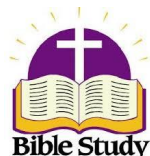


Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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

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

NEWSLETTER



Pastor Becker's Sunday-morning Bible Class

8:45 a.m. each Sunday, class will be in the fellowship hall of the church of service and will last about 50 minutes.
Please consider taking advantage of this educational opportunity as a way to grow in your Christian faith.
All are welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

- Sun, Oct 5 (11am – 3pm): WELCA Meatball Dinner at Big Canoe Fellowship Hall
- Fri, Oct 10 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)
- Sat, Oct 11 (9am-noon): WELCA bake sale (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Oct 12 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Oct 12 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Eighteenth Sun. a. P. (green)
- Sun, Oct 12 (after worship): Feed the Farmers event – meals prepared at Highland
- Sat, Oct 18 (7:00pm): Feast of St. Luke, Physician - Service of Anointing for Healing (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Oct 19 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Oct 19 (9am): Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Oct 19 (10am): Service of the Word w/blessing the quilts at BC (Big Canoe) – 19th Sun. a. P. (green)
- Sun, Oct 19 (11am): Youth confirmation class at Big Canoe
- Thurs, Oct 23 (9am): Shared Ministry meeting (Peace Lutheran Church, Ridgeway)
- Sun, Oct 26 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Oct 26 (10am): Service of the Word w/blessing the quilts at Highland – Reformation Sunday (red)
- Wed, Oct 29 (2:30pm): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Aase Haugen
- Fri, Oct 31 (dusk-??): Pastor and Detra will be handing out “treats” (no tricks!) at the parsonage
- Sat, Nov 1 (7:30-10:30am): Lutheran World Relief Truck at Olson Explosives
- Sun, Nov 2 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 2 (9am): Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 2 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – All Saints Sunday (white)
- Nov 3-4: Pastor Becker will be participating in a pastors’ retreat in Chicago
- Thurs, Nov 6 (9am-3pm): Pastor Becker will be participating in Boundaries Education
- Sun, Nov 9 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Nov 9 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Twenty-second Sun. a. P. (green)
- Sun, Nov 16 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 16 (9am): Sunday school meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Nov 16 (10am): Service of the Word (Big Canoe) – Twenty-third Sun a. P. (green)
- Nov 17-19: Pastor Becker will be giving three lectures at a pastors’ retreat at Creighton University
- Sun, Nov 23 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Nov 23 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Christ the King Sunday (white)
- Sun, Nov 30 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Nov 30 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – First Sun in Advent (blue)
- Apr 21 – May 5, 2026: Pr. Becker will be in Nigeria, Africa (ordaining 20 pastors)

Highland Church Congregational Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2025

Following Joint Worship at Highland

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.

Attendance: 20 Congregational members were present, which included President Anna Jetson, Vice President Al Erickson, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Council members Myron Krauskopf, Gary Selness, Ed Stoen, and Pastor Matthew Becker.

Presentation of Revised Proposal Improvement of the North sidewalk, handicapped parking and patio area: Meeting was moved outside. Myron Krauskopf and Dan Dutka presented the revised proposal. The revised proposal would replace the back door sidewalk from the handicapped parking area to the North and move it to the East to be in alignment with the back door. Increase the handicapped parking area from the church building to the utility building. (Utility building is staying) Add a sidewalk on the North and East side of the utility building from the parking lot to the current sidewalk. Add a patio area from the Northeast corner of the church building to the sidewalk, which will run adjacent to the new tile line and be slightly sloped for drainage, and add railing. The utility building will also receive a concrete floor. See attached drawing.

The estimated cost of the project is \$13,500 from Kelly Concrete. Work would start around October 1.

Motion by Louise Jetson to accept the proposal, seconded by Mark Sollien. No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting by Darlene Larson-Sollien, seconded by Virginia Karlsbrotten, motion carried. Adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

Highland Church Council Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2025

Following Joint Worship at Highland

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:41 AM.

Attendance: President Anna Jetson, Vice President Al Erickson, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Council members Myron Krauskopf, Gary Selness, Ed Stoen and Pastor Matthew Becker.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Becker provided a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Dan Dutka to suspend reading of the minutes, seconded by Al Erickson, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Dutka provided a financial update through August 2025. Filed for audit.

Pastoral Report: Pastor Becker provided a verbal report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Automated Giving update: Dan Dutka provided an update. Has made QR gift markers (book markers) to be used for giving. If used, can be placed in the offering plate after use.
- Northside projects update: Approved at Congregational meeting. No further action.
- Fundraiser for \$1000 for Aase Haugen Capital Campaign for this year: have been getting some change in cans and Dan Dutka will take care of.
- No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Local benevolence: Anna Jetson informed council that we should do something for one of our members in Hospice. Discussion. No action taken.
- Donation/gift card for water source (Mike & Michelle Schwartzhoff): Discussion to give \$100 gift card. Motion by Al Erickson, seconded by Ed Stoen. Carried.
- Hymnals, Highlight Psalms section: Anna Jetson presented info that since the Psalms section does not have page numbers, to mark with a highlighter. It was suggested to highlight the Psalms section with green highlighter on the top edge and outside corner of the hymnal. Time TBA.
- Laptop/projector/smart TV to project videos at Highland (10/26): Anna Jetson informed council that when Rev Barbara and Rev Natanael come to church on October 26, they would like to project a video. She does not know at this time how it would be projected. A current device (smart TV) would possibly be needed. Council discussed options, including Wi-Fi. Pastor Becker informed council that he would like an updated device to use with his educational teachings. Myron Krauskopf requested the Wi-Fi issue be put on the agenda for the next council meeting.
- Bag lunch for Farmers: Anna Jetson presented info that other churches are showing support for farmers by giving them a bag lunch during the harvest season. This would be our first attempt. Council discussed getting a list of area congregational farmers with the possibility of delivering up to 75 bag lunches. The date is October 12.
- Other new business: Pastor Becker discussed communion options, including the common cup. He also suggested the idea of having a pictorial directory for both congregations. It was decided for both items to be discussed at the annual joint meeting with both congregations.
- Myron Krauskopf informed council that he is in conversation with a contractor on getting a quote to repair the church steeple which needs repair. He would like it on the next council agenda.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting by Dan Dutka, seconded by Myron Krauskopf, motion carried. Adjourned at 1:03 PM.

Closing Prayer led by Pastor Becker, The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15 RSV

To honor our farmers and neighbors who till the garden we live in and as a God's Work, Our Hands project of Big Canoe and Highland will be making 70 to 80 bags lunches and distributing the lunches on October 12.

We need your help....

Please consider:

- donating supplies: sandwich fixings (bread, meat, cheese, mayo, butter, etc); single serving bags of chips or cookies; homemade cookies or bars, bottles of water, brown lunch bags, sandwich or snack size bags
- donating your time to help make sandwiches and assemble the sack lunches on October 12.
- Or distribute lunches.

There will be sign up sheets at both Big Canoe and Highland to nominate farmers.

Please include name and address of where meal can be dropped off.

There will also be lists for planned donations...

Questions can be asked of Pastor Becker or Anna Jetson



Other Announcements:

Please sign up to help lead our worship services! There are many blank spaces on the current sign-up sheets. Sign-up sheets are located in the back of the nave at Big Canoe.

Prayer cards are available to fill out before or during the first part of the worship service. Please hand your completed card to the pastor, or hand it to an usher who will get it to the pastor for our corporate prayers.

Our current **prayer list** includes the following individuals from our circle of family and friends: Katelyn, Adeline, Steve G., Steve L., Bob, Tara, Savannah, Linda, Hailey, Loren, Danny, Brayden, Walter, Matt, Barb, Betty, Jim, and Vern. If any changes need to be made to this list, please let Pastor Becker know. (He would also appreciate receiving updates about these individuals for whom we are praying.)

The **adult Sunday morning class** (8:45am-9:40am) is studying **the Nicene Creed**. This ecumenical creed is 1700 years old (adopted in AD 325). All are welcome! Pastor Gies led this morning's session. Pastor Becker will be leading the next session at Highland next Sunday in the fellowship hall there.

For the next several Sundays, members are encouraged to bring **excess member-grown produce** from their farms/gardens for bounty sharing and/or exchanging before/after worship at Big Canoe and Highland (not during worship!).

The **children's Sunday school** met today in the basement of Big Canoe. The next Sunday School is on **Sunday, Oct 19**, 9:00-9:40am. We need people to sign up to serve as teachers, assistants, and snack providers!! A sign-up sheet is available on the table near the side entrance at Highland. For more information, please speak with Pastor Becker, Anna Jetson, or one of our regular Sunday School teachers: Cassidy Ferguson, Randi Jo Wise, or Brooklyn Borreson.

It is time to think about the **Thank Offerings**. Please bring them to Shirley Bigler or Deb Monson by Nov. 15.

The **Big Canoe WELCA** will be collecting for the **personal care kits** between now and the end of October. There is a tote in the entry to the church where any of the following items can be placed. Each personal care kit includes one light-weight bath-size towel (20x40 up to 52x27), two or three bath-size bars of soap (8 oz to 9oz, in their original packaging), one adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging; multipacks can be separated into separate envelopes), and one sturdy comb.

We want to make our church family aware of our approximate **financial situation**:

Big Canoe's Offering

July: \$8,982 for current; \$480 for benevolence.
Aug: \$8,826 for current; \$850 for benevolence.
Sep 7: \$1,575 for current; \$335 for benevolence.
Sep 14: \$885 for current; \$25 for benevolence.
Sep 21: \$1,934 for current; \$160 for benevolence
Sep 28: \$1,025 for current; \$60 for benevolence.

Please note: Last week \$3,000 had to be transferred from Big Canoe's savings account into the checking account to cover regular expenses.

Highland's Offering

July: \$2,893 for current; \$87 for benevolence.
Aug: \$4,572 for current; \$122 for benevolence.
Sep 7: \$310 for current; \$15 for benevolence.
Sep 14: \$1,165 for current; \$15 for benevolence.
Sep 21: \$440 for current; \$17 for benevolence.
Sep 28: \$883 for current; \$102 for benevolence.

In-person worship attendance:

Average attendance in June: 53
Average attendance in July: 49
Average attendance in Aug: 53
Sep 7: 56
Sep 14: 47
Sep 21: 45
Sep 28: 41

Online worship views (Facebook and YouTube):

June: 2,363 views
July: 876 views
Aug: 2,047 views
Sep 7: 721 views
Sep 14: 821 views
Sep 21: 614 views
Sep 28: 8 views

WELCA bake sale at Big Canoe Saturday, October 11th 9:00 a.m. to Noon

It will just be baking and a few quilts.
Laurie Emery and Judy Shuros will be demonstrating how to make lefse.
There will not be any crafts this year.

We need **baked goodies** for the bake sale.
Please bring them to the church by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the sale
so that they can be properly marked.



October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Pastor and Detra will be in Oregon for his brother's funeral thru 10/6		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe Holy Communion 17th Sunday after Pentecost Big Canoe Meatball Dinner 11:00 to 3:00					Pastor Becker leads worship service at Green Lean Manor in Mabel 10:00 a.m.	WELCA bake sale Big Canoe 9 a.m. - noon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion 18th Sunday after Pentecost Feed the Farmers event – meals prepared at Highland after worship						Feast of St. Luke, Physician Service of Anointing for Healing Big Canoe 7:00 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe with Blessing of the Quilts 11:00 Youth Confirmation 19th Sunday after Pentecost				Shared Ministry meeting Peace Lutheran Church, Ridgeway 9:00 a.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland with Blessing of the Quilts Reformation Sunday			Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Aase Haugen, 2:30 p.m.		Pastor & Detra will be handing out treats at the parsonage dusk?	



November

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						LWR Truck Olson Explosives 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
2 8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 11:00 Youth Confirmation Holy Communion All Saints Sunday	3 Pastor Becker participating at a pastor's retreat in Chicago thru tomorrow	4	5	6 Pastor Becker participating in Boundaries Education	7	8
9 8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	17 Pastor Becker gives three lectures at pastor's retreat at Creighton University through Thursday	18	19	20	21 April 21st to May 5th Pastor Becker will be in Nigeria, Africa ordaining 20 pastors	22
23 8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland Christ The King Sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:45 Bible Class 10:00 Service Highland First Sunday in Advent						



Shared Ministry Newsletter

October 2025



*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folstad at linda.folstad49@gmail.com
By: **October 15th** for the November 2025 Newsletter

Gather
Bible Studies
All are invited to join us for
BIBLE STUDY held at
Highland Lutheran Church on Friday,
October 10, 2025 at 9:30 am!
Bring a Friend!

Synodical Women of the Church (ISWO)
Fall Fun Field Trip
October 18, 2025
A drive through beautiful
Clayton County
Visiting the Fraleigh
Museum, Ceres Church,
Lockmaster House, DNR
Aquarium, and optional visit
to Promised Land Winery
All women are invited;
bring a friend.
RSVP by October 13th to:
Christine Schmitt
2504 Indigo Ave
Marble Rock, IA 50653
caudeschmitt@gmail.com
Or call or text:
641-220-5361
Overnight accommodation
options available

Church EVENTS
Big Canoe Lutheran Church
Meatball Dinner
Sunday, October 5, 2026
Serving in the Church basement 11 am—3 pm
Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Carrots, Dinner Roll, Salad Bar, Dessert
Cost: \$15 (children 5 and under free) - Pay at the door
Carry outs available (No pre-sale)

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA GARAGE SALE
Friday, October 10 ~ 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday, October 11 ~ 9 am—Noon
Proceeds from Garage Sales go toward general church repairs

CANOE RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH—HARVEST SUPPER
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Drive-thru/Take Out Only Dinner ~ Serving 4-7 pm
MENU: *Mike Retck's Chicken, Real Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Dressing, Gravy, Corn, Cranberry Salad, Lefse, Rolls, Cookies & Buns*
Tickets: \$17.00 Advance purchase appreciated.
Available at: Ladybug Landscapes, Decorah Rental, Main St. Stylists & Onota Food Coop. Call Roger/Janine Nelson: 419-2370 Marian Rovang-Rude: 382-3191; Nan Larson 382-5446

Glenwood Lutheran Church
Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction
Sunday, October 26, 2025 ~ Sewing Noon—3 pm
MENU: Lutefisk, Meatballs, Mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, Lefse, Rolls, Rømmegrøt, Desserts.
Advance Tickets only \$25 per adult; \$10 ages 6-12; 5 and under are Free
Last day to purchase tickets is October 21, 2025
Tickets may be purchased at: Waukon State Bank, Viking State Bank, Highland General Store, Glenwood Church office
For questions contact the Church office: 563-202-2554

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Oct. 23—9:00 am: Shared Ministry meeting at Peace Lutheran Church
WEBSITES: www.WomenoftheELCA.org www.NEIA.synod.org

Worship Services ~ October 2025				
	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26 REFORMATION SUNDAY
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker Website: bchlutheran.org	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (<i>Nicene Creed</i>) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Big Canoe	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (<i>Nicene Creed</i>) 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Highland	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (<i>Nicene Creed</i>) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am— Service of the Word at Big Canoe. <i>Blessing of Quilts</i>	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (<i>Nicene Creed</i>) 10:00 am— Service of the Word at Highland <i>Blessing of Quilts</i>
Heeper Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Diacon	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am - Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship <i>Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am - Worship	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship <i>Coffee Fellowship</i> 10:00 am - Worship Confirmation/ Affirmation of Baptism
Burr Oak Website: bohllutheran.org	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am worship At Glenwood	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	October 25: 5:00 pm: Worship at Glenwood October 26 10:30 am: Worship at Canoe Ridge
Canoe Ridge Pr. Matthew Russell Glenwood Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am worship At Glenwood	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd. 10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	October 25: 5:00 pm: Worship at Glenwood October 26 10:30 am: Worship at Canoe Ridge
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson Website: haugelutheran.com	9:30 am—Joint Worship St. John's/HC 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC St. John's 10:30 Fellowship	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge 10:30 Fellowship
Ridgeway Lutheran Parish (Peace, Orleans, Madison) Pr. Nathan Wicks Website: ridgewayparish.weebly.com	9:00 am—Worship at Orleans 10:30 am—Worship at Peace.	9:00 am - Worship/HC at Orleans 9:45 am GIFT M (<i>Growing in Faith Together/Sunday School</i>) 10:30 am—Worship/HC at Madison	9:00 am—Worship/HC at Orleans 10:30 am - Worship/HC at Peace	9:30 am—Worship/HC at Madison