

Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

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3824 Highlandville Road
Decorah, IA 52101
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March 2020

NEWSLETTER

BIG CANOE NEWS

From The Council President:

Our guest Supply Pastor has requested all members of the congregation wear masks as they attend services in our sanctuaries. Few pastors are willing to perform In-Person worship services during this time. This is a fairly simple request by him and non-compliance can affect our overall membership attendance and his continued in-person assistance as we start into the CALL process. Rev. Waldemar Gies does like members of the congregation assisting on the readings of the 1st and 2nd lessons, and Psalms. We welcome volunteers!

Viking Pest Control of Waukon has ongoing efforts being made to assist our custodians with rodent control at the church and parsonage.

We now have a 1,000 gallon LP tank at the parsonage and hot water heating continues to be running. The custodian is checking on temps there plus a temperature alert station will call anytime the temperature drops below 45 degrees in home.

We are updating the calling tree, we would like suggestions about names to include and the best way to contact members. At this time, messages left on the church phone 563-546-7974 are set up to be emailed to bchlutheran@gmail.com which the secretary and the council president will also receive.

Lenten services on Wed. eves will be conducted by Lay People without direct in-person attendance by Rev. Waldemar Gies, but we are being given guidance by him for service content.

- Bill Stoen

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to meet every Sunday after service via Zoom. We started a new curriculum called Whirl! It's based on the lectionary year and has 2 Bibles. One is an easy read for younger students and one is an older one. Whirl has fun animated characters that help walk us through the lessons and provides a short video. We also have been working hard on two songs that we will be presenting in April!

CONFIRMATION

We will not have Confirmation during Lent. Class will resume on April 7th. We are having an educational meeting to discuss possible options for the yearly banquet for the confirmation students. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 30th this year.

LUTHER LEAGUE

Stay tuned for the April Newsletter as Luther League is meeting Feb. 21st to plan out the rest of the year. With these uncertain times, we understand that the health of our students and congregation come first. Our activities may look different this year, but our hearts will be full!

Please let Ashley Borreson know if you have any questions or concerns @ 563-419-9507 or ashleyborreson@gmail.com



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 13th!

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

It's certainly safe to say that 2020 was a challenging year in so many ways. We all know what happened and now it's time to focus on what did not happen. LWR quilts and kits ministry that we have supported for years received barely 40% of its usual donations in 2020. Unfortunately, the needs around the world continue to grow. Our WELCA circle groups have not met for nearly a year so offerings and other sources of income are not there.

Some ladies have been sewing and tying quilts at home. Now we would like to focus on school kits and personal care kits. We need help! If anyone would be willing to give a cash donation to purchase items to fill kits, it would be greatly appreciated. Any amount would be welcomed. Please contact Dee Wyatt at 563-382-6224 or Sandy Gavle at 563-546-7912.

Thank you in advance!

Big Canoe Annual Meeting – January 31, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Gies and opened with prayer. There were 35 voting members present.

Special congregational meeting minutes were read by Amanda Stortz and motion was made to approve by Pat O'Regan and seconded by Rita Hurd-Thomas and was passed.

The auditor's report was given, Rita reports that she was an auditor this year and everything was in order without any issues.

PPP loan that was given this year and forgiven, another blessing was that the Dalaker fund was completely paid back, and the percentage with having Scheie in sharing went down to 45% for Big Canoe from 50%. She reported a balance of \$6,265.21. Bev Stortz made a motion to approve and Rita seconded, all agreed and was passed.

Other reports:

Cemetery: Tammy Nordheim reports that they have a meeting coming up in a couple of weeks in February. All are invited to attend. They have been busy, so she encourages members to contact them if they have any wishes not designated at this time. They are working on going digital.

Luther League: Tammy Nordheim refers to page 19 for any questions and there were none.

Social Concerns: Sandy reports a couple of benefits this year despite the pandemic that went very well.

Sunday School: Ashley Borreson reports that they have a fundraiser on hold making tie blankets. All supplies are purchased, she is working on how to distribute for making them.

Election of new members to council: Nathan Borreson and Pat O'Regan are on the ballot. No other nominations were heard. Rita made a motion that the unanimous ballot of Nathan and Pat to church council be approved, Liz Schafer seconded, all approved and motion passes.

New members to committees: Grindeland: Rita Hurd. Elsie Osmundson: Mark Borreson. Aase Haugen: Sandy Gavle, Dee Wyatt, Emma Thompson. Nominating Committee: Amanda Stortz, Mike Onsager, and assist from Pat O'Regan from the council. Spring Assembly conference: Bill Stoen, Heather Vilardo. Synod Assembly: Liz Schafer and Heather Vilardo delegates. Social Concerns: Laurie Emery and Amy O'Regan. Sunday School: Ashley Darling, Ashley Borreson, Lisa Bullerman. Property: Amy O'Regan and Rita Hurd. Tammy Nordheim made a motion to approve all of these new committee members, Daryl Stoen seconded and all approved. Motion carried.

Old Business: It was reported that all windows have been installed, septic and well complete.

New Business: It was needed to vote on the 10% Grindeland interest. Tammy Nordheim made a motion for this 10% to go to the Northeast Iowa Food pantry, Liz seconded and all approved and was passed. The Shared Ministry between Big Canoe and Highland and Scheie Lutheran churches is reported as being null and void with Pastor Bockoven's resignation. Scheie reports improvement with a nearby church and it is likely that any sharing will cease. Worship times was discussed and the congregation made it known that they would prefer a "yearly" schedule for Highland and Big Canoe, meaning each church has their time and it is for a year at a time. For instance Big Canoe at 9 and Highland at 10:30, and keep it that way all year with no changes unless necessary. We also discussed with our traveling Pastor, Pastor Waldemar Gies from Rochester on a worship schedule that he could help us out with. He will go back and have conversation with his synod, but would like to help us out. Pat O'Regan made a motion to compensate the traveling Pastor for overnight if necessary with weather. Heather Vilardo seconded and all approved. Pastor Gies states that he would do an Ash Wednesday service for both churches, times to come from council and conversation with him further.

Nathan Borreson has new business to report with Ashley Borreson finishing out the confirmation courses for the students in Pastor's absence. All curriculum has been given to her, Laurie reports that a Zoom acct can be activated for her to use every other week with the students. Liz made a motion for Ashley to teach the confirmation to finish up the year, Heather Vilardo seconded and all approved. A stipend for Ashley teaching will be decided upon by the council at the next meeting.

The 2021 budget was discussed and gone over with Laurie Emery and Lisa Bullerman leading and answering all questions. A motion was made by Pat O'Regan and seconded by Rita Hurd-Thomas to give Bob and Phyllis Maroushek a raise from \$10,500 to \$14,000. This was approved by all. A new line was made in the budget worksheet under Administration for the cost of teaching confirmation/parish education. This budget line is \$2,000 at this time. Rita Hurd-Thomas made this motion and Amanda Stortz seconded and all approved. The final budget of \$137,474.30 was approved. Motion was made by Rita and seconded by Pat.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Amanda Stortz and seconded by Amy O'Regan. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Stortz, Secretary

Big Canoe Church Council Meeting - February 11, 2021

The council met in the basement of the church with members present of Bill Stoen, Sandy Gavle, Pat O'Regan, Liz Schafer, and Nate Borreson.

A motion was made by Sandy Gavle and seconded by Pat O'Regan to appoint Bill Stoen as President. Motion passed. A motion was made to appoint Liz Schafer as Vice President, Nate Borreson as Secretary, Pat O'Regan and Liz Schafer to the Property Committee. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was read. The current balance is \$5,386.37.

Old Business:

- Pastor Kurt has moved out of the house. The house has been professionally cleaned and looks good.
- The Zoom account has been updated to be used for confirmation.

New Business:

- We have Pastor Gies through Easter. He requests to have masks worn.
- The fee list needs to be redone and add a fee for Bob Maroshek as custodian – a \$50 fee for funerals for members.
- Liz and Bill plan to talk to Highland Council to have a set time for both church services for the rest of the year.
- All Lenten services will be led by a member of the congregation with Wednesday evening services at 6:30 p.m. at Big Canoe, Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Highland, Good Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Big Canoe, and Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. at Big Canoe and 11:00 a.m. at Highland.
- A motion was made by Liz Schafer and seconded by Pat O'Regan to pay Ashley Borreson \$200 a month, 12 months of the year for Youth Parish Education Director.

- We are looking to updated confirmation picture history . Maybe in digital format? Ask for ideas or donations in the newsletter?
- We need to update who the land owner representative is for the church for FSA purposes. Who is the current signer at FSA?
- We will have a meeting to talk about advertising land rent by September 1st.

The next council meeting will be Thursday, March 11th at 6:15 p.m. Pat O'Regan motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Nathan Borreson, Secretary

HIGHLAND NEWS

From Community of Hope Winneshiek County:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$128.75 to the Winneshiek County Community of Hope Growing Hope Globally. Proceeds for 2020 went to Guatemala.



To get proper credit for your offering, please fill in the amounts and names rather than check marks.

If are writing a check, please put your box number on the memo. This saves a lot of confusion. *Thank you!*

Highland Lutheran Church Annual Meeting - February 21, 2021

Call to Order

The annual meeting of Highland Lutheran Church of Winneshiek County, Iowa was called to order by President Gary Halverson at 12 Noon on Sunday February 21, 2021 with approximately 20 people in attendance.

President Halverson gave opening comments stating that 2020 began a year of distractions from our normal, in that we contracted to provide Pastoral services to Scheie Lutheran, the Covid-19 pandemic hit causing us to not have indoor in-person services, then having in-person outdoor services, then moving to indoor in-person services where we are masked and socially distanced. The beginning of 2021 brought the resignation of Pastor Bockoven and delaying our annual meeting two weeks due to sub-zero temperatures . He thanked our supply Pastor Waldemar Gies for his presence in serving our congregation.

Opening Devotions

Pastor Gies gave a reading and a prayer

Secretary Report

Secretary Danny Dutka read the minutes of the 2020 annual meeting, no corrections or additions were requested. Steve Langland moved to approve the minutes as read. Walter Langland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Anna Jetson presented her report. She stated that she had borrowed \$7000.00 from the Improvement Fund during the year to pay expenses and she was able to repay that same amount back. She also stated that the Music Fund and the Sunday School Fund accounts had been closed and dispersed as directed or consolidated into existing accounts. This will help simplify the bookkeeping.

Balances at the end of 2020 were: Current \$2985.48, Benevolence \$338.00, 125th Anniversary Celebration Fund \$355.10, Improvement Fund \$44899.69, Scholarship Fund \$5853.67.

It was noted that a \$2500.00 grant from Depot Outlet combined with donations and Music Fund monies allowed us to purchase the new Clavinova without using Improvement Fund monies.

The Treasurer's Report was placed on file for audit.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Bockoven provided a final letter which is included in the Annual Meeting packet. The letter did not include any statistics of official acts completed during 2020 such as funerals, burials, transfers, etc.

Auditing Committee

Joyce Bjerke was on the Auditing Committee and stated they had found the books to be in order.

Elections

Council- We need two persons to fill expiring terms of Gary Halverson and Anna Jetson. President Halverson opened nominations and asked if the Nominating Committee had any candidates. Louise Jetson stated that the committee was lacking in nominees but that Mark Sollien had agreed to serve in one of the positions if there was no other candidates. Virginia Karlsbrotten volunteered to serve. Steve Langland moved nominations cease. Al Erickson seconded. Motion Carried. Steve Langland moved to elect these candidates. Al Erickson seconded. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee- We need three plus one from council. President Halverson opened nominations. Karen Erickson, Eric Selness, and Louis Jetson volunteered to serve. A council person will be named later. Eric Selness moved nominations cease. Walter Langland seconded. Motion carried. Moved by Walter Langland to accept these candidates. Seconded by Steve Langland. Motion carried.

Conference Assembly

The Upper Iowa Conference of the Northeast Iowa Synod was scheduled to have a zoom meeting today at 2 p.m. Anna Jetson said she would be participating in that meeting but couldn't be our voting representative. There being no other person willing or able to participate President Halverson asked Anna to report back to the council of what transpired.

Synod Assembly

Steve Langland volunteered to be a voting member. This will be a virtual event held on June 12th. The Assembly is to elect a new Bishop along with other elections and business.

Aase Haugen Senior Services Annual Meeting

Danny Dutka volunteered to be a voting member.

Report of Property Committee

Danny Dutka addressed the congregation on continuing needs of the church building. We still need to address the leaking bell tower roof so we can repair the ceiling. We still have foundation water leaks to address. He showed the congregation a sample of some carpet tile he can obtain for free and carpet base that he has obtained that can be put in the basement hallway once leaking is addressed and wall repair / repainting is done. He also stated that he had installed ultra-violet sanitizing lights into the furnaces.

Report of Joint Property Committee

Danny Dutka reported that the windows purchased in 2019 for the second floor of the parsonage had been installed this past year. He also stated that the septic system had been replaced due to failure of the old septic and drain field. Upcoming projects were to repair and reseed the lawn, replace the back steps and some of the sidewalk along with other landscaping. The installation of central air conditioning was paused due to concerns Covid-19. Steve Langland stated that he and Virginia Kalsbrotten had toured the parsonage, after Pastor Bockoven moved out and had it professionally cleaned. He stated that it's in generally good shape with new paint, carpet and drapes needed prior to a new occupancy. They both thought that the enclosed porch needed more work other than just new steps.

Congregational Annual Meeting Suspended

Moved by Steve Langland to suspend the Congregational Annual meeting and enter into the Highland Lutheran

Church Cemetery Association Annual Meeting. Seconded by Louise Jetson. Motion carried. President Halverson declared the meeting suspended.

Report of Cemetery Committee / Highland Cemetery Association election

The financial report of the Highland Cemetery Association is included in the Annual Meeting packet. Assets totaled \$175,372.89 on December 31, 2020.

Mark Selness term has expired. Steve Langland nominated and moved that Mark Selness be elected for another 5 year term on the Cemetery Committee, Louise Jetson seconded. There being no other nominations the motion passed by voice vote.

Motion by Eric Selness to adjourn the Cemetery Association Annual Meeting was seconded by Joyce Bjerke. Motion carried.

Congregational Annual Meeting reconvened

Motion by Steve Langland to reconvene the Highland Annual Meeting was seconded by Anna Jetson. Motion carried. President Halverson reconvened the meeting

OLD BUSINESS

125th Anniversary Committee

Celebration events have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Committee Chairperson Karen Erickson stated that the committee hasn't been able to meet but it was thought that maybe we would celebrate our 130th Anniversary instead. Karen agreed to stay on as chairperson. Current committee members are Joyce Bjerke, Steve Langland, Brenda Wennes Gullickson, Anna Jetson.

Shared Ministry/Partnerships/Geo-Parishing

No meetings have been held since the beginning of the pandemic. Steve Langland expressed wishes of continued exploration and discussions with other churches since there are many of us without a permanent pastor. Motion by Steve Langland to continue participation in geo-parish discussions with other area churches and to have this option as a part of the call process. Anna Jetson seconded. Motion carried.

Danny Dutka made a motion to not renew the Pastoral Services Contract with Scheie Lutheran. This contract was essentially cancelled with Pastor Bockoven resignation but was to be voted upon at the Annual Meetings. This would make the non-renewal official. Pastor Gies stated that Scheie was in negotiations with Mabel First Lutheran presently. After further discussion Walter Langland seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2021 budget was presented by Anna Jetson. Steve Langland moved to amend the budget by adding \$20 per month for music coordinator functions currently being performed by Kathryn Thompson. This will be in addition to her regular per event stipend as organist / pianist. Louise Jetson seconded. Motion carried. Steve moved to approve the amended budget, Louise seconded. Motion carried.

Louise Jetson stated that we should review the quantity of the Portals of Prayer booklet as it seems we are throwing most of them away. We should reduce the amount sent us or figure out a common amount to be shared with Big Canoe.

President Halverson stated that Big Canoe desires a change how we alternate our service times. They would prefer to have a consistent time for a year or possibly for a quarter. Pastor Gies suggested that this should be decided at a joint council meeting. He suggested a survey of the meeting participants as to their preferences. President Halverson asked for a show of hands for various options: weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.

The majority would like to alternate service times by the month.

There being no further business to be discussed President Halverson asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Walter Langland so moved, Al Erickson seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by, Danny Dutka, Highland Secretary

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Lenten service 6:30 p.m. Big Canoe Led by members	4	5	6
7 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	8	9	10 Lenten service 6:30 p.m. Big Canoe Led by confirmation class	11 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:15 p.m.	12	13 
14 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	15	16	17 Lenten service 6:30 p.m. Big Canoe Led by members	18 Newsletter items due	19	20
21 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Luther League mtg. after service	22	23	24 Lenten service 6:30 p.m. Big Canoe Led by members	25	26	27
28 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m.	29	30	31	April 1 Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. service at Highland	2  GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 p.m. service at Big Canoe	April 3
April 4 Easter Sunday BC 9:00 a.m. HI 11:00 a.m.. Communion services	 Sunday School will meet each Sunday after service via zoom. Confirmation will not meet during lent. Classes will resume April 7 th . Luther League – more info will be in the April newsletter.					

HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial

7th – Lyle Bjerke
 14th – Al Erickson
 21st – Lowell Walhus
 28th – Eric Wold

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