

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

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

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

July 2021

NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP TIMES

Worship times beginning for July will be 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

- July - Highland early, Big Canoe late.
- August - Big Canoe early, Highland late

Pastor Gies has set up a new email account for us to contact him for all church related items. The new email address is: bchpastorgies@gmail.com

LUTEFISK SUPPER

WELCA has decided the future of the Lutefisk supper should be decided by the congregation. There will be a vote taken on August 15th at the church.

Please keep in mind that if we do not have the supper, we will need to replace it with something. If we do have the supper, we will need workers to help.

Questions – contact Emma at 563-382-4002.

Memorial Thank You

Mike Jewel donated Memorial money in memory of his mother Ethel (Helgeson) Jewell who grew up in the area, was baptized and confirmed at big canoe.

Four crab apple trees were planted on the grounds of the big Canoe church in her memory .



LWR Kits

It is time again for school supplies to go on sale. We will be making school kits for LWR again at Highland. Each kit consists of 4 (70) sheet notebooks, 5 ball point pens (can be blue or black ink), 5 unsharpened pencils, 1 blunt scissor, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 ruler with inches and centimeters, 1 eraser, and 1 box of crayons. Louise has made 55 backpack bags. Not that we have to fill them all this year, but this gives us a target. Thank you for all your help! Questions, please contact Anna Jetson

Joint council meeting

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Joint Council Meeting - June 17, 2021

Call to Order

The Joint Council of Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran was called to order by Highland President Joyce Bjerke at approximately 6:30 p.m. at Highland. In attendance were Rev. Waldemar Gies, Highland Council members: Joyce Bjerke-President, Al Erickson-VP, Danny Dutka-Secretary, Virginia Karlsbrotten, and Lyle Bjerke. Big Canoe Council members: Bill Stoen-President, Liz Schafer-Vice President, Sandy Gavle, Darrel Stoen, and Pat O'Regan.

Opening Devotions

Rev. Gies read from Ephesians 4 and gave an opening prayer.

Secretary Report

Danny Dutka read the minutes of the March 17, 2021 Joint Council meeting. There being no additions or corrections it was moved by Pat O'Regan to approve the minutes as read, Darrel Stoen seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer Report

There was no Treasurer Report presented. Treasurer Laurie Emery was unavailable.

Pastoral Report

Rev. Gies stated he has been busy the past few days. Thursday the 10th was the visitation for Phyllis Maroushek, Friday the 11th was her funeral, Saturday the 12th he watched the NE Iowa Synod Assembly at Big Canoe and Sunday the 13th he conducted our worship services. He is also making calls, sending emails and texts behind the scenes to serve us.

With the anticipated change from Supply Pastor to Interim Pastor he is hoping to make only 2 trips per week to our Parish.

He is to meet with Kathryn our organist and Denise our Secretary on the 27th.

He is scheduled to conduct two baptisms on July 4th at Big Canoe.

He has set up a new email account for us to contact him for all church related items. The new email address is: **bchpastorgies@gmail.com**

Old Business

Interim Pastoral Contract

The Council discussed an Interim Pastoral Contract. Final document will be sent to the Synod for Interim Bishops approval. Rev. Gies is to visit shut-ins, support religious education of youth and adults, coach us to reach out to past and future members and others. Conduct regular worship services and other services as needed. He is to be compensated by salary, mileage, pension payments, and discretionary funds. Total compensation package to be \$37,000. The contract is to be in effect June 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022. Contract can be cancelled upon call of a new pastor. Moved by Liz Schafer, seconded by Danny Dutka to approve contract as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Parsonage Rental

The parsonage has been rented effective June 1, 2021 to Dave and Carrie Enright and family. We have received a deposit of \$1000.00 and the first month's rent. Rent is \$1000.00 per month including LP and electricity with the understanding that excessive utility use will cost them extra. A new dishwasher was installed as the old one didn't function anymore. There were minor repairs to plumbing and electrical. Loose carpet was tacked down on the steps. The downstairs carpet was cleaned by Amy O'Regan. There is to be a separate checking account opened to receive the deposit and rental payments and pay expenses associated with the parsonage. Moved by Pat O'Regan to open a new checking account entitled "BCH Parsonage Rental" with Laurie Emery and Sandy Gavle as signers. Motion was seconded by Danny Dutka. Motion carried by voice vote.

Covid Guidelines for Worship / Gatherings

Discussion of various aspects of our worship and gatherings in regards to Covid concerns was held. Rev. Gies will shake hands if you are comfortable doing that. We will not be "passing the peace" yet. We will continue to use the pre-packaged communion sets. We will be singing the liturgy. Rev. Gies will investigate whether parents would like him to do children's sermons.

Pastoral Call Committee

Each church needs to prepare or update an existing Ministry Site Profile. There has been difficulty in finding the old ones from when Pastor Bockoven was called. Big Canoe has 3 adults and 1 youth on the Call Committee and Highland has 3 adults.

New Business

Synod Assembly / Election of Bishop

Two members of each church attended the NE Iowa Synod Assembly via Zoom electronic meeting. The Assembly voted 5 times electronically to elect a new Bishop. The Bishop elect is Rev. Kevin T. Jones. He currently serves as Pastor to Youth, Family and Education at Trinity Lutheran in Mason City. Rev. Jones will be installed as Bishop of the NE Iowa Synod on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 2 p.m. Installation will be at Trinity which was already scheduled to host the installation of a new Bishop. The installation will be live streamed on the Synod's Facebook page and may offer an in person option. We may want to consider sending delegates to the installation.

VBS

Rev. Gies asked if there was going to be a Vacation Bible School this summer. Liz Schafer said that Ashley Borreson had been working on this and indicated the students would be going to Iron Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, MN for 3 days.

Worship Times

There was discussion on changing worship times for the summer months. Lyle Bjerke moved to have the early service at 8:30 a.m., late service at 10:30 a.m. for July and August. June would be included this "summer schedule" next year. Liz Shafer seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Joint Worship Service / Next Joint Council Meeting

Normally we have a Joint Worship service and potluck in June at the parsonage. Since that venue is no longer available we will look towards having one in the fall when it's cooler. The next regular meeting of the Joint Council is to be December 9, 2021 at Big Canoe. Special meetings may need to be held before then.

Adjournment

A motion by Danny Dutka to adjourn was seconded by Pat O'Regan. Motion carried. Respectively submitted by Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary

Highland Council meeting:

Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting - June 6, 2021

Call to Order

The June 6, 2021 meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church council was called to order by President Joyce Bjerke at approximately 9:30 a.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Al Erickson (arrived late), Secretary Danny Dutka, Steve Langland, Virginia Karlsbrotten and Mark Sollien.

Opening Prayer

President Bjerke gave an opening devotion / thought.

Secretary Report

Due to time constraints it was decided to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer Report

Anna Jetson provided a Treasurer Report. The end of May balances were: Current \$7245.07, Benevolence \$288.00 (42% of budgeted has been paid out), 125th Anniversary \$355.10. Moved by Steve Langland, seconded by Virginia Karlsbrotten to file report for audit. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastoral Report

President Bjerke noted that she has received a copy of Certificate of Transfer for Darlene Larson from Mabel First Lutheran. Steve Langland's motion to accept her transfer was seconded by Virginia Karlsbrotten. Motion passed by voice vote. Gary and Kristi Selness have transferred in as well. We need to make sure proper documentation is in our files. We need to figure out when we can have a welcome dinner for our new members.

OLD BUSINESS

Interim Pastoral Contract

We are waiting confirmation of date and time for a Joint Council to finalize and approve a formal written agreement with Rev. Waldemar Gies.

Parsonage Rental

Parsonage is scheduled to be rented out effective June 1, 2021. A new dishwasher is scheduled to be installed soon. Some plumbing changes and repairs were done. Downstairs carpet was cleaned.

Shared Ministry

There will be an informational meeting at St. John's in Locust on Sunday June 27, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Joelle Colville-Hanson from the NE Iowa Synod is expected to attend.

Call Committee

The Highland members of the Call Committee need to meet to fill out a Ministry Site Profile. There may be a copy of this in the records that could be updated. Currently Steve Langland, Karen Erickson and Virginia Karlsbrotten are to be on the Call Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

The Synod has sent information regarding another possible candidate for an Interim Pastor. Council discussed the merits of this candidate. Consensus was that we prefer to stay the course and complete a formal agreement with Rev. Gies. Moved by Danny Dutka to move ahead with the formal agreement with Rev. Waldemar Gies as Interim Pastor was seconded by Steve Langland. Motion carried by voice vote.

A.E.D

Pastor Gies has questioned the status of the Automatic External Defibrillator and if anyone has been trained in its use. The AED does need to be serviced. Steve Langland will check into this.

GEMINI Donation

President Bjerke said we had received a donation from GEMINI Inc. in the amount of \$250.00. The donation was made possible by Scott and Laura Hill. The secretary is to send a thank you to them. Consensus of the Council was that this donation be put towards any expense incurred to repair the A.E.D.

Memorial

Council discussed a memorial for a person in our church community who was in grave health. A motion to budget approximately \$50 was made by Langland and seconded by Sollien. Motion carried by voice vote. President Bjerke said she would arrange for the memorial.

Clean Out

Steve Langland said he would be willing to sort thru the many years accumulation of Sunday School literature and other books and literature that isn't needed anymore. Some of the older hymnals could be put out at the future anniversary celebration as keepsakes for those who would want it.

Adjournment

Due to it being almost 11 a.m. it was moved by Dutka and seconded by Langland to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
 4 HI 8:30 a.m. BC 10:30 a.m. Communion services	5	6 Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. at BC	7	8	9 Highlandville 4 th of July celebration	10 Highlandville 4 th of July celebration
11 HI 8:30 a.m. Council meeting after service BC 10:30 a.m. Communion services	12	13	14	15 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:30 p.m.	16 Newsletter items due	17
18 HI 8:30 a.m. WELCA meeting after service (will discuss bazaar) BC 10:30 a.m.	19	20	21	22 Nordic Fest	23 Nordic Fest	24 Nordic Fest
25 HI 8:30 a.m. BC 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31
August 1 BC 8:30 a.m. HI 10:30 a.m.						

HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial

July 4th – Steve Langland
 11th – Ed Stoen
 18th – Eric Selness
 25th – Danny Dutka
 August 1st – Steve Langland

**READERS – all are welcome to
volunteer. Please sign up at
each church.**

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