



Farewell and Thank you!

A Blessed farewell to Pastor Kurt Bockoven and his family as they move on to his new calling in Harmony, MN. We thank him for his years of service and contributions to Big Canoe, Highland, and Scheie churches. Thank you to Pastor Waldemar Gies of Rochester for being our Pastor during this time of transition.

Big Canoe WELCA

The 2021 booklets are ready, we will get them out as soon as possible. There may be some mistakes. If you have questions or corrections, please let me know. It was a hard year to plan. Check your newsletter or call me as things may or may not happen. Hopefully we can get back to normal at some point.

There are quite a few prayer shawls in the tote in the entry, please feel free to take them if you know of someone who may need one. Here's to a better year. The best we can do is pray, wear a mask, and self-distance.

Be safe, Emma Thompson

Offering Totals 2020

If you need a copy of your offering totals please contact:

Lisa Bullerman 563-382-0856

OR

Virginia Karlsbrotten at
vkarlsbrotten@gmail.com

From Highland:

Please help! LWR is looking for fabric kits. What is most needed are spools of thread 250 or 300 yards of general sewing thread. Two spools are needed for each kit. LWR prefers it to match the fabric or use neutral colors. Currently there is a variety of colors in the fabric pieces. Thread can be dropped in the container at Highland. Thank you for your assistance!!!

From Highland Ladies:

We want to pass along the appreciation and excitement from the local Food Pantry upon receiving our latest donation of 100 lbs. of food and household items. A picture was taken to document the contribution and it was made possible by everyone's generosity. Thank you!

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES:

Big Canoe Church Council Meeting Jan. 21, 2021

The council met in the basement of the church with members also joining via Zoom (Liz, Amanda, Mike).

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Stoen and Pastor Kurt provided a prayer. Secretary's report was given, approved and passed. Treasurer's report was given by Laurie. She reports a balance of \$4,212.88. All bills paid. There will be one coming with Viking Pest Control. Crop rent was paid for the year to the church. Pastor reports that he has two funerals yet and one burial at the church.

Old Business: Discussion was had regarding Pastor Waldemar Gies from Rochester. He will do in-person services at this time, and he is the only one that will do so. Service times and Pastor coverage will be items to discuss at the Annual meeting next week. The Pastor reports the following timeline: He is done with his call at Big Canoe on Feb. 4th and he starts his new call on Feb. 5th. It is decided to meet to sign papers the 4th, he is moving with a company on Feb 6th and has a cleaning company coming in to the parsonage on Feb. 8th. A motion was made to sign the papers the 4th, move the 6th, cleaners come the 8th, and a walk through of the house will be done with the Pastor present and council members February 10th. Time to be set later. Pastor was advised by Danny D. from Highland not to spackle any nail holes as that should be done before any painting in the future, so he will not be doing that. The Pastor will pay for the cleaning crew on his own. The Pastor will also return in the spring to collect his raised garden beds and sandbox. This motion and timeline of events was made by Sandy and seconded by Darryl and approved by all.

The custodian furnace has been completed, no bill yet. New 1000 tank and line is not dug until spring. There was also some flashing and duct work to complete. The tank is contracted with Hovey LP however the fuel in it is the custodian's responsibility. We hope that this bill will be under \$5,000.

New Business: An exit interview is scheduled with the Pastor on Sunday January 31st, following the annual meeting. Bill and Liz will do this with Pastor. There are questions and guidelines from the Synod to go through together.

The annual meeting agenda was completed and it was decided since there will be no potluck this year with the public health emergency, it would be moved to 12:00 noon after church service. The agenda items were assigned and completed. Council members willing to join are noted as Nathan Borreson and Pat O'Regan. Anyone wishing to come forward and join may do so that day of the meeting as well. Agenda and budget items were all discussed and changed were needed and completed.

The meeting was adjourned and all said the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Stortz, Secretary

Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting January 9, 2021

The Highland Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President Gary Halverson at approximately 2 p.m. on January 9, 2021. Attending were Pastor Kurt Bockoven, President Gary Halverson, Vice-President Al Erickson, Secretary Danny Dutka, Joyce Bjerke. Absent Steve Langland and Lyle Bjerke. Treasurer Anna Jetson arrived after the call to order. Pastor Bockoven provided an opening prayer.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the August 10th meeting were read. Moved by Joyce Bjerke, seconded by Al Erickson to approve as read. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer Report

Anna Jetson reports she was glad to see that our finances were in the positive at the end of 2020. All monies borrowed from the Improvement Fund during the year have also been paid back. She stated there was about \$338.00 left of 2020 regular benevolence giving that wasn't earmarked and requested that it be distributed at this time. After discussion it was moved by Danny Dutka to give \$100 each to the Aase Haugen, Green Lea Manor, and Tweeten Lutheran nursing care centers. Motion was seconded by Al Erickson. Motion carried. The treasurers report to be placed on file for audit.

Pastoral Report

Pastor Bockoven stated that he will need to meet with representatives from both churches to do an exit interview checklist including financial settlement and other items prior to his last day on February 4th.

He will be working on his end of year report to include in the Annual Meetings. He stated he will not be in attendance at Highland's meeting since he will be already at his new call Greenfield Lutheran in Harmony, MN. He will be meeting with parish secretary Denise Gulrud to make sure she can continue to provide bulletins, newsletter and other support to our parish. How we will get bulletins to Highland and Scheie is a question to be answered. She may have to deliver them as part of her duties.

Discussion on how services are planned and how the Sunday bulletin are created. We learned that information from a website called **sundaysandseasons.com** is a resource used to prepare a service. We also learned that Kathryn our organist usually chooses the hymns.

Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson of Glenwood-Canoe Ridge has agreed to provide back-up pastoral services in emergencies. She also said sharing of their virtual worship services may be possible.

Requested that he be able to retrieve the sandbox and other outdoor items in the spring as they are frozen in place. Council had no objection to this.

Stated that the 2021 Synod Assembly is scheduled to be in Decorah this year. Date is to be June 11-13 and there is to be election of a new Synod Bishop. The election of a new Bishop was to have been done in 2020 but the Assembly was canceled due to the pandemic.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

Annual Meeting Agenda will be similar to last year. We will have to figure out what we want to do about making up a janitorial duty list, schedule of service times, etc.

The Council prepared the 2021 budget to present at the Annual Meeting. Discussion on increasing the organist pay resulted in a motion by Joyce Bjerke to increase the organist per service payment to \$60.00. Motion seconded by Al Erickson. Motion carried by voice vote. After further discussion it was moved by Al Erickson, seconded by Danny Dutka to submit the proposed budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2021 after an 11 a.m. service.

The nominating committee consisting of Eric Selness, Louise Jetson, Mark Solien, and Al Erickson from the council will need to be activated. Gary Halverson and Anna Jetson terms are expiring.

Pastor Bockoven stated the Scheie Council would be having a meeting soon and wanted to know if the Highland Council wished to continue the working relationship we have had with them. Council took no formal action but indicated that they were not opposed to whatever form of cooperation and sharing of resources we could have between the churches.

Discussion on how to continue have worship services. Maybe we can talk to Pastor Stephen Brackett to see if the Synod could provide virtual services for those churches that are lacking a pastor. Perhaps there is an area church willing to provide virtual services. Glenwood-Canoe Ridge might be a possibility as would others.

Pastor mentioned that St. John and Hauge has had a student / intern for a pastor for the last few years and maybe this is something that we could explore. One program is called TEEM.

Secretary Note: The Theological Educational for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) certificate program is offered through Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Desiring to close the meeting. It was moved by Al Erickson to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Danny Dutka. Motion carried by voice vote. President Halverson declared the meeting adjourned.

The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectively submitted by, Danny Dutka - Highland Secretary

Scheie Council Minutes - January 10, 2021

Those in attendance: Robert, Rodney, Deb, Dee, Molly, Carol, Chuck. Absent: Carolyn, Elle, and Mark. Meeting was called to order by Robert.

Reports:

- Secretary - Deb and Treasurer – Dee.
- Some anonymous giver has deposited into our account - \$350 and \$130.
- David Aasum \$50 and \$20 from Martha
- Sunday School has 2 CDs that have matured. Motion by Deb and seconded by Molly to combine the two CDs, have the interest go back into the CD and to take Jim Narum and Pastor Mary's name off and put Dee Erickson and Elle Hutchinson on the CD. Motion carried.
- Financial Sec. - Elle/Molly
 - suggested that we try to get more people to do Vanco payment

Old business:

1. Constitution review. Copies will be handed out to the congregation to review at the annual meeting and then again next year.
2. Church services regarding COVID - keep pews taped off, continue no food, masks required.
3. Annual meeting –
 - a. reports to be done by Monday, email to debbiescorner102@gmail.com
 - b. Big Canoe/Highland secretary will print up the annual meeting and have copies of the constitution ready for our annual meeting .
 - c. have annual meeting upstairs.

New Business:

- 1) Pastor Kurt's resignation - discussed that the contract goes through Feb. 5th. Big Canoe/Highland secretary will provide the bulletins until then.
 - a. Deb brought up church services by visiting minister for the 8:00 a.m. service. Will there be anyone there? Will have services.
 - b. Contract with Big Canoe and Highland. Suggested that Robert will contact the two presidents and thank them for the contract and willingness to work together.
 - c. Contract Pastor Malm if he is willing to do so. Contract with Mabel First Lutheran? First Lutheran has 3 members (Rodney Tollefsrud, Steve Darrington, and _____ Mikish) that will discuss with 3 of our members. Noted: contract for Minister and secretary. Discussed that we should not be responsible for housing. Would like milage to be kept track of for our church needs.
 - d. Sunday church weekly vs not weekly.
 - e. Lent services to be shared like last year.

- f. Discussed the possibility to have internet access and have access to Mabel's service for Sundays that we would not have minister.
 - g. Minister to administer the sacraments; Communion 2 x month (1st and 4th Sunday), baptism, marriage, burials. Visitation for in home, hospital, and nursing home/assisted living when Covid is under control.
 - i. Motion by Dee and seconded by Molly to propose a 3 month contract. Motion carried.
- 2) Confirmation – is it possible to do confirmation on the 17th for Kolton Tollefsrud and Ethan Crouch? They are the 9th graders. Would Pastor Kurt be willing and the families? Pastor Kurt did not feel that was possible.
- 3) Budget for 2021.
- 4) Upcoming events:
- a. Annual meeting January 17th.
 - b. Next meeting will be February 14th.

The meeting was adjourned and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Big Canoe, Highland, Scheie Special Joint Council Meeting January 5, 2021

A special joint council meeting of Big Canoe, Highland and Scheie Lutheran Churches was called to order by Highland President Gary Halverson at approximately 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Highland Lutheran Church. This special meeting was called to be held by Pastor Kurt Bockoven.

President Halverson requested that Pastor Bockoven open the meeting with a prayer.

Pastor Bockoven recited a prayer. Pastor Bockoven then stated he had called this meeting to submit to the councils his resignation and give his 30 day notice. He stated he had accepted a call to Greenfield Lutheran Church in Harmony, MN. A paper with his type written resignation was handed out along with a letter he will be sending to the members of the congregations.

Text of Pastor Bockoven resignation is as below:

To: Big Canoe, Highland & Scheie Joint Council

I, Rev. Kurt M. Bockoven Jr., submit my resignation as Pastor to Big Canoe, Highland and Scheie Lutheran Churches on Tuesday January 5th. This begins my 30-day notice to the congregations that I'm currently serving. My last day will be on Thursday, February 4th. I will take some of my vacation to pack and move out of the office and parsonage, which means that my vacation will start on Tuesday, January 19th to February 4th. My last Sunday will be on January 17th.

Pastor Bockoven stated:

-There is information on the reverse side of the resignation, which lists scheduled worship times and dates for January. The dates and times are including Scheie in a worship time rotation which will allow for annual meetings to happen after an 11 a.m. service.

-He has arranged for Pastor Waldemar Gies of Rochester, MN to be our supply pastor for the January 24th and January 31st worship services.

-He has contacted the Northeast Iowa Synod regarding his resignation.

-He will be giving the Congregation Presidents information regarding records, passwords, etc.

- He will be available until February 4th to respond to emergencies.
- He will not attend the annual meetings.

Members of the Scheie council asked where they stand in relation to the Pastoral Services contract that was to continue at least until the annual meetings. Pastor Bockoven stated that since his signature was on the contract that he considered it to be canceled with his notice. The Scheie members indicated that they will need to meet and consult with their congregation on whether they should continue the relationship with Big Canoe and Highland.

Discussion on what we as congregations need to do next. How will we have services due to the lack of supply pastors especially ones that are willing to do in-person worship?

Discussion on how we can continue the education of the existing confirmation classes.

Pastor later stated he will see if he can arrange for current students to receive instruction at another church. It was moved to have Holy Communion served on January 17th as well as January 10th. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Pastor announced that his family will be growing as Sonia is expecting with a due date a day after her birthday.

Discussion circled back on how we are to have worship services. Various ideas and thoughts were expressed.

Maybe we could find a supply pastor that would be willing to do at least one in-person service per month so that we could partake in Holy Communion. The other Sundays could be led by lay people.

Maybe we could find a supply pastor that would be willing to do virtual online services we could watch at home or that we could broadcast at our individual churches using the internet or downloaded and replayed via a projector or large tv monitor.

Maybe the synod could be talked into doing virtual services for every Sunday as we are not the only churches that will be/are without an interim pastor. Pastor stated that the Northeast Iowa Synod may allow communion at home or church by virtual means.

Maybe there would be a supply Pastor that would be willing to rotate to various churches which may result in a church not having a service every Sunday.

Maybe we can arrange with another church or churches to utilize their virtual services in some form until we can make more permanent arrangements such as interim or supply pastor(s).

Pastor was requested to ask Pastor Gies if he would be willing to do one Sunday a month worship services.

Thoughts that the resignation was a shock to all and that we couldn't really make any decisions at this time resulted in a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Respectfully submitted by, Danny Dutka - Highland Secretary

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 BC 8:00 a.m. SC 9:30 a.m. HI 11:00 a.m. Annual meeting after service Holy Communion	8	9	10 Confirmation is on hold. Please watch for further information.	11 Big Canoe council Tentative meeting date, 6:15 p.m.	12	13
14 BC 8:00 a.m. HI 9:30 a.m. SC 11:00 a.m. Council meets after service	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday Tentative service 6:00 p.m. Big Canoe	18 Newsletter items due	19	20
21 SC 8:00 a.m. BC 9:30 a.m. HI 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 HI 8:00 a.m. SC 9:30 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m.	March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6
March 7 BC 8:00 a.m. HI 9:30 a.m. SC 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion						

HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial

7th – Danny Dutka
14th – Gary Halverson
21st – Dennis Karlsbrotten
28th – Larry Lane

We will temporarily suspend using Acolytes and Ushers in worship for all churches until further notice.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
BCHLUTHERAN.COM
AND BOTH FACEBOOK PAGES –
BIG CANOE LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH