

# 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

**May worship services – 10:00 a.m. – Big Canoe**

Family Game night - Highland  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 pm

Baked potato/salad bar, board or card games.

Bring your favorite game or learn a new one!

Freewill offering. RSVP Anna Jetson cell 952-240-9569 or email [amjetson@yahoo.com](mailto:amjetson@yahoo.com).

### **Big Canoe Council Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2024**

Council members present: Brian Bigler- President, Steve Emery – Vice President, Deb Monson – secretary, Laurie Emery – Treasurer, Kathryn Thompson, Lisa Bullerman – financial secretary, and council members Bill Bullerman and Shelley Bigler.

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order.

Laurie Emery gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved and placed on file.

Quarterly Report:	Balance on Hand 12/31/23	\$ 3,357.14
	Total Receipts	\$29,894.93
	<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>-\$27,101.58</u>
	Balance on hand 3/31/24	\$ 6,150.49

After some discussion, the council agreed to suspend the opening of a new bank account for online offerings by parishioners.

Due to the many insects in the church, the council decided to make the request of a person from Waukon who does pest control to spray both the inside and the outside of the church.

Brian brought to the attention of the council that the church locks are not that secure.

Discussion was had on establishing an email sign up at church for receipt of the newsletter online. The council would like to see parishioners sign up for this to reduce the mailing cost of the newsletter.

There will be no council meeting in the month of May.

The joint council meeting with Highland will be determined at a later date.

The council is waiting for bids from contractors for the tuck-pointing project and repairs to the church. The bids will also provide information on what part of the church needs to be done first. Tor Oksnevad has provided a very lengthy and detailed report.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

## Highland Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes- April 14, 2024

### Call to Order

The April 14, 2024, meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Steve Langland at approximately 11:05 a.m. in the basement of the church. Council members in attendance: President Steve Langland, Secretary Darlene Sollien, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Anna Jetson, Karen Erickson, Al Erickson and Gary Selness.

### Secretary's Report

Motion by Dan Dutka and seconded by Karen Erickson to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting of February 4, 2024 and approve by consensus. Motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

Dan Dutka provided printed materials for the quarterly report and a revised budget. The revised budget includes the \$1,000.00 for local benevolence. Dan reported that there's nothing out of the ordinary, just paid routine bills such as the electric bill and maintenance. He has been working with the insurance company to ensure that our premises are insured. We are OK with worker's comp, but he is concerned about coverage for the premises. Dan explained the address is incorrect, the year that the church was built is incorrect and a few other issues. Balances as of March 31, 2024 were:

- Current \$21,390.57
- Benevolence \$ 1,501.00
- Anniversary Fund \$ 375.10

Dan gave a verbal report for the first quarter parsonage account:

- Beginning Balance: \$10,534.25
- Income: \$13,881.68
- Disbursements: \$948.80
- Balance on Hand as of 3-31-24: \$12,932.88

Motion by Gary Selness and seconded by Anna Jetson to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit. Motion carried.

### Old Business

1. Calling Tree Update: Anna volunteered to work on updating our calling tree. Dan will send to her the old version.
2. Landscaping Update: The landscaping project will begin sometime in May and the plan is to put in low maintenance items and no trees. Anyone can help with this project.
3. Call Committee Update: Steve reported that we've been provided the names and information for 2-3 candidates. One candidate was rejected by Big Canoe. There are still concerns as to whether or not we can afford a full time pastor.

### New Business

1. Communion Assistants for June 2 and 9: This is a council member responsibility. Karen will serve on June 2 and Anna will serve on June 9.
2. Scripture Reading Assignments – Council Members: Although anyone can read the scripture lessons on Sunday, Steve felt that council members should take the lead on this. Readers are needed for April 21 and 28 and June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. It does help if we have the text ahead of time. Anna volunteered to read on June 9. Darlene will create a sign-up sheet for us.
3. Donations: Motion by Karen Erickson and seconded by Al Erickson to donate \$100 each to Carl Bergan and Stacy Linderbaum. Motion carried.

4. Our next meeting is currently set for June 9, but will likely change to a date later in the month. It is a joint meeting with Big Canoe at the Highland Lutheran Church.
5. Other:
  - a. The thank you note from the Mabel Food Shelf was sent around for our review.
  - b. Anna reported that June 1 is the ministry fair and she would like to attend. It's at Wartburg College and is a one day conference and the cost is \$50.00. We do have money in the budget for this.
  - c. Anna has been working on a list of birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasion of our shut-ins and others in need. The idea would be that we would take turns each month sending cards.
  - d. Anna reported that they are still working on the time and talent survey.
  - e. Anna provided a Sunday School update.
  - f. Anna reminded us of the shared ministry meeting today.
  - g. Steven indicated that he's been speaking with Pastor Gies about a Saturday night service. There are five Sundays in June and perhaps that fifth Sunday service could be switched to a Saturday night service. Could have a potluck too.
  - h. Anna reminded us that the first annual Family Game night is May 3 at Highland Church. There are various games and food; a baked potato and salad bar. The goal is for this to be monthly and to have other churches take turns hosting the event.
  - i. Gary indicated that he read in the Big Canoe council minutes that they discussed discontinuing the written newsletter because the costs are getting higher for printing and postage. This will be discussed at the joint meeting in June.
  - j. Steve talked briefly about security during worship service and locking the back door to the church. Some churches have their doors locked at all times, even when someone is in the church office.
  - k. Dan updated us on the railing and pews project. Looking at a white railing now. At one time we discussed painting the lectern white, but feel that just touching up the gold cross will help. Dan is looking at replacing the front light with an LED light and flood the front of the church with light; much like Big Canoe does. We would be able to see this from the highway.
6. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.
7. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Larson Sollien - Highland Secretary