

# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church

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September 2021

## NEWSLETTER

### WORSHIP TIMES

Worship times for September:  
Highland 9:00 a.m.  
Big Canoe 11:00 a.m.

Joint service – 11:00 a.m.  
September 26<sup>th</sup> with potluck and  
joint council meeting to follow.

### LUTEFISK SUPPER

It has been decided, at an August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting after church service, that the lutefisk supper will not happen this year. In place of working at and providing food for the lutefisk supper, it is asked that each household give a suggested donation of \$35 to help WELCA continue projects and organizations they support. Checks for funds can be sent to Big Canoe WELCA by October 1<sup>st</sup>. WELCA thanks you for your support!

### Highland WELCA Labor Day Meal 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scalloped potatoes and ham, variety of salads, rommegrot, dinner roll, variety of bars, coffee and milk.  
\$10 for adults, \$7 for ages 5 to 12, ages 5 and under - free.  
Carry out are available.

### Big Canoe WELCA Bake & Garage Sale Saturday, October 9th 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Anyone wishing to donate items, please have them to the church Friday morning and baked items by 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning

### Circle Meetings September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Hannah Circle**  
1:30 p.m.  
Big Canoe

**Naomi Circle**  
6:00 p.m. - Louise Jetson's home to tie quilts, with a light snack and Gather bible study to follow.

### ***Big Canoe Farm Land Bids***

The Big Canoe Farm ground lease for 18.5 acres expires this year. Those interested in bidding for the 3 year lease contract should submit their bid no later than October 1, 2021. Bids can be submitted to any council member, but must include the per acre bid X 18.5 acres for a total bid amount and must be received by October 1, 2021.

Bids are restricted to Big Canoe/Highland Members.

Bids will be reviewed and approved during October Big Canoe Council Meeting.

Rents are received before 1 March and 1 October respectively, or in a single payment prior to 1 March 2022.

Highest Bidder will be awarded the contract.

## From Pastor:

Friends in Christ — Grace and peace be with you.

On this day in 1532, **Johann**, known as **Johann the Steadfast** or **Constant** (*Johann, der Beständige*) died. He was important for us, because he was Elector of Saxony, as had been his elder, childless brother Frederick the Wise, and both supported Luther and the Reformation. Aided by Luther, Johann set up a model of church liturgy [in German!] and administration used beyond Saxony in other territories of “the Holy Roman Empire.” [I use quotation marks, because, as a number of writers have commented, it was an empire which was neither holy nor Roman.] As his nickname “The Steadfast” indicates, he resolutely continued the policies of his brother toward protecting the progress of the Protestant Reformation. [Wikipedia]

It is good, the Reformers said in the Augsburg Confession, “to remember the saints” of old. As I remember Johann, I think think of the Luther hymn, “Lord, keep us steadfast” ... and then I remember the **rest** of that hymn line: “Lord, keep us **steadfast in your Word**.” It is not good enough to be steadfast; just as important is the WHAT in which we are steadfast.

In what is Big Canoe and Highland steadfast? That’s usually easy to answer. That is much of what the Call Committee is writing in the Mission Site Profile (MSP) ... which is a fancy way of saying “this is who we are.”

In what is God calling Big Canoe and Highland to BECOME steadfast? Hmmmmmm. That is something we are all called to consider, to ask God about (pray), to ask Scripture about (as we read it). That will shape what we ask of God to send to Big Canoe and Highland as a pastor!

It’s so easy to describe MY ideal pastor. (Or is it?) After I have my list, then we have to agree on what OUR ideal pastor would be, so the list lengthens.

Try a different beginning. (1) Start with Scripture (**like Ephesians 4:11ff.**) and with prayer. (2) Then ask what Big Canoe and Highland need to BECOME constant in doing ... which leads to saying what Big Canoe and Highland need from their pastor. (3) Finally, ask what our heavenly Father wants to give Big Canoe and Highland in a pastor.

Do you want what YOU want? Or do you dare to want what GOD wants? Do you dare to pray “Thy will be done” ... and MEAN it? How does your “wants” fit in with what God wants for us? And which should take precedence?

Yours in our crucified and risen Christ Jesus,

 Waldemar Gies, Pastor  
Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches  
Rural northern Decorah, Iowa

# Attention women!

The **Geo Group** is looking for your feedback and interest. There will be a meeting at Highland on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to discuss a way in which our congregations might work together. There is a short survey/agenda for the meeting being sent to each of the congregations attending the Geo Group discussions (Burr Oak, Hesper, Hauge, St. John's at Locust, Canoe Ridge, Glenwood, Highland, Big Canoe). If you need additional copies or information, please contact Anna or Louise Jetson. I encourage you to talk with other women and come ready to share what you are currently doing. If you have ideas of what you would like to do, but are limited..... bring those ideas also. The goal is to see if there are places or ways in which we can engage in ministry and action together.

## Thank you's:

- Thank you to all who have contributed **school supplies to make the LWR School kits**. The ingathering to take the kits and quilts will be November 6 in Decorah. There is still time to make other kits or quilts. The details are available at Lutheran World Relief, [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) We will be having the blessing of kits and quilts in mid-October. Thank you again for your contributions, they all add up to more than we expected!!!!
- Thank you to the **members of Highland for your faithful contributions to the church**. As treasurer I am happy to say that throughout this unusual time we have been doing well staying in the black and being able to pay all our bills on time and making our benevolence budget.

## Big Canoe Council Meeting - August 12, 2021

Members present: Liz Schafer, Sandy Gavle, Darrel Stoen, Rachel, Pat O'Regan, and Pastor Gies via phone. Not present Bill Stoen, Laurie Emery, and Nate Borreson.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes as collect by Liz Schafer from the July meeting were unanimously accepted as written.

No treasurer report was available.

**Pastoral Report:** Pastor will be visiting some our members in the nursing/retirement homes and hoping to catch one at home. It has been challenging to coordinate visits but Pastor is very committed to doing it and bring communion to as many as he can with the concern of potential Covid lockouts. He spoke briefly about Sunday School and Confirmation and wanting to work with those programs and getting plan going for him to support it. He also asked us to go back to recording Sunday attendance. It was also mentioned that the FSA file should be checked for accuracy and updated if necessary.

**Old Business:** Liz will check with Laurie for the update on the Biannual report that is maintained for our business name with the Secretary of Iowa and the closing of the church credit card.

**New Business:** It was suggested that we apply for the Depot Outlet money this year as it has not been done. Some capital improvements were mentioned but nothing decided as of yet. More to continue on that in the upcoming September meeting. Suggestions are welcomed.

Meeting was closed at 7:30 with Our Lord's prayer and all were dismissed.

Upcoming church events:

- September meeting scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Church
- Joint Church Service at Highland September 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 am inside with a potluck to follow. Highland members provide a hot dish all and attending are asked to bring a salad, dinner rolls, or dessert to share.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Schafer

## **Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting - August 15, 2021**

### **Call to Order**

The August 15, 2021 meeting of the Highland Lutheran Church council was called to order by Vice-President Al Erickson at approximately 9:35 a.m. Others in attendance were Danny Dutka, Steve Langland, Virginia Karlsbrotten, Mark Sollien and Treasurer Anna Jetson.

### **Secretary Report**

It was decided to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

### **Treasurer Report**

Anna Jetson provided a printed Treasurer Report. Balances as of August 8 were: Current \$7193.26, Benevolence \$93.00 (71% of budgeted has been paid out), 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary \$355.10, Improvement \$48663.67, Scholarship \$5857.08. Moved by Steve Langland, seconded by Danny Dutka to file report for audit. Motion carried by voice vote. Ms. Jetson stated there were letters from L.S.I. and Helping Services requesting funding. Consensus of the Council was if there is an overage of Benevolence Funds at the end of the year, we would could then consider who to fund.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 status / changes**

The Council discussed if there should be any changes to what we are already doing in consideration of the Covid-19 pandemic. There was discussion on how we are doing communion, it was thought that people could come forward to receive the elements rather than Pastor distribute to each person. Discussion resulted in a motion by Steve Langland to have the congregation come forward to receive the elements (pre-packaged) and return to their seats to receive the blessing and partake of the elements as instructed by Pastor Gies. Motion was seconded by Virginia Karlsbrotten. Motion carried by voice vote. Secretary Note: This change would need to be approved by Pastor Gies.

### **Shared Ministry**

There is ongoing discussion among area churches on Shared Ministry opportunities. The most recent meeting was held at Highland on August 1, at that meeting it was felt that a starting point for Shared Ministry may be that the Women of the ELCA of the various churches could collaborate, perhaps on projects that the individual churches may not be able to do themselves. Therefore it was decided to invite the Women of the ELCA of the churches to a meeting at Highland on September 19 at 1 p.m. to see if this can be accomplished. A follow up meeting of all interested churches is currently scheduled to be held at Hauge Lutheran on October 3. Highland members that have been attending the meetings are Louise Jetson, Steve Langland, Anna Jetson and Danny Dutka.

### **GEMINI donation**

Highland had previously received a donation from GEMINI in the amount of \$250.00. At the time of receipt the Council decided to use the proceeds towards refurbishing of the A.E.D. The county has since refurbished the unit without cost to Highland. Therefore, we could re-designate the funds to some other worthy project or item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Joint Worship**

Council discussed potential date for a Joint Worship Service and potluck meal to follow. Since there are already a number of things happening in September it seemed the only day available would be September 26. The Council decided that Highland would host the Joint Worship service on September 26 at 11 a.m. with a potluck meal and fellowship to follow. Highland will provide a hot dish, beverages and disposable tableware. Individuals to bring salads, rolls, desserts to share. Worship and meal will be held inside or as other details emerge.

### **Wish List**

Since we need to re-direct the GEMINI donation, Pastor Gies has suggested that we develop a wish list of tangible items needed / wanted. Some donors of memorials or special donations may inquire what we would use the funds for. This way we could get suggestions of what that might be. The informal wish list so far includes: Replacing faded paraments, Funeral Pall, Funeral Banner, Baptismal Banner, A parlor table with a custom made table cloth(s) that could be used at Christmas, All Saints Sunday and funerals or other events.

### **Upcoming Events / Dates**

- September Worship Times – Big Canoe @ 11 a.m. Highland @ 9 a.m. except 9/26
- Labor Day Meal at Highland – September 6 @ 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Hesper-Mabel Steam Engine Days – September 9-12
- Joint Worship Service & Potluck – September 26 @ 11 a.m.
- Highland Council September 19 after service

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Steve Langland to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mark Sollien. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Respectfully submitted by, Danny Dutka - Highland Secretary

# The Perfect Pastor ...

– Anonymous

- The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes with 20 minutes of substance.
- He [*or she; this is an older list!!*] condemns sin roundly without hurting any feelings.
- He works from 8 AM until midnight and functions as the church custodian.
- The perfect pastor makes \$1,000 a month, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$900 a month to the church.
- He is 29 years old and has 40 years experience.
- He never forgets a name and spends most of his time praying to God.
- Above all, he is handsome.
- He knows when somebody is sick or needs visitation without anyone telling him.
- He loves to spend time with his family,
- has no problem when you drop in unexpectedly, and
- also spends most of his time preparing to speak God's Word.
- He remembers everyone's birthdate and, of course, their anniversary dates as well.
- Before and after services, he always speaks to each person, will listen to each for 15 minutes, and pray for each no less than 10 minutes after listening to them.
- The perfect pastor always smiles and always tells you what you want to hear.
- He also goes out to eat after church with each individual family,
- spreading his time evenly between all,
- and he also pays for all their meals.
- The perfect pastor eats nutritiously, gets his rest, exercises daily, and is always there to listen to you night or day.
- The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens.
- He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church.
- He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.
- The perfect pastor always has time for church council and all of its committees.
- He never misses the meeting of any church organization and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.
- He meets with the all the other pastors in town because they all have so much time on their hands. He also stays focused on the vision of the congregation. And he attends all the town meetings for PR's sake.
- The perfect pastor takes family vacations, and attends all the latest church and ministers conferences, and listens to your favorite TV preachers, and is completely up to date on each prominent TV preacher's messages and knows all that is going on in contemporary society and culture.
- He spends all day Saturday preparing the Sunday sermon, AND focuses on his family.
- He holds down a full time secular job to avoid overburdening the church finances.
- The perfect pastor never spends your tithes on his kids' ice cream cones.
- The perfect pastor is always in the next church over!

Now, if your pastor does not measure up, send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastors, too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of the list. If everyone cooperates, in one month you will receive 1,643 pastors. One of them should be perfect.

WARNING: Trust this letter. One church broke the chain & got its old pastor back in under 3 months.

# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	6 Highland WELCA Labor Day Meal 11:00 – 1:00	7	8 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:30 p.m.	9 Big Canoe council meeting - 6:30 p.m.	10	11
12 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Communion services	13	14 Hannah Circle 1:30 p.m. at BC Naomi Circle mtg. 6:00 p.m.	15 Big Canoe WELCA 12:00 lunch 12:30 meeting	16 Newsletter items due	17	18
19 HI 9:00 a.m. BC 11:00 a.m. Council meeting after service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:00 Highland WELCA mtg. Joint service 11:00 a.m. at Highland Joint council meeting after service	27	28	29	30		

## HIGHLAND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - custodial

5<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Karlsbroten  
12<sup>th</sup> – Lowell Walhus  
19<sup>th</sup> – Lyle Bjerke  
26<sup>th</sup> – Gary Halverson

**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**