

# 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

## N E W S L E T T E R

Regular worship services at Highland in December

- Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. service at Highland
- Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. service at Highland
- Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. service at Big Canoe, Children's Christmas program
- Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, no regular 10:00 a.m. Sunday service.
  - 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion at Highland
  - Soup supper follows
- Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service with Holy Communion at Big Canoe
- Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m. service at Highland
- Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. service at Big Canoe



### 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 Nathan 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, IA 52101

**From Big Canoe WELCA & Quilters** – Thank you to all who have contributed in any way, whether financial, with Thrivent cards, food or items this past year to our many gatherings, for Bremwood, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, personal care kits, for the Furniture Restore projects in Cedar Rapids, local food closets, local women shelters, the Midwest Bible Mission, nursing homes, the bake/garage sale, and those who have donated in place of our supper. These things are very important. With all this support we are able to help at least a few in need and it is very much appreciated by those who have received. We have been blessed by those who give and paid with hugs and tears of thankfulness. Thank you to everyone!!

### *MESSAGE FROM BIG CANOE REGARDING LUTEFISK DINNER*

People have been asking about a possible Lutefisk dinner hosted by our church. There are no plans for any lutefisk dinner in any form. A long list of reasons, but short answer is, NO Lutefisk Supper! Maybe some year in the future. This being said, be aware that the Highlandville General Store has fresh and frozen fish available for your personal needs.





## **Volunteers needed for the Christmas Program on December 17 at Big Canoe:**

10:00 a.m. for joint worship. We need 11 readers, can be young people, confirmation kids, youth group members or adults. We have a couple of Christmas songs that can be sung by a choir/small group or individuals. We will have rehearsal on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Big Canoe, on December 10<sup>th</sup> after morning worship at Highland, and on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Big Canoe. If you have questions, please contact Anna Jetson @ 952-240-9569 cell phone.

**Hannah Circle meeting  
December 7<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 p.m.  
Big Canoe Church  
Potluck**

***Highland is in need of a treasurer*** starting January 1, 2024 due to Anna's resignation. Please contact any Highland Council member if you willing to serve the congregation in this vital role. Highland Church Council will meet at 9 AM prior the December 2 service to discuss the treasurer position.

## **Highland members,**

We want to thank you all so much for all of your prayers and the generous gift. Your support and prayers mean so much to us. Love to all, Eric & Sarah Ostern

Thank you to all who donated food or cash for the Mabel food pantry. We had a full tote, two boxes of canned goods and some cash. Mange Tuk! (Many Thanks)

Thank you to all that donated items for the LWR Kits and Quilts. The truck was over 2/3 full this time. Keep up the good work, good and faithful stewards.

The **2024 offering boxes are now at Highland** and ready for pickup. If you do not want your box of offering envelopes, please let Virginia Karlsbrotten know. Also, if you are in need of a tax report of your giving for 2023, please let her know before year end.

- Reminder: PLEASE put the \$\$ amount on your offering envelopes, not an x or a check mark. It is not necessary to write your envelope number on your check UNLESS it is not in the church envelope that has the number on it. If you are mailing multiple envelopes for several Sundays, you can write one (1) check and send it. If I receive them all together, they will all go in together for 1 Sunday. I cannot go back and "fix" previous week's offerings. I appreciate this. It makes it a bit easier for me so that I can be as accurate as possible. Also, please no tape. Thanks, Virginia Karlsbrotten

## Big Canoe Lutheran Church Council Meeting, November 11, 2023

The Big Canoe Church Council met for its regular monthly meeting on November 11, 2023, following services at Big Canoe. Members present were: Pat O'Regan, Steve Emery, Shelly Bigler, Vern Whitaker, Rita Thomas, Brian Bigler, Laurie Emery and Pastor Gies.

Brian opened the meeting and Pastor led us in prayer.

The Secretary's report was read and placed on file.

The Treasurer's report was given and placed on file.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Pat reported that \$50,000 from the Helen Arneson fund has been placed in a 1-year CD. Pat motioned, Rita seconded, that we roll out all of our CD's, take the penalties, and put them in any bank that pays over 5% interest. Motion carried. The banks where CD's will be put will be chosen by Lisa. Pat will talk to her about this matter.
- Kathryn reported she is in the process of locating someone who can go over our entire organ as it hasn't been looked at for many years and has some issues. The switch is now working so we can turn it on and off.
- No news yet on the last tuckpointing bid.
- Pastor reported that he will contact Bishop Jones about asking a Seminary student from Waukon about possibly filling in sometimes this winter. Apparently, students are not supposed to do interim work while students but exceptions can possibly be made.
- The Call Committee has reported they have a ZOOM meeting with a candidate on Friday, 11/10/23. Every one say a prayer.
- The locations for Lenten services have been decided: February 21, Burr Oak; February 28, St. Johns; March 6, Hesper; March 13, Big Canoe; March 20, Canoe Ridge.
- Confirmation classes have resumed. Glenwood is hosting for November and Big Canoe will host in December.
- Our Thanksgiving offering will be split evenly between the Allamakee and Decorah Food Pantries.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Our AED (automatic defibrillator) was checked. The batteries are good until next year but the paddles need to be replaced. The possibility of AED and CPR classes were discussed.
- Raising the prices for use of the church facilities and the prices of cemetery plots was discussed. No action was taken at this time.
- Pastor posed a question for the congregation to think about. He asked us to define what the goal of the Big Canoe congregation was. Please think on this and give the council your ideas.

The next council meeting is December 3, 2023 after services at Highland.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Thomas



# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Highland Usher/Janitor 12/3 Gary Halverson 12/10 Ed Stoen 12/24 Danny Dutka 12/31 Al Erickson				1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPAUCGG 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Christ, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Service-Highland 10 AM</li> <li>• Communion</li> <li>• Big Canoe Council meeting after service</li> </ul>	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. Big Canoe Potluck	Gather Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Highland	Christmas program rehearsal, 10:00 AM at Big Canoe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPAUCGG 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Christ, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Service-Highland 10 AM</li> <li>• Communion</li> <li>• Christmas program rehearsal after service</li> </ul>	11	12	13	14	15	16
						Christmas program rehearsal, 10:00 AM at Big Canoe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPAUCGG 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Christ, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Service-Big Canoe 10 AM</li> <li>• Children's Christmas Program</li> </ul>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPAUCGG 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Christ, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Service-Highland 4:30 PM</li> <li>• Communion</li> <li>• Soup Supper to follow</li> </ul>	25	26	27	28	29	30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service at Big Canoe</li> <li>• Communion</li> </ul>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPAUCGG 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Christ, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Service-Highland 10 AM</li> </ul>	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6
				Big Canoe & Highland website: <a href="http://www.bcchlutheran.org">www.bcchlutheran.org</a>		Sunday, January 7 <sup>th</sup> Service will be at Big Canoe at 10:00 a.m.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

# ~ Shared Ministry Newsletter ~ December 2023



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 \*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folsted at [linda.folsted@lutheran.org](mailto:linda.folsted@lutheran.org)  
 By: December 15th for the January 2024 Newsletter  
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**COVID-19 Rapid Tests**  
 As of September 25, 2023 every U.S. household can again order 4 more Free Covid-19 Rapid Tests which will be delivered directly to your home. To order visit: [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)  
 Or call 1-800-232-0233

**All are invited to join us for Bible Study held at Highland Lutheran Church December 8th at 9:30 am!** The Bible Study Group consists of women from area churches who meet on the second Friday of each month. Discussion centers around Bible studies in the **GATHER** Magazine, an ELCA publication.



**ADVENT BRUNCH**  
 Burr Oak Lutheran Church  
 Women of the ELCA  
 invite you to their Advent  
 Brunch on Saturday,  
 December 2, 2023.

Program at 9:30 am with the Brunch to follow. Join us as we prepare our hearts for the Advent Season. All are welcome!

Join us for  
**Hops and Hymns**  
 at Barney's in Burr Oak  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
 2:00 – 4:00 pm




Enjoy an afternoon singing treasured Christmas hymns, sipping a favorite beverage, and sharing fellowship with good friends and neighbors!



**Lutheran World Relief**  
**Ingathering**  
 Olson Explosives in Decorah was the site of the fall LWR Ingathering in November.  
 Many Quilts, School kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Kits and more will make their way to those in need locally and globally. Youth and adults from Immanuel Lutheran in Cresco and St. Paul's Lutheran in Postville were on hand to help with the loading.

Cresco and St. Paul's Lutheran in Postville were on hand to help with the loading.

Worship Services ~ December 2023						
	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	December 31
						
<b>Highland Big Canoe</b> Pr. Waldemar Gies, Interim	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland	Joint Worship at Big Canoe. Christmas Program	Joint worship At 4:30 pm at Highland	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe	Joint worship 10:00 am at Highland
<b>Burr Oak</b>	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	4:30 pm and 10:30 pm	10:00 am	10:00 am
<b>Hesper</b> Pr. David Werges Deacon: Lisa Kammerer	8:30 am <i>Coffee Hour</i>	8:30 am <i>Coffee Hour</i>	8:30 am <i>Coffee Hour</i>	10:30 pm Candlelight worship/Holy Communion In Hesper	worship/Holy Communion In Burr Oak	10:00 am Joint Burr Oak/Hesper <b>Hymn Sing</b> <b>Worship Service</b> in Burr Oak
<b>Canoe Ridge</b>	10:30 am Glenwood Hanging of the Greens	10:30 am	10:30 am Glenwood Sunday School Program	6:00 pm at Canoe Ridge	No worship services <i>Christmas Day</i>	8:30 am  10:30 am
<b>Glenwood</b> Pr. Matthew Rossler	10:30 am Hanging of the Greens	8:30 am	10:30 am Sunday School Program	4:00 pm at Glenwood	No worship unless the service is cancelled Christmas Eve. Then 9:30 am at St. John's	Joint Worship 9:30 am at Hauge
<b>St. John's Hauge</b> Pr. Randy Kittleson	Joint worship 9:30 am at Hauge	Joint worship 9:30 am at St. John's	Joint worship 9:30 am at Hauge	4:00 pm—Hauge/St. John Candlelight services of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion	No worship unless the service is cancelled Christmas Eve. Then 9:30 am at St. John's	Joint Worship 9:30 am at Hauge

**Upcoming Events**  
 Apr. 20, 2024: Upper Iowa River Cluster meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Decorah

**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

**Clean Energy Funds Availability**  
 Access for Houses of Worship to obtain clean energy funds was made possible due to the passage of the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** and **Inflation Reduction Act**. Grants up to \$200,000 are available to non-profits for improving the energy efficiency of their facilities. To find out more visit [www.energy.gov/iseep/renewamericas-nonprofits](http://www.energy.gov/iseep/renewamericas-nonprofits) or contact [nonprofits@doe.gov](mailto:nonprofits@doe.gov).

