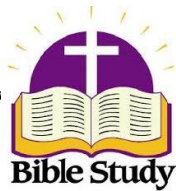


Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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

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



NEWSLETTER

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.

Please consider taking advantage of this educational opportunity as a way to grow in your Christian faith.

During the months of May and June, we will be studying the **Book of Revelation**. All are welcome to attend! During the months of July and August, we will not have the adult Sunday-morning Bible class. The class will resume in September.

Upcoming Events

- Sat, May 3 (7:30am): LWR Truck at Olson Explosives, Decorah
- Sun, May 4 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 4 (9am): Children's Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 4 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Third Sunday of Easter (white)
- May 5-7: Pastor Becker will be presenting two lectures at a theological conference in Ohio
- May 7-12: Pastor Becker will be in Valparaiso for Detra's graduation from Valparaiso University
- Thurs, May 8 (9am): Shared Ministry Meeting (Big Canoe)
- Thurs, May 8 (7pm): Follow-up Board meeting (via Zoom) for *Lutheran Quarterly*
- Sat, May 10: Detra Becker graduates with a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling
- Sun, May 11 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) (Highland [Pastor Gies])
- Sun, May 11 (10am): Worship w/Holy Communion (Highland [Pr. Gies]) – Fourth Sun. of Easter (white)
- Sun, May 11: Mother's Day
- Mon, May 12: Pastor Becker returns from Valparaiso
- Sun, May 18 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 18 (9am): Children's Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, May 18 (10am): Service of the Word (Big Canoe) – Fifth Sunday of Easter (white)
- Wed, May 21 (2:30pm): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Aase Haugen
- Fri, May 23 through Sat, May 31: Pastor Becker will be in Oregon, visiting his mom for her birthday
- Sun, May 25 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Book of Revelation) (Highland [Pastor Gies])
- Sun, May 25 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Sixth Sunday of Easter (white) (Pastor Gies)
- Fri, June 6 – Sat, June 7: ELCA NEI Synod Assembly in Cedar Falls
- Sun, June 15 (10am): Baptism of Nelly May Young (Big Canoe)
- Sat, June 21 (10am-1pm): Annual church retreat for Highland and Big Canoe churches (Big Canoe)
- Sun, July 27: Shared Ministry Joint Worship Service, Potluck, and Fun Day (Highlandville School)

2025-2026 Big Canoe Grindeland Scholarship

Forms are available at the back of the church on the small chest of drawers on the left side behind the pews.

Big Canoe WELCA is asking for donations for the cleaning of the church. Donations can be placed in the WELCA Treasurer's inbox at the church or mailed to Deb Monson, 109 Monroe St., Decorah. Thanks to all for your donation in support of this church project.

Big Canoe Cemetery lots

\$350 members

\$700 non-members

Anyone wanting their slab of cement poured for a tombstone, pouring will be done this spring. Contact Tammy Nordheim for more information.
563-546-7716 or 563-380-5572

Memorial Day Luncheon & Service in the Cemetery

Monday, May 26, 2025

Luncheon at Big Canoe at 11:00 a.m.

Service in the cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

Have you heard about MMIW or MMIR? Indigenous Women (or Relatives) have gone missing or been murdered at a higher rate than all others. There are many resources available at the ELCA.org and WomenoftheELCA.org websites. The Women of the ELCA is hosting regional book studies during May using the novel "Where They Last Saw Her" by Marcie R. Rendon. Watch for information and registration opportunities at WomenoftheELCA.org website.

Do you know what is happening **May 5**? There is a **candlelight Prayer Vigil at 7 p.m. CT** for Murdered or Missing Indigenous Women (or Relatives). The Vigil will be on Zoom, you can register to attend at WomenoftheELCA.org website.

I invite you all to wear red to remember our Indigenous neighbors who have gone missing or been murdered on May 5.

Big Canoe Church Council Meeting Minutes - March 23, 2025

Council members present: Brian Bigler - President, Deb Monson - Secretary, Laurie Emery - Treasurer, Council members: Kathryn Thompson, Vernoe Whitaker, Seth Ferguson, and Pastor Becker. Pastor Becker gave the prayers.

Bill Stoen was present solely for the purpose of updating the council on insurance matters.

Custodian Bob Maroushek expressed concern with regard to a rubber flap by the church steeple. Laurie will look up the name and telephone number of the contractor and provide that info to Brian so that he can place a call to them.

During the Wednesday evening Lenten supper and services (3-20-25 actual date) there was a back up issue in the Ladies restroom. Casper Plumbing was contacted to remove tree roots from the septic clay tile line. Ness Pumping Services will be contacted to pump the septic tank.

The Luther League will be donating the proceeds from the Easter Pie Auction to be used to renovate the men's restroom.

Another church property insurance policy was discussed which would offer \$311,000 in insurance coverage. Before obtaining this policy, many updates to the church would need to be completed: fire extinguisher system over the stove in the kitchen, special locks for all doors, an alarm system what would notify the sheriff's department and/or the Fire Department should the need arise.

All members of the church council need insurance coverage under a liability policy as council members can be sued.

President Brian Bigler adjourned the meeting. Pastor Becker gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

Big Canoe Church Council Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2025

Council members present: Brian Bigler - President, Steve Emery - Vice President, Deb Monson - Secretary, Laurie Emery - Treasurer, Council members: Kathryn Thompson, Vernoe Whitaker, Bill Bullerman, and Pastor Becker. Total Big Canoe members present: 19.

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order.

Two church members are needed to serve on the Property Committee. By unanimous vote and passage, Steve Emery and Bob Thomas were voted to serve as the Property Committee.

The Synod meeting will be held at Cedar Falls on June 7th. Pastor Becker will be attending. Rita Hurd-Thomas will serve as a delegate. One more person is needed to serve as a delegate from Big Canoe.

Property insurance: At the present time, the Parsonage and all of the outbuildings along with the caretaker's residence are insured. The annual policy cost is \$6,019.00.

An insurance quote from American Family Insurance was received. A walk through and a video was conducted at the church. Insurance coverage of \$1.8 million for the church would be at a cost of \$23,732.25 per year. This coverage would include a 3% deductible of \$65,000. Before American Family Insurance would offer this policy the following upgrades would need to be completed: a fire extinguishing/suppression system would need to be installed over the kitchen stove, cypher lock entry system, an alarm system that would notify the Sheriff's Department and/or Fire Department. This list is not all inclusive.

A policy is also being looked into for liability insurance for the council members who can be sued for their actions as council members.

Pastor Becker said that he is a Spiritual Believer. Big Canoe has a history of 120 years (present location) originally founded in 1853. Consideration may be needed to put our Trust in the Lord. We are not alone in this situation as Hauge Lutheran Church has had its insurance policy cancelled as well. There may be a class action lawsuit against Church Mutual. Another possibility could be for a National Campaign for assistance to rebuild.

Danny Dutka (Highland member) advised that Highland has a Workmen's Compensation Policy that provides coverage for Pastor; Kathryn Thompson as the organist, and for himself for all the work he has done for the church.

Brian stated that if some disaster were to happen, we would not be able to rebuild Big Canoe as it is today. We would need to rebuild for the future.

Pastor Becker said he would pray for the Lord to protect us and the church.

The parsonage septic system was updated/replaced within the last five years. Shirley Bigler asked the question, that if we were to vote to update the church's septic system but whoever does the upgrade couldn't start the work right now, would the decision to upgrade be grandfathered in under the old laws/rules versus any new laws/rules that may go into effect wherein the new septic system could end up costing the church three times as much based upon the current laws/rules. A reply was stated, "yes, we would be grandfathered in."

President Brian stated that the CD's that the church has available could be used to update the church's septic system and include the septic system at the caretaker's residence.

Brian requested a motion regarding the same.

Treasurer Laurie Emery advised that there are monies available from the Grindeland and the Osmundson Funds, and monies from the Improvement Fund.

Rita Hurd Thomas made the motion to replace the septic system at the church, to include updating the caretaker's residence, obtain a bid, and use CD's that had been set aside for use for the church.

Dave Bigler seconded the motion. The congregation members present all voted aye, motion passed.

President Brian Bigler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

Other Announcements:

Sunday school class at Big Canoe. If you would like to help with the Sunday school, please speak with Anna Jetson, Tammy Nordheim, or Pastor Becker.

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

The actual first quarterly offering at Highland: \$9,678 for current and \$938 for benevolence.

The actual first quarterly offering at Big Canoe: \$23,210 for current and \$1,536 for benevolence.

Highland's Offering:

- Apr 6: \$425 for current and \$5 for benevolence.
- Apr 13: \$1230 for current and \$150 for benevolence.
- Apr 20 (Easter): \$990 current, \$65 for benevolence.

Big Canoe's Offering:

- Apr 6: \$1,524 for current and \$260 for benevolence.
- Apr 13: \$1,255 for current and \$60 for benevolence.
- Apr 17 (Maundy Thursday): \$238
- Apr 20 (Easter): \$3,289 current, \$125 for benevolence.

Please note: **All loose offering or cash** in the offering plate goes to the church that is hosting the service that day. There are generic offering envelopes in the entryway to both churches if you wish to designate your offering to go to the other church.

\$5,200 was raised for the Luther League at the **pie auction** on Easter Sunday. The Luther League has voted to use this money to help with the capital improvement project of renovating the men's bathroom at Big Canoe.

In-person worship attendance:

- Average attendance in March: 67
- Apr 13: 49
- Apr 20 (both churches combined): 195

Online worship views (Facebook):

- January: 1,996 views
- February: 1,865 views
- March: 2158
- Apr 6: 249 views
- Apr 13: 401 views
- Apr 20: 621 views

The NE Iowa Synod Assembly will take place on Saturday, June 7, in Cedar Falls. Alongside Pastor Becker, the delegate from Big Canoe will be Rita Hurd-Thomas, while the delegates from Highland will be Danny Dutka and Steve Langland.

Bi-congregational retreat: Saturday, June 21, 10am-1pm (including lunch). All members of Big Canoe and Highland are invited to participate in this strategic-planning retreat. What should our joint goals be for the coming five years?

"Laura's Sack Lunch Drive Thru Meal" - Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, Burr Oak, IA
Sunday, May 4th - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Serving your choice of two: Winneshiek County Cattlemen's Favorites Ribeye Steak Sandwich Meal \$12 OR
½ Cheeseburger Meal \$10. Meal includes chips, cookie, and water.
Proceeds go towards restoring the Burr Oak Mercantile

2025 Iowa High School Senior Scholarships for nursing long-term care

Students who are in their senior year of high school during the 2024-2025 academic year and interested in pursuing a nursing career in long-term care can apply for one of nine \$2,000 scholarships through the Iowa Healthcare Association and provided by The Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation (MolinaCares).

The scholarships cover tuition fees to pursue a certified nursing assistant (CNA), licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), associate of science in nursing (ASN) or bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program for the 2025-2026 academic year. This scholarship is intended for those interested in a future career in long-term care. *Applications for this scholarship program are open now through May 31, 2025.*

Applicants for the MolinaCares High School Scholarship must meet all criteria listed below and submit a complete application by May 31, 2025, to qualify:

- Must be an Iowa high school senior during the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Must be enrolled or accepted in an accredited nursing program, or plan to pursue prerequisites in 25-26.
- Scholarships must be used during the 2025-2026 academic year. The application is available at: <https://iowahealthcare.org/2024-molinacares-high-school-scholarship-application-form>. The link is also available on Aase Haugen's Facebook page. The IHCA Foundation Board of Directors will judge qualified applications and recipients will be notified by the end of July. Awarded scholarship funds are placed in the care of the recipient's approved educational institution by the end of August to be credited to the recipient's

tuition and/or fees in the 2025-2026 academic year.

May 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. Big Canoe National Day of Prayer	2 Friendship Day United Methodist Church Decorah 9:00 a.m.	3 LWR Truck Olson Explosives 7:30-10: SWO Board Mtg. Waverly
4 8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Communion	5	6	7	8	9 Gather Bible Study 9:00 Highland	10
11 8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Communion Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Bingo at Aase Haugen. Arrive at 3:00, play at 3:30.				
18 8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Sunday School 8:00 Worship, Big Canoe Decorah High School Graduation, 2:00 p.m.	19	20 Birthday Party Green Lea Manor 2:00 p.m. (purchase cakes, cupcakes & bring \$10 in quarters)	21	22	23	24
25 8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Highland Luther College Graduation	26 Memorial Day Lunch 11:00 Service in Cemetery 2:00 Big Canoe	27	28	29	30 Spring Grove & Mabel Canton High School Graduation 7:00 p.m.	31



Shared Ministry Newsletter May 2025



! *To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at linda.folstad49@gmail.com
By: May 15th for the June 2025 Newsletter



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

Let Anna Jenson know if you are in need of a copy of the Bible Study.

MMIW/MMIR Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women/or Relatives

Women of the ELCA are holding regional book studies to raise awareness of Indigenous women who have gone missing or who have been murdered at a higher rate than others. You are invited to wear red on May 5th in their memory. Visit www.womenoftheelca.org for more information and to learn about a candle-light vigil on May 5, 2025.

SHARED MINISTRY LENTEN WORSHIP

This Lenten season marked the third year our Shared Ministry group of churches held mid-week worship services together. Well attended services were held at St. John's in Locust, Washington Prairie, Big Canoe, Burr Oak, Glenwood & Madison. Fellowship in the sharing of a meal, the opportunity for participation in a combined choir, and journeying through the Lenten season together in weekly worship continued to strengthen connections between our faith communities. This year we were excited to welcome members of Washington Prairie and Ridgeway Parish to our Round Robin Rotation, and to have Rev. Liz Bell and Rev. Kristen Corr Rod from the Synod office attend and preach at two of the services. Loose Offering collected at Lenten worship was designated for the Decorah and Mabel Area food pantries. A total of \$2,926.00 in offerings was received for the pantries and was split between them equally.

The next Shared Ministry Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8th at 9:00 am at Big Canoe. Discussion will center around review of the Lenten services and planning for a special Shared Ministry worship event and potluck meal on July 27th. All are welcome to attend the meeting to learn more about Shared Ministry and to share your thoughts and ideas!

† HAUGE LUTHERAN CHURCH—Memorial Weekend Picnic (3147 Middle Hesper Road; Decorah, IA)

Sunday, May 25, 2025 Serving from 11:00 am–2:00 pm

† WASHINGTON PRAIRIE LUTHERAN — Memorial Day Luncheon
(1725 Washington Prairie Road; Decorah, IA)

Monday, May 26, 2025 ~ Serving from 11:00 am–1:00 pm

† HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Memorial Day Remembrance at the Cemetery May 26th —7:30 am followed by Sandwiches and Bars served in the Dining Room

Upcoming Events

May 2: May Friendship Day. 9:00 am First United Methodist Church in Decorah,

May 3: LWR Ingathering at Olson Explosives in Decorah. 7:30–10:30 am


May 8 : 9 am—Shared Ministry Meeting at Big Canoe

June 6-7: Synod Assembly at Bien VenU in Cedar Falls. Discounted registration fee of \$130 until May 1st. Final registration date is May 15

July 27: Shared Ministry Churches—Joint outdoor worship, Potluck, Fun Day in Highlandville. More info to come.

Websites: www.WomenoftheELCA.org www.NEIA.synod.org

Worship Services ~ May 2025

	May 4	May 11 Mother's Day	May 18	May 25
 Highland & Big Canoe Pr: Matthew Becker Website: bchlutheran.org	10:00 am—Joint worship/HC at Big Canoe 8:45 am Adult Bible Class. 9:00 am Children's Sunday School	10:00 am—Joint worship/HC at Highland 8:45 am Adult Bible Class	10:00 am—Joint Worship at Big Canoe 8:45 am Adult Bible Class. 9:00 am Children's Sunday School	10:00 am—Joint Worship at Highland 8:45 am Adult Bible Class
Burr Oak Pr: David Merges Lisa Kammerer—Diacon	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship
Hesper Website: bohllutheran.org	10:00 am Worship/HC	10:00 am Worship Muffins with Mom	10:00 am Worship/HC Baccalaureate	10:00 am Worship
Canoe Ridge Pr: Matthew Rossler	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30: Coffee Hour 9:30 am Sunday School	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge Baccalaureate Confirmation	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30: Coffee Hour	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge
Glenwood Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood May 15: 9:30 am - St. John's WELCA meets	10:30 am—Worship At Glenwood	8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood 9:30 am—Coffee Hour
St. John's & Hauge Pr: Randy Kintelson Website: haugelutheran.com	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	9:30 am Joint Worship/HC Hauge 10:30 Fellowship
Ridgeway Lutheran Parish Pr: Nathan Wicks Website: ridgewayparish.weebly.com	9:30 am: Joint worship/HC at Orleans (Taco Fiesta for Moms following worship)	9 am: Worship at Madison/HC 10:30 am: Worship at Peace/HC Baptism Graduate Recognition	9:00 am—Worship at Madison/HC 10:30 am—Worship at Orleans/HC	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC at Madison
Washington Prairie Lutheran Website: washingtontprairie.lutheran.org	10:00 am Worship/HC	10:00 am Worship	10:00 am Worship/HC	10:00 am Worship

Pastor Becker · 219-916-8535 · 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.

Big Canoe Council members:

Brian Bigler – President

Steve Emery – Vice President

Deb Monson – Secretary

Laurie Emery – Treasurer

Highland Council members:

Anna Jetson – President

Alan Erickson – Vice President

Kristy Selness – Secretary

Danny Dutka - Treasurer

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Schedule

Big Canoe Church

Highland Lutheran Church

1st & 3rd Sundays at Big Canoe

2nd & 4th Sundays at Highland

March & August, 5th Sunday at Big Canoe

June & November, 5th Sunday at Highland

Pastor Becker will include each months worship
schedule in his weekly email devotion.

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches - (563)546-7974

e-mail: bchlutheran@gmail.com website: www.bchlutheran.org