoming Events

- Fri, Nov 14 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)
- Sat, Nov 15 (9am-1pm): Holiday Bazaar (Greenfield Lutheran Church, Harmony, MN)
- Sun, Nov 16 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 16 (9am): Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 16 (10am): Service w/baptism of Tatum Nordheim (Big Canoe) – 23rd Sun a. P. (green)
- Sun, Nov 16 (11:15am-noon): Youth confirmation class at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 16 (12:30pm): Baptism of Porter Alan Sacquitne (Big Canoe)
- Nov 17-19: Pastor Becker will be giving three lectures at a pastors' retreat at Creighton University
- Sun, Nov 23 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Nov 23 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Christ the King Sunday (white)
- Wed, Nov 26 (6:30pm): Thanksgiving Eve worship service (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Nov 30 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Nov 30 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – First Sun in Advent (blue)
- Wed, Dec 3 (5:00pm): Midweek Advent soup supper and worship service (Big Canoe)
- Sat, Dec 6 (9am-noon): Annual spiritual/planning retreat for both congregations (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Dec 7 (8:45am): Bible class (topic TBD) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Dec 7 (9am): Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Dec 7 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Second Sun. in Advent (blue)
- Sun, Dec 7 (11:15am-noon): Youth confirmation class at Big Canoe
- Tues, Dec 9 (1:30pm): Pastor Becker participates in a Crossings online presentation about Christmas
- Wed, Dec 10 (5:00pm): Midweek Advent soup supper and worship service (Highland)
- Sun, Dec 14 (8:45am): Bible class (topic TBD) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Dec 14 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Third Sun. in Advent (blue)
- Sun, Dec 14 (after worship): Highland WELCA will meet (Highland)
- Wed, Dec 17 (5:00pm): Midweek Advent soup supper and worship service (Big Canoe)
- Sat, Dec 20 (10am-11:30am): Practice for the Children's Christmas Program (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Dec 21 (8:45-9:30am): Practice for the Children's Christmas Program (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Dec 21 (10am): Children's Christmas Program and soup luncheon (Big Canoe)
- Wed, Dec 24 (5:30pm): Christmas Eve service and potluck meal (Highland)
- Thurs, Dec 25 (10am): Christmas Day service (Big Canoe)
- Sat, Dec 27 (2-4pm): Open House at the Parsonage (carol singing at 3pm)
- Wed, Feb 18 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry soup/sandwich meal and Ash Wed worship service (Big Canoe)
- Wed, Feb 25 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (Pr. Becker preaching) (Burr Oak)

Other Announcements:

Prayer cards are available to fill out before or during the first part of the worship service. Please hand your completed card to the pastor, or hand it to an usher who will get it to the pastor for our corporate prayers.

Our current **prayer list** includes the following individuals from our circle of family and friends: Katelyn, Adeline, Steve E., Steve G., Steve L., Bob, Linda, Hailey, Loren, Brayden, Walter, Barb, Betty, Jim, Randy, Maria, Gerald, baby Henry, Ron, Scott, and Keith. We give thanks to God for complete healing of Matt (prostate cancer), for whom we have been praying since September. If any changes need to be made to the prayer list, please let Pastor Becker know. (He appreciates receiving updates about these individuals for whom we are praying.)

The **adult Sunday morning class** (8:45am-9:40am) is studying **the Nicene Creed**. This ecumenical creed is 1700 years old (adopted in AD 325). All are welcome!

Our **children's Sunday School** meets at Big Canoe **next Sunday, November 16**, 9:00-9:40am. Randi Jo Wise will be the leader, while Brooklyn Borreson will be the assistant. We need someone to sign up to bring the treats for next Sunday. People may continue to sign up to serve as teachers, assistants, and snack providers! A sign-up sheet is available on the table at the front of the nave at Highland.

The **next youth confirmation class** will take place after the service at Big Canoe on **Sunday, Nov 16** (11:15-noon). We will meet at the table at the back of the church. Please keep Isabella and Brenden in your prayers as they deepen their faith during confirmation instruction this year!

The Highland WELCA will be collecting food for the Mabel Food Pantry during the month of November. A wish-list from the pantry is available at Highland, and there will be an option for cash donations for those who wish not to shop.

It is time to think about the **Thank Offerings**. Please bring them to Shirley Bigler or Deb Monson by Nov. 15.

The **Big Canoe WELCA** will meet on Wed., Nov. 19, with a noon lunch and meeting to start at 1pm.

Christmas with Laura will take place at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Park and Museum in Burr Oak on Saturday, November 29, 9:30am-noon. Come and enjoy the free activities in the Visitor Center and the Masters Hotel. There will be a brunch meal, make-and-take crafts, fiddle music by Natalie and Knightly Rich, Christmas music in the museum, and Laura's Christmas memories. There is a 10% discount on all gift shop purchases that day.

Camp Ewalu has successfully raised over \$2.1 million for Cedar Lodge renovations and the solar project (already completed), based on the initial projected cost of \$2 million. But construction costs have risen dramatically since the start of the campaign. Camp Ewalu needs approximately \$1.4 million to close the funding gap. Can YOU help us "close the gap" with a gift to the campaign? If you've already donated, can you make an additional gift to help cover rising construction costs? You may donate online:

www.Ewalu.org/Cedar-Lodge-Project For more information, speak with Bill Stoen, who recently represented both congregations at a special meeting at Camp Ewalu.

If you would like to receive a print subscription to **Living Lutheran**, the quarterly magazine of the ELCA, please sign up on the sheet on the table at the back of the church at Big Canoe. Provide your name and address. Group subscriptions of 10 or more members will cost \$17 annually. This magazine offers the latest news, reflections, and stories from across the ELCA. Gain insight, inspiration, and resources from Lutheran ministers, lay leaders, and congregational members.

SNAP benefits have been cut in recent weeks. More families in our region are needing to get supplemental food assistance from local food pantries. The **NE Iowa Community Action Corporation** is seeking financial donations to help with this current need. To make an online contribution, go to www.neicac.org.

The Colors of Christmas: You are invited to attend the annual Burr Oak Lutheran Church WELCA Advent Brunch on December 6 at 9:30am. Participants will be able to reflect on customs and traditions as they are reviewed in the special program.

Aase Haugen will be moving into its brand-new home atop Highland Drive on Wednesday, December 17. They are asking for volunteers to lend a hand during the week before and the week of the move. They are looking for helpers to assist with packing and organizing resident rooms, hauling and unpacking items, making beds and setting up spaces, serving food and snacks to volunteers, greeting and guiding families and guests, taking photos of the occasion, and serving as “buddies” for residents who don’t have a companion on move day. To volunteer, send an email to info@aasehaugen.com or call Patty at 563-382-3603, ext. 401.

The **Children’s Christmas program and soup luncheon** will take place on Sunday, December 21 (10am), at Big Canoe. The **practices for this program** have been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec 20 (10am-11:30am), and Sunday, Dec 21 (8:45am-9:30am).

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

Big Canoe’s Offering

July: \$8,982 for current; \$480 for benevolence.
Aug: \$8,826 for current; \$850 for benevolence.
Sep: \$5,419 for current; \$580 for benevolence.
Oct: \$5,446.07 for current; \$450 for benevolence.
Nov 2: \$2,639.65 for current; \$305 for benevolence.

Highland’s Offering

Aug: \$4,572 for current; \$122 for benevolence.
Sep: \$2,798 for current; \$149 for benevolence.
Oct: \$5,260 for current; \$257 for benevolence.
Nov 2: \$755 for current; \$15 for benevolence.

In-person worship attendance:

Average attendance in June: 53
Average attendance in July: 49
Average attendance in Aug: 53
Average attendance in Sep: 47
Average attendance in Oct: 53
Nov 2: 74

Online worship views (Facebook and YouTube):

June: 2,363 views
July: 876 views
Aug: 2,047 views
Oct: 2,133 views
Nov 2: 554 views

Upcoming Dates:

Wed, Feb 18 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry soup/sandwich meal and Ash Wed worship service (Big Canoe)
Wed, Feb 25 (5:30pm): Shared Ministry meal and Lenten service (Pr. Becker preaching) (Burr Oak)
Apr 21 – May 5, 2026: Pr. Becker will be in Nigeria, Africa (ordaining 20 pastors)
August 9-14, 2026: Luther League/Shared Ministry Youth trip to the Boundary Waters



Shared Ministry Newsletter

November 2025



To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folsstad at linda.folsstad@gmail.com By: **November 15th** for the December 2025 Newsletter



All are invited to join us for **BIBLE STUDY** held at Highland Lutheran Church on Friday, November 14, 2025 at 9:30 am! *Bring a Friend!*

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

FALL INGATHERING
Olson Explosives in Decatur, IA
November 1, 2025
7:30 am to 11:30 am



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Burr Oak Lutheran Church Meatball Supper

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Drive-in only 4:00–7:00 pm
Menu: Meatballs, "Real" Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Coleslaw, Green Beans, Pumpkin Pie
Tickets: \$15 (Advance ticket sales appreciated)
Proceeds go toward local charities and church improvements
Tickets available at: Letterwerks Sign City, Red Roxy Quilt Co., Viking State Bank & Trust, Canton State Bank, Harmony State Bank, Burney's Bar & Grill, Bluffton Resort & Bar, Highlandville Store, KVIK, Linda Folsstad, and committee members



THANKSGIVING EYE WORSHIP WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025 Big Canoe Lutheran Church

1381 Big Canoe Road
Decorah, IA
Worship begins at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EYE WORSHIP SERVICE


Hosted by Area Council of Churches
Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm
Mabel United Methodist Church in Mabel, MN
Bring an Offering for the Mabel Area Food Shelf
Join the Choir ~ practice at 5:30 pm
Fellowship with coffee & bars follows the worship service

Shared Ministry Meeting Highlights

October 23, 2025 ~ Peace Lutheran Church

- * Preliminary plans were made for 2026 Lenten Shared Ministry Worship using a service written by Pr. Nathan Wricks
- * Final Lenten planning meeting scheduled for January 15, 2026 at 9 am in Hesper.
- * Next regular meeting will be April 23, 2026 at 9 am at St. John's in Locust.
- * Discussion continued on the proposed youth trip to the Boundary Waters in August 2026. Date will be finalized when new schedules are published.
- * Discussion on holding an informational meeting about "Leaving a Church Legacy". Details to be determined.
- * Highland/Big Canoe & Burr Oak Hesper participated in a special project to thank farmers by bringing them lunch in the field October 12th. Each parish provided and delivered 75–80 lunches to area farmers.

Worship Services ~ November 2025

	November 2 <i>Advent Sunday</i>	November 9	November 16	November 23 <i>Advent Sunday</i>	November 30 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i>
 Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker Website: beh Lutheran.org	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (Nicene Creed) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Big Canoe 11:00—Youth Confirmation	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (Nicene Creed) 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Highland	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (Nicene Creed) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am—Worship at Big Canoe. Baptism	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (Nicene Creed) 10:00 am—Service of the Word at Highland	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (Nicene Creed) 10:00 am—Service of the Word at Highland
Burr Oak Pr. David Merges Lisa Kemmerer-Daeon Website: boh Lutheran.org	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/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
Canoe Ridge	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge	8:30 am - Joint Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge	8:30—am Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge
Glenwood Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	9:30 am Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am worship at Glenwood	9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	9:30 am Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge	9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Knilsson Website: haugelutheran.com	9:30 am—Joint Worship St. John's/HC 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC St. John's 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC St. John's 10:30 Fellowship
Ridgeway Lutheran Parish Peace, Orleans Pr. Nathan Wricks Website: ridgewayparish.weebly.com	9:00 am—Worship at Orleans 10:30 am—Worship at Peace.	9:00 am - Worship at Orleans 10:30 am—Worship at Peace	9:00 am—Worship at Orleans 10:30 am - Worship at Peace	9:30 am—Worship at Orleans 10:30 am Worship at Peace	9:30 am—Worship at Orleans 10:30 am Worship at Peace

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						LWR Truck Olson Explosives 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 11:00 Youth Confirmation Holy Communion All Saints Sunday	Pastor Becker participating at a pastor's retreat in Chicago thru tomorrow			Pastor Becker participating in Boundaries Education		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion 22nd Sunday after Pentecost					Please bring Thank Offerings to Shirley Bigler or Deb Monson by Nov. 15.	Holiday Bazaar Greenfield Lutheran Church, Harmony, MN 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe with baptism of Tatum Nordheim 11:15-12 Youth Confirmation 12:30 Porter Sacquitne Baptism 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Becker gives three lectures at pastor's retreat at Creighton University through Thursday		Big Canoe WELCA noon lunch meeting to start at 1:00 p.m.			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Christ The King Sunday			Thanksgiving Eve service 6:30 p.m. Big Canoe			Christmas with Laura Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum in Burr Oak 9:30 a.m. - noon.
30						
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland First Sunday in Advent						

December

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Midweek Advent soup supper & worship service Big Canoe 5:00 p.m.			Annual spiritual/planning retreat for both congregations Big Canoe 9:00 to Noon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe Holy Communion 11:15-12 Youth Confirmation 2nd Sunday in Advent		Pastor Becker participates in a Crossings online presentation about Christmas 1:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent soup supper and worship service at Highland 5:00 p.m.			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion 3rd Sunday in Advent Highland WELCA after service			Midweek Advent soup supper and worship service at Big Canoe 5:00 p.m.			Children's Christmas Program practice Big Canoe 10 to 11:30 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45-9:30 Children's Christmas Program Practice - Big Canoe 10:00 Children's Christmas Program & Soup luncheon - BC 4th Sunday in Advent			Christmas Eve service and potluck meal Highland 5:30 p.m.	Christmas Day service Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.		Open House at the Parsonage 2 - 4 p.m. Carol singing at 3
28	29	30	31			
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland 1st Sunday after Christmas						

SHARED MINISTRY MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2025

9:00 am Peace Lutheran Church Ridgeway

- Devotions were given by Pr. Nathan Wicks from Jeremiah 31
- Lenten Worship planning committee will meet **January 15, 2026 at 9 am in Hesper** to finalize plans
- Next meeting for the Shared Ministry Group is **April 20, 2026 at 9:00 am at St. John's in Locust**
- **YOUTH TRIP TO BOUNDARY WATERS:**

Tentatively considering August 9 – 15 as dates for the trip. Schedules publicizing available times will be provided in February 2026 so plans will be finalized after that. Age group of those attending will be 16 and older. Linda will contact the Youth Leaders of each church to give them preliminary info about the trip and determine interest. Once plans are final a gathering will be held at Highland, probably in May, for everyone going on the trip to meet and get acquainted. Kevin Werges is willing to be one of the guides if he is available.

Congregation	Youth Leader
Orleans/Peace	Darcy Wemark
Big Canoe/Highland	Tammy Nordheim
Burr Oak/Hesper	Clint & Kari Koch, Chad & Jessie Wilson, Andrea Bjortomt, Lisa Kammerer
St. John's/Hauge	None at this time
Glenwood/Canoe Ridge	

- **LUNCH TO FARMERS**

On Sunday, October 12th members of Big Canoe/Highland and Burr Oak/Hesper packed and delivered 75 – 80 lunches per parish, for farmers as an expression of “Thanks” for their hard work and all they do. Lunches were appreciated and well received! Plans are to do this again next year. Date dependent on the weather and harvest conditions.

- **LEAVING A LEGACY OF MISSION AND MINISTRY**

There was discussion on the subject of leaving a church legacy, and the possibility of holding a seminar for Shared Ministry Churches on this topic. Leaving a Legacy was part of a presentation by a LaCrosse area Pastor at the 2024 C3 Synod Assembly, and more information is available on the ELCA website. The Shared Ministry Group will explore this further at upcoming meetings.

- **LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE PLANNING**

Preliminary worship plans were made with a meeting date set in January to finalize. We will be using “*Story Weaving Evening Prayer*” a service written by Pr. Nathan Wicks. It was decided to invite someone from the Synod and also from Luther to be Guest Speakers. If they are not available the schedule will be adjusted accordingly, with Shared Ministry pastors filling in. See the chart/info page with these notes for plan details made to date.

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** Work in progress. Will begin with the calendar year going forward.

Meeting attendance: **Peace Orleans:** Pr. Nathan Wicks, Mary Wemark
Hauge/St. John's: Terry Kittelson
Big Canoe/Highland: Pr. Matthew Becker
Burr Oak/Hesper: Pr. Dave Werges, Donna Rasmussen, Linda Folstad