

# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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Decorah, IA 52101  
563-546-7974

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

## NEWSLETTER

### JULY WORSHIP TIMES

Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.

**CEMETERY:** There will be a grave stone cleaning class on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, after regular Sunday services at Big Canoe Lutheran Church. They will offer instruction on safely cleaning cemetery monuments. There will be supplies and instructions supplied. People may want to pack a sack lunch.

### Grindeland Scholarship Applications

Applications can be found on the stand at the back of Big Canoe Church and are due July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Special Collection for Bishop's Challenge:** We are collecting a special donation for the Bishop's Challenge – the 3 ELCA Bishops in Iowa are riding a minimum of 50 miles a day in the 50th Ragbrai ride across Iowa, July 22 to 29, to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger. Please drop your donation in the marked container at Big Canoe. We will ensure it gets sent into the Synod Office. Thank you!

**Offertory:** The joint council has decided that all loose offering will stay at the host church. We have been splitting it half and half. If you would like your cash to go to a certain church please put it in an envelope and write the church's name on it.

**School Supplies:** With school supplies being in stock and on special now, we are starting to collect school supplies for LWR School Kits. Here are the items needed for Highland:

- 70-page notebooks (4 per kit) preference is wide rule, but will take whatever is donated
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissor
- unsharpened pencils (5 per kit)
- ball point pens (blue or black, not gel ink) (5 per kit)

Louise has made many school bags for us to fill and has also made bags of crayons for us to use. Anna found a really good deal on rulers and a box of 100 erasers on clearance for \$1, purchasing two.

We can always use 4-ounce bars of soap. The kits need 8 to 9 ounces of soap, so if the bars of soap are 3 ounces, we just need to include 3 bars. Last time someone did donate 5-ounce bars of soap, so they pair nicely with the 3-ounce bars of soap.

If you are not a shopper but prefer to contribute money, please give to or mail to Louise Jetson at 130 Goodview Dr, Spring Grove MN 55974.

### Highland Ice Cream Social July 16th

11:30 to 1:30

Please have your dessert to the church by 10:00

### Gather Bible Study

Highland  
July 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 a.m.

## **Joint Council meeting of Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches Sunday, June 25, 2023**

The Big Canoe and Highland church councils met for their regular mid-year joint meeting on June 25, 2023, following regular services and a potluck.

Members present for Big Canoe: Shelly Bigler, Steve Emery, Treasurer Laurie Emery, Kathryn Thompson, President Brian Bigler, Vern Whitaker and Rita Thomas. Members present for Highland: Mark Sollien, Darlene Larson, Virginia Karlsbrotten, President Steve Langland, Treasurer Anna Jetson and Karen Erickson. Pastor Gies was present.

President Langland opened the meeting and Pastor gave a short devotion and led us in prayer.

### **Old Business:**

Pat updated us on the church land. It has been limed and the price was \$917.

Secretary's minutes were approved and read.

The renters will be staying at the Parsonage and will be mowing the lawn, reported Pat.

The Call Committee indicated that the ministry site profile for Big Canoe and Highland needs to be updated to reflect the fact that we now alternate sites by the month instead of Pastor doing two separate services. Pat motioned and Anna seconded, that the Call Committee should contact the synod and inquire why we have had no call referrals or recommendations. The motion passed. The committee was also asked if they could find out if there were things, we could change, that might be "red flags" to prospective Pastors. i.e., Parsonage or other.

Ann presented a short report on the shared ministry doings and a synod convention.

Pastor reported that he would be starting a more hands on approach to the doings in the congregations and gave us several handouts of things to do soon. Example: Training for lay people to take Holy Communion to the sick; Training Liturgists, Lectors/Readers; Training for Sermons/ Homilies; Training and Licensing for Sunday Holy Communion and Training for Councils in case Pastor is on vacation, indisposed or unable to be here because of weather. We need to make more internal connections and also reach out to other churches and resources. The councils also need to be setting up a calendar of events (with at least tentative dates) so plans can be made in advance and for reference for our Church Secretary.

Pastor's contract was discussed and he has said he will stay for the next year. Specific monastery negotiations will be done by each council at its next meeting. Pastor is not a member of the Northeast Iowa Synod, but of the Southeast Minnesota Synod. He will be contacting the NEIA Synod in the next week to make reports and receive information that might be of help to our congregations.

Since Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday, the question was brought up "do we want two services on Christmas Eve day? Or only one and if so which one." Rita motioned and Kathryn seconded that we have only the Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm. After discussion the motion passed. Anna motioned and Pat seconded that the undedicated cash in the plate on Christmas Eve and Christmas day go to the host church. The motion passed. Christmas Eve will be at Big Canoe at 4:30pm and Christmas Day will be at Highland at 10:00am.

Some employees of the Synod will be riding in Ragbrai July 22-29, this year to raise money for the Hunger Project. A mailing will be coming, asking for donations.

### **New Business:**

The Training for taking Communion to the sick or shut-ins will begin in September. The supplies are housed at Big Canoe. We recommend that when you take Communion to shut-ins that there be at least two people and if going to a nursing home contact the activities director before going. If you are interested, please contact pastor or a council member.

Pat motioned and Mark seconded that we adjourn with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Secretary Rita Thomas

## Report from Synod Assembly

This assembly was similar and yet different from Synod Assemblies in the past. By the way, did you know the ELCA is now 35 years old and is older than the three previous Lutheran churches, The American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. Friday evening began with Worship Service, using Joyous Light Evening Prayer by Ray Makeever, then social time to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends. Saturday started at 9 am with Morning Prayer, Plenary Session One focused on Faith, we heard the story of the West Fork Food Pantry by Pastor Kim and Diane Wills. We handled the business of adopting the Agenda, Assembly Rules, Synod Constitution Changes, and heard the Bishop's Report. Plenary Session Two focused on Hope, we heard from Jill Beverlin about the Coaching Ministry of the ELCA ([elcacoaching.org](http://elcacoaching.org)). Jill also brought greeting from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. We also handled the business of Mission Goals for the next two years, the Elections for 2024 and 2025, and Resolution 5 focused on including candidates of color in their call process, especially if the call would be available to a recent seminary graduate and that the Synod create a taskforce to identify and address barriers within the call process that limit candidates of minoritized groups. There was a break for lunch in the cafeteria. Plenary session Three focused on Love, we heard the story of St. John (Bennington) Waterloo, care of Pastor Beth Olson during the time of her husband's injury, hospitalization, the hospice process that brought him home, and the family's grief of loss and love during and following his death. We attended to the business of Compensation Guidelines for 2024 and 2025, Resolution 6, the Synod Office and Care of Creation Network can assist congregations, educational facilities, administrative offices and outdoor ministry facilities achieve the goals set by the US and 2022 Churchwide Assembly to reduce the net greenhouse gas pollution by 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. We heard the report of the Election committee on the two contested ballots, we celebrated Anniversaries of Ordination, New to the Synod and Congregation Anniversaries. The Synod Assembly closed with worship with communion and installation of the newly elected individuals. There were displays of the ministries of our Synod Networks, Camps, Colleges of the church. Next year will be the Synod Ministry Festival education events, service opportunities and more. It will be held at Wartburg College in June. If you have suggestions of what you would like to see please contact a council member or the Synod Office. The event will be open to all members of the congregation, not limited to only voting members and Pastors.

Who do you relate to more.... Mary or Martha (Luke 10:38-42), Peter (Matthew 15:25-33) or Saul/Paul (Acts 9:4-31).... Maybe another one of the early followers of Jesus? I admit, sometimes I feel a bit like Martha, doing the busy work of what needs to be done to accomplish the work of our church. Other times, I just want to sit and listen like Mary does. Often, I feel like Peter, confident in my faith, until I look away from Jesus. I will admit, I don't often relate to Saul the crusader against the early followers of The Way, but his conversion and the things he did as Paul, inspire me to consider other ways I can share the message of Jesus and how we might expand the faithful following of Jesus Christ our Lord. Do we do it my way? Or God's way? We need to do this together. What ways do you express your faith? What needs might we as church help our neighbors with? I was recently having a conversation with members of another congregation, bemoaning the little frustrations we all have about everyday things. They mentioned it would be nice to have everyone complete a spiritual assessment and then help them to use their spiritual gifts. Later on, I was talking with a friend about the spiritual gifts they have, and they were confused. I explained the skills and talents they have and use, most of which are different than mine, and how they can be considered spiritual gifts as God has blessed them with those abilities. Then they understood and appreciated it. (more on Spiritual Gifts can be found in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:9-21, Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool is available at [elca.org](http://elca.org) or Gift for You: Opening Your Spiritual Gifts is a free resource at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org))

In this time of transition, I see more and more individuals stepping up to do more in the congregations. In the past, when ideas of ministry which are common place in other congregations, down the road, across town, or in other states are mentioned... We sometimes feel, that is the Pastor's job, that is what we pay the pastor to do. Maybe, but consider, if we used our skills, talents, or abilities to share our faith with others, by taking communion to the neighbor who is homebound, or calling to check on a member we haven't see for a while, or making a meal for a grieving family, or any other way you can think of to connect with our siblings in Christ, what would that mean for our community? What would that say to new neighbors moving in? Maybe that we care about and take care of those in need. What if the pain is not visible, but hidden? Those who are grieving may not have lost a person, but a job, or a relationship. Those who are homebound, may not be elderly, or have a physical ailment, but suffer from anxiety or depression? It is dangerous to make assumptions based only on what is visible. Matthew 25:35-36 I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. What is Jesus calling you to do today?

Respectfully submitted by Anna Jetson

# July 2023

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                      | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| 2<br>Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.<br>Communion<br>Big Canoe council after service | 3   | 4   | 5<br>Campfire Worship<br>Hesper Lutheran Church<br>7:00 p.m. | 6   | 7                           | 8        |
| 9<br>Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.<br>Highland WELCA meeting after service         | 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14                          | 15       |
| 16<br>Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.<br>Highland Ice Cream Social 11:30 – 1:30      | 17<br>Newsletter items due                    | 18<br>Gather Bible Study<br>9:30 a.m.<br>Highland | 19   | 20  | 21                          | 22       |
| 23<br>Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.  | 24  | 25  | 26   | 27  | 28<br>-----Nordic Fest----- | 29       |
| 30<br>Big Canoe 10:00 a.m.<br>Gravestone cleaning after service           | 31<br>Grindelund Scholarship applications due | August 1  | August 2   | August 3  | August 4                    | August 5 |
| August 6<br>Highland 10:00 a.m.<br>Communion                              |   |   |  | Big Canoe & Highland website:<br><a href="http://www.bchlutheran.org">www.bchlutheran.org</a> |                             |          |



# ~ Shared Ministry Newsletter ~ July 2023



“So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God did from his.” (Hebrews 4:9-10 NRSV)

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**\*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at [linda.folstad49@gmail.com](mailto:linda.folstad49@gmail.com) By: July 6th for the August 2023 Newsletter**

## SHARED MINISTRY MEETING

Sunday, July 23, 2023 ~ 1:00 pm at Highland Lutheran Church  
EVERYONE is welcome to come and join in the conversation and share thoughts and ideas!

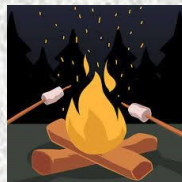


**Mark your calendars and come and enjoy the many summer Faith and Fellowship opportunities in July! Join in the Fun and bring a friend along!**

## CAMPFIRE WORSHIP & MARSHMALLOW FELLOWSHIP

at Hesper Lutheran Church

**Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm**



Come and enjoy an informal worship service outdoors around a campfire and a Scavenger Hunt! Marshmallow Roast follows worship

**Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Invite a friend or neighbor.**

*All are welcome!*

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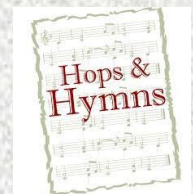
## HOPS & HYMNS AT BARNEY’S IN BURR OAK

**Sunday, July 9th from 3–5:00 pm.**

**Come to sing along or just to enjoy the music.**

**All are welcome. Bring a friend!**

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## HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

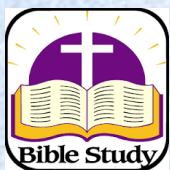
**Serving 11:30 am–1:00 pm**



*Come and enjoy*

*good food & fellowship!*

**Everyone welcome!**



*All are invited to join us for Bible Study held at Highland*

**Lutheran Church July 14th 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.

**Bring a friend!**

## Sunday Worship Services ~ July 2023

|                             | July 2  | July 9   | July 16   | July 23  | July 30   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Highland Big Canoe</b>   | Joint worship<br>10:00 am at<br>Big Canoe                             | Joint worship<br>10:00 am at<br>Big Canoe  | Joint worship<br>10:00 am at<br>Big Canoe                             | Joint worship<br>10:00 am at<br>Big Canoe  | Joint worship<br>10:00 am at<br>Big Canoe   |
| <b>Hesper Burr Oak</b>      | 10:00 am<br><br>8:30 am<br>Followed by<br>Coffee Hour                 | 10:00 am<br><br>8:30 am<br>Followed by<br>Coffee Hour                            | 10:00 am<br><br>8:30 am<br>Followed by<br>Coffee Hour                 | 10:00 am.<br><br>8:30 am<br>Followed by<br>Coffee Hour                                 | <b>8:30 am<br/>Joint Wor-<br/>ship in<br/>Burr Oak<br/>followed by<br/>Coffee Hour</b>        |
| <b>Glenwood Canoe Ridge</b> | 8:30 am—Joint<br>worship at<br>Canoe Ridge:<br>Kristin Kopperud-Stinn | 9:30 am—Joint<br>worship at<br>Glenwood: Kris-<br>tin Kopperud-<br>Stinn. Coffee | 8:30 am—Joint<br>worship at<br>Canoe Ridge:<br>Kristin Kopperud-Stinn | 9:30 am—Joint<br>worship at Glen-<br>wood: Pr. Liz Bell,<br>Asst. to Bishop.<br>Coffee | 8:30 am—Joint<br>worship at Canoe Ridge: Pr. Melissa Bills<br>Luther College<br>Campus pastor |
| <b>St. John's Hauge</b>     | Joint Worship<br>9:30 am at<br>St. John's                             | Joint worship<br>9:30 am at<br>Hauge   | Joint worship<br>9:30 am at<br>St. John's                             | Joint worship<br>9:30 am at<br>Hauge   | Joint worship<br>9:30 am at<br>St. John's   |

### Study of ELCA Social Message on Earth's Climate Crisis Will Be Held July 18th

A study of the ELCA social message entitled "Earth's Climate Crisis" will be offered online via Zoom on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:30 pm. Carla Janssen, a member of Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly and member of the NE IA Synod Care for Creation Network, will lead the discussion. The social message can be accessed at [www.elca.org/climatecare](http://www.elca.org/climatecare).

Contact Pastor Liz Bell at [belle@neiasynod.org](mailto:belle@neiasynod.org) to receive the Zoom link.

The social message was called for from several sources and was adopted by the ELCA Church Council on April 20, 2023. The project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. The lead author of the social message is Jim Martin-Schramm, professor emeritus, Luther College. It draws its framing themes from several social statements, particularly "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice", the ELCA Social Statement issued in 1993, which pairs environmental justice with social justice (.

In a video from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, she lifts up the "Earth's Climate Crisis" social message as a "moment of Kairos, a critical moment in time when God is calling for decisive action in history." The video can be viewed on the ELCA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7xIswDxxuY>.

### Upcoming Events

July 22-29: Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger  
RAGBRAI

July 23: **SHARED MINISTRY** Meeting

September 10: God's Work, Our Hands - ELCA  
Day of Service

### Websites:

[www.WomenoftheELCA.org](http://www.WomenoftheELCA.org)

[www.NEIASynod.org](http://www.NEIASynod.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