

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

Regular worship services:

10:00 a.m. at Big Canoe in July

10:00 a.m. at Highland in August

10:00 a.m. at Big Canoe in September

Thank you to Janice and Amanda for a job well done and everyone who helped, brought bars for the Chicken Drive Thru dinner and to those who bought tickets! The total income from the dinner was \$1,145.00. Big Canoe WELCA will give the church \$600 to be used for either the parsonage, if needed, or to be put towards the tuck pointing.

Thank you to Shirley who organized the church cleaning and all who contributed. The funds covered the total cost of cleaning which was \$850.00.

Thank you to all who brought food and helped for the potluck on Sunday, June 9th. It was uplifting to see so many in the church and to hear all the little voices in the background!

Big Canoe & Highland Council Meeting, June 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m. For the purpose of calling a fulltime pastor

Big Canoe Council members present: Brian Bigler - President, Steve Emery – Vice President, Deb Monson – Secretary, Laurie Emery – Treasurer, Lisa Bullerman – Financial Secretary. Council members: Shelly Bigler, Bill Bullerman, Kathryn Thompson, Vern Whitaker.

Highland Council members present: Steve Langland – President, Alan Erickson – Vice President, Darlene Sollien – Secretary, Danny Dutka – Treasurer, Virginia Karlsbrotten – Financial Secretary. Council members: Karen Erickson, Anna Jetson, Gary Selness.

President Brian Bigler called the joint meeting to order.

Pastor Steve Brackett, assistant to the bishop, and Pastor Waldemar Gies offered prayers and devotions.

A proposed Letter of Call was read, which would be sent to Pastor Becker.

Brian introduced the respective church Call Committee members:

Big Canoe – Tammy Nordheim, Colleen Bigler, Ben Wyatt, Ashley Borreson, Sage Wedmann

Highland – Steve Langland, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Lucas Stoen, Karen Erickson

Pastor Matthew Becker and his wife will live in the parsonage. Pastor Becker will respect our traditions. Mrs. Becker is getting a degree in mental health and will be joining Pastor Becker next year.

Brian spoke about Pastor Becker's compensation. Pastor Gies explained the difference between a quarter time vs. a full-time pastor.

Danny Dutka explained the Pastoral Benefit package:

Pastoral base salary	68,500.00
FICA Allowance	6,359.00
Parsonage provided for pastor	14,620.00
Parsonage housing value	
TOTAL COMPENSATION/SALARY PACKAGE	\$89,470.00

Reimbursements:

Travel, annual allowance	7,000
Official required meetings (Synod Assembly & Fall Conference)	750.00
Continuing education	900.00
Moving expense	7,000.00
Publications and professional expenses	700.00
Sabbatical Leave – annual amount	400.00
Required Retirement Plan Contributions	8,948.00
10% of Total Defined Compensation	537.00
Disability + Basic Group Life	895.00
Reimbursement for Medical Expenses	4,000

Vacation – 4 weeks including Sundays
Sabbatical – 2 weeks including Sundays

Parsonage Repair Budget	\$20,000.00
Parsonage Checking account balance (to be used for fixing up parsonage)	15,000.00

Pastor Becker will maintain his health insurance through his previous employer.

Pastor Gies led us in prayer before the vote to call Pastor Becker.

Brian Bigler asked for a Motion to Call Pastor Becker. A motion was made by Bill Stoen and seconded by Dave Bigler. Ballots were passed out. The Call passed with 37 yes votes and 1 no vote. It was also passed by the Highland members.

Brian asked for a motion to pass the compensation package. A motion was made by Ben Wyatt and seconded by Eric Stoen. Ballots were passed out and the motion passed.

Pastor Becker will be telephoned this evening followed by a Letter of Call. The letter will be signed by Brian Bigler – President, and Steve Emery – Vice President.

Pastor Bracket gave the closing prayer. The Lord’s Prayer was recited by everyone present.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson – Secretary



Please welcome our future pastor,
Pastor Matthew Becker!