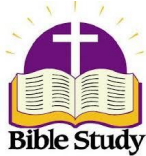


# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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, Aug 10 (9am): Highland WELCA will be meeting at Highland
- Sun, Aug 10 (10am) Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Ninth Sunday a. Pentecost (green)
- Sun, Aug 10 (after the worship service): Congregational meeting of Highland (Highland)
- Sun, Aug 17 (8:45am): Bible class (on Revelation) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Aug 17 (10am): Service of the Word (Big Canoe) – Tenth Sunday a. Pentecost (green)
- Sun, Aug 24 (8:45am): Bible class (on Revelation) meets in the Fellowship Hall at Highland
- Sun, Aug 24 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – St. Bartholomew (red)
- Sun, Aug 31 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Twelfth Sun. after Pentecost (green)
- Sun, Sep 7 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Sep 7 (9am): Sunday school resumes in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Sep 7 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Thirteenth Sun. a. P. (green)
- Fri, Sep 12 (10am): Pr. Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)
- Sat, Sep 13: Mitch Nordheim and Brooklyn Larsen wedding (Big Canoe)
- Sun, Sep 14 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Sep 14 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Highland) – Holy Cross Day (red)
- Sun, Sep 21 (8:45am): Bible class meets in the nave at Big Canoe (Pr. Brackett)
- Sun, Sep 21 (9am): Sunday school meets in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Sep 21 (10am): Service of the Word (Big Canoe) – Matthew, Apostle (red) (Pr. Brackett)
- Sun, Sep 21 (11:15am): Helms Funeral Home luncheon/presentation in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
- Mon, Sep 23-Wed, Sep 25: Pastor Becker will be attending a pastors' retreat in Chicago
- Sun, Sep 28 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the fellowship hall at Highland
- Sun, Sep 28 (10am): Service of the Word (Highland) – Sixteenth Sun. a. Pentecost (green)
- Sun, Sep 28 to Tues, Sep 30: Pastor Becker will be attending the Tri-synodical fall theological conference
- Sun, Oct 5 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe
- Sun, Oct 5 (9am): Sunday school meets in the fellowship hall at Big Canoe
- Sun, Oct 5 (10am): Service w/Holy Communion (Big Canoe) – Seventeenth Sun. a. P. (green)
- Sun, Oct 5 (11am – 1pm): WELCA Meatball Dinner at Big Canoe Fellowship Hall
- Fri, Oct 10 (10am): Pastor Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)

## **Big Canoe Council Meeting Minutes, Sunday, June 29, 2025**

The Big Canoe council meeting was called to order by President Brian Bigler. Other council members present: Steve Emery - Vice President, Bill Bullerman, Seth Ferguson, Kathryn Thompson, Vernoe Whitaker, Laurie Emery, Deb Monson - Secretary, and Pastor Becker.

It was decided to forgo the reading of the minutes from the last council meeting.

Brian contacted Sawyer Wise who will be submitting a bid to upgrade the septic system.

Discussion was had regarding fees for use of the church by non members. Pastor will be marrying a couple at Big Canoe next May who are not members. The cost of non members to use the church for a wedding is \$200.00. This fee does not cover the custodian or pastor fees.

Pastor would like to see the use of Record of Fellowship/Attendance Cards implemented at church. The cards would be completed by members only. The ushers would pick up the completed cards after services. The cost of the form is \$77 with the cost of the initial set of the forms covered by Pastor Becker. President Brian requested a motion to approve the use of the attendance cards, along with payment for cost of all future forms to be paid by the church. The motion was made by Seth and seconded by Bill. The motion passed.

Pastor Becker would like to see the church to begin using welcome cards for visitors coming to Big Canoe. The card would say welcome to our parish and would provide general information about Big Canoe. This would give the church publicity for new members. Pastor will pay for the first round of cards to be made up.

President Brian requested a motion for the approval and printing of the welcome to our parish card. A motion was made by Bill Bullerman and seconded by Kathryn Thompson. The motion passed.

The summer fill contract with Hovey has been taken care of by Treasurer Laurie Emery.

It was suggested that Lisa Bullerman send thank you cards to persons (visitors) who make donations by check to the church, using special thank you cards.

Thanks to Kris Bigler and Tammy Nordheim for helping with decluttering the church.

The audio equipment in the basement will be given to Bill Stoen. Brian will contact Bill about this.

Brian will also talk to Bill about applying to The Depot for a grant for the septic project.

The Ladies Aid will be having a meatball dinner on October 5th serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Time needs to be verified.

The council meeting was adjourned. The Lord's Prayer was recited by everyone.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

- Update 7/2/25: Brian made contact with all council members on the purchase of a new printer/copier for the church. All council members agreed to the purchase.

## **Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches Joint Council Meeting, June 29, 2025**

Big Canoe council members present: Brian Bigler - President, Steve Emery - Vice President, Deb Monson - Secretary, Vernoe Whitaker, Seth Ferguson, Kathryn Thompson, Bill Bullerman, Laurie Emery, and Pastor Becker.

Highland council members present: Anna Jetson - President, Al Erickson - Vice President, Kristi Selness - Secretary, Danny Dutka, Myron Krauskopf, Gary Selness, and Ed Stoen.

President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order.

Pastor Becker offered prayers and said he sees Big Canoe and Highland as one Parish and looks upon us as being one flock of sheep.

Kristi Selness gave the secretary's report from the last joint council meeting. One clarification was made was that Big Canoe and Highland each have their own Workmen's Compensation Insurance for Pastor and employees.

President Anna requested a motion to accept the secretary's report as read and corrected. Al Erickson made the motion which was seconded by Brian Bigler. The motion passed.

Pastor report from Pastor Becker:

- Twenty two members from Big Canoe and Highland attended the church retreat on June 21, 2025 at Big Canoe. There was a good group discussion.
- Pastor has goals for 2026. He strongly encourages education within the churches, adult bible study education, Children's Sunday School which will start up again this fall at Big Canoe on the first and third Sunday of the month, the worship schedule will remain as is with further discussion at the next council meetings.
- The following people are receiving adult Instruction to become members at Big Canoe: Lisa Boyd, Randi Jo and Sawyer Wise.
- Pastor will be going to Germany for further education/work. He will leave on July 12th and return on July 25th. Detra is currently working with horses for people with PTSD and autism. She will finish her education at the end of July.
- Big Canoe will have a float in the Nordic Fest parade.
- QR code cards - On Easter Sunday, \$700 was received through the QR code system. The QR code cards should be upgraded by laminating the cards for offering purposes. This is for Big Canoe only,
- Pastor is trying to get the church services on YouTube.
- Pastor will be performing a wedding at Big Canoe on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend. The people to be married are non-members but chose Big Canoe because of the beauty of the church.
- Pastor will be traveling to Nigeria in April 2026 to ordain the students he has been teaching.
- Pastor will be suspending office hours but is still available by calling and setting up and appointment.
- Luther League members enjoyed a picnic.
- Pastor will be speaking at a conference in November of this year and will be the keynote speaker in California in January 2026.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Sunday, July 27 there will be a Shared Ministry service in Highlandville with a potluck dinner following services. Ellen Friedrich will be the guest speaker. Her fee is \$425.00. President Brian Bigler made the motion which was seconded by Kathryn Thompson that in case of rain, Big Canoe will be the back up location. The motion passed.

- According to the Synod, church guest pastors are to be paid \$200 plus mileage.
- There will be attendants assisting with parking and shuttling. Persons attending are to bring their own chairs and table service.
- Tammy Nordheim will be setting up programs for the youth attending.
- A new printer/copier is needed at Big Canoe. A new color copier would be shared by Big Canoe and Highland for newsletters and bulletins.
- Brian asked for volunteers to research a new printer/copier and whether it be purchased or leased. Representatives from Highland and Big Canoe along with Pastor Becker and Denise Gulrud will be Lisa Bullerman and Judy Krauskopf.
- Pastor also needs a new printer at the parsonage as the one he has is costing \$90 for the ink cartridge.
- For info and discussion purposes only: Church services will remain as currently scheduled. A request/option was made for a 9:00 a.m. service with Adult Bible Study and Sunday School after service. Church attendance today, June 29th, was 53. Communion distribution: intinction versus the common cup - Pastor Becker would like to see the use of the common cup. Communion distribution will remain as is currently done.
- Attendance booklets will be placed in the church pews. People can sign in that they are in attendance and also if they took communion. We will experiment with this at Big Canoe on Sunday, July 6th.
- Should joint councils meet more than twice a year?
- Pastor Becker introduced the idea of having a cantor to lead both congregations in singing. Lisa Boyd, who is a music major, has a beautiful voice and would make for a great cantor. Consolidation needs to be given to paying Lisa for this service.
- Highland needs to update joint property concerns. The south porch windows at the parsonage need to be replaced with an awning type of window. Kohlmeyer has provided an estimate of \$6,139. Danny Dutka will apply for a grant from The Depot Outlet. Pastor and Detra are willing to contribute to this project as well. A new floor for the south porch also needs to be completed at some point.
  - President Anna Jetson asked for a motion for the replacement of the windows on the south porch of the parsonage. Myron Krauskopf made the motion which was seconded by Steve Emery. The motion passed.

Danny Dutka made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Myron Krauskopf. The meeting was adjourned. The meeting was closed by all in attendance reciting The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Big Canoe Secretary

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## **Highland Church Council Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2025 following Joint Worship at Highland**

**Call to Order:** President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:21 AM.

**Attendance:** President Anna Jetson, Vice President Al Erickson, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer Dan Dutka, Council members Myron Krauskopf, Gary Selness, Ed Stoen and guest Judi Krauskopf, printer/copier committee member.

**Opening Devotions:** Anna Jetson provided a prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** Kristy Selness read the May 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Dan Dutka, seconded by Myron Krauskopf, carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Dutka provided a financial update. He bought two CD's at Viking State Bank, \$10,000 each. One for a 182 day term and one for a 12 month term. The Scholarship fund was closed out and put in the Improvement fund. \$20,000 was taken out of the Improvement fund to pay for improvements at the church. Filed for audit.

**Property Report:** Dan Dutka provided a report. We have new gutters, downspouts and screens on the North side of the church. Cost of \$2,527.85. Work done by State Line Seamless Gutters, completed in June 2025.

Propane was contracted for next season for 1,000 gallons at \$1.55 per gallon. Summer fill has been completed for 330 gallons at \$1.49 per gallon.

**Pastoral Report:** No report.

**Update on Parish printer/copier:** Judi Krauskopf provided an update. Committee agreed to purchase HP color laser pro, model MFP430 for \$579.00. Highland's share of 35% to be paid from the Improvement fund.

**Organist for Shared Ministry on July 27:** Kathryn Thompson to be organist and Highland Church to pay since worship would have been at Highland that day.

**Automated Giving:** Discussion on QR code. Dan Dutka provided information on this. Motion by Myron Krauskopf to authorize the Treasurer to open an additional checking account for receipt of electronic giving, seconded by Al Erickson. Motion carried.

Motion by Anna Jetson to authorize Treasurer to set up electronic giving in the form of a QR code with anticipated cost of 2.9% plus 30¢ per transaction, seconded by Gary Selness. Motion carried.

**Northside Project Update:** Myron Krauskopf provided an update. Proposal to run new tile line on North side of church, from Northeast corner to Northwest corner, and tie into existing tile line by the sidewalk to avoid tearing up the sidewalk. Put in two intakes to catch excess water. Received a bid from Doug Schmelzer in the amount of \$3,100. Motion by Dan Dutka to approve Schmelzer bid of drainage and rock on new tile line, second by Myron Krauskopf. Motion carried.

**Sidewalk Repair:** Myron Krauskopf provided an update, with Dan Dutka. He informed the Council that the sidewalk at the back door (North side) is in need of repair. It has uneven and shifted sections, and some broken concrete. It is 145 feet in length. Proposal to replace sidewalk from the North end to the back door. Add an additional slab of concrete next to the current one by the church back door and run it up to the church, so you would have additional parking. Also, add a slab of concrete on the North end of the back sidewalk so that you would add an additional two or three parking spaces, possibly for handicapped. This first project was bid out at \$10,656 by Steve Falk Construction, \$11,256 by Kelly Concrete and \$13,876 by Hubka Construction.

Myron Krauskopf provided two additional projects for the Council.

Due to the cost of these projects, Dan Dutka made a motion to schedule a congregational meeting on August 10, 2025 to discuss and approve the major concrete projects, seconded by Al Erickson, motion carried.

**Tool Shed:** Discussion on moving of tool shed. No action taken.

**Fundraiser for Aase Haugen Capital Campaign this year:** Discussion by Council on raising funds. Coffee can donations discussed, Anna Jetson and Dan Dutka to look into options.

**Coffee Chats Feedback:** No feedback at this time.

**September Council Meeting:** Council agreed on no September Council Meeting unless possible Special meeting after congregational meeting.

**Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn meeting by Myron Krauskopf, seconded by Al Erickson, motion carried. Adjourned at 12:47 PM.

Closing Prayer led by Anna Jetson, The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

## Other Announcements:

Our current **prayer list** includes the following individuals from our circle of family and friends: Katelyn, Sandy, Faith, Michaela, Steve G., Steve L., Lisa, Bob, Tara, Savannah, Linda, Hailey, Loren, Danny, Brayden, Walter, Ellen, Matt, Barb, Betty, Karen, Jim, Sherry, and Mike D. 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.)

As Pastor Becker indicated in his recent devotion, **his brother Mike died** this past Tuesday after a brief struggle with cancer and cardiac issues. The memorial will take place in Oregon during the first week of October. Please keep Pastor Becker's family, especially his mom, in your prayers as they mourn Mike's death.

Due to popular demand (smile), the **Sunday morning Bible class** will continue to study the **Book of Revelation**. While we did not have Bible class today (due to the WELCA meeting), the class resumes next week at Big Canoe at 8:45am in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Starting in September, the adult Sunday morning class (8:45am) will be studying the Nicene Creed, which is 1700 years old this year (adopted in AD 325).

The **children's Sunday school** will resume at Big Canoe on Sunday, Sep 7, 9:00-9:45am. We need people to sign up to serve as teachers, assistants, and snack providers!! A sign-up sheet is available on the back table at Big Canoe as well as on the table in the entryway at Highland. Please speak with Pastor Becker or Tammy Nordheim for more information.

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

The offering total for Jan-June at Big Canoe: \$44,472 for current; \$3,676 for benevolence.

The offering total for Jan-June at Highland: \$19,069 for current; \$1,567 for benevolence.

### Big Canoe's Offering

July: \$8,982 for current; \$480 for benevolence.

Aug 3:

### Highland's Offering

July: \$2,893 for current; \$87 for benevolence.

Aug 3: \$390 for current; \$20 for benevolence.

### In-person worship attendance:

Average attendance in April: 87

Average attendance in May: 60

Average attendance in June: 53

Average attendance in July: 49

Aug 3: 72

### Online worship views (Facebook and YouTube):

Jan-Apr: 8,390 views

May: 1,891 views

June: 2,363 views

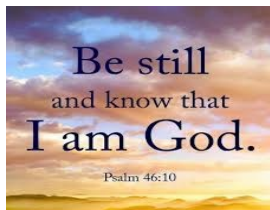
July: 876 views

Aug 3: 591 views

**Money can't buy health, happiness, or what it bought last year.** "Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death" (Prov. 11:4).

**A prayer for the coming week:** "Holy God, grant me strength to follow Jesus with unwavering faith. Fill me with your wisdom, kindness, and courage. Lead me by your Spirit to walk with grace and purpose. In Jesus' name. Amen."





# Shared Ministry Newsletter

August 2025



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

By: August 15th for the September 2025 Newsletter



*All are invited to join us for*

**BIBLE STUDY held at Highland Lutheran Church on Friday, August 8, 2025 at 9:30 am!**

**Bring a Friend!**

**Burr Oak—Hesper Lutheran Church  
Campfire Worship & Marshmallow Fellowship**



**Saturday,  
August 16,  
2025**

**Roasting hotdogs beginning at 6:15 pm.**

**Worship at 7:00 pm  
Bring your lawn chair!**

**All are welcome!**

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## Shared Ministry Joint Worship

Our first Shared Ministry outdoor worship service and potluck dinner was held Sunday, July 27th at the Highlandville Schoolhouse. Along with scriptures and prayers the worship service included an interesting presentation by Ellen Friedrich about her time in Madagascar serving in the ELCA Young Adult in Ministry Program, the unity of our hearts and voices in singing praise to God with beloved and familiar hymns, a special duet by Pr. Dave & Donna, and a fun "M&M's" Children's Sermon for kids of **all** ages! Enjoyment of a potluck dinner with a wide variety of tasty choices followed worship. Pop up tents, tree shade and an occasional light breeze helped provide some comfort for the unseasonably warm day and a time of fellowship with friends and neighbors made for a delightful morning out in God's beautiful creation! *Thanks to all who helped organize, those participating and all who attended!*



## Upcoming Events

July 28—Aug. 2: ELCA Church wide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ

Sat. Aug. 16: 6:15 pm light meal/7:00 pm Campfire Worship in Hesper


Sept. 7: ELCA God's Work, Our Hands

### WEBSITES:

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

[www.NEIA synod.org](http://www.NEIA synod.org)

## Worship Services ~ August 2025

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
<b>Highland &amp; Big Canoe</b> Pr. Matthew Becker Website: <a href="http://bchlutheran.org">bchlutheran.org</a>	10:00 am—Joint worship/HC at Big Canoe. Baptism <b>8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe</b> <b>Last class on Revelation</b>	10:00 am—Joint worship/HC at Highland	10:00 am—Joint Worship. Service of the Word at Big Canoe.	10:00 am— Joint Worship. Service of the Word at Highland	10:00 am—Joint worship/HC at Big Canoe.
<b>Hesper</b> Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Deacon  <b>Burr Oak</b> Website: <a href="http://bohlutheran.org">bohlutheran.org</a>	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 <i>Blessing of Backpacks</i>	9:00 am— Ecumenical Worship service hosted by Area Council of Churches in the Fest Tent in Canton	8:30 am Worship <i>Coffee Fellowship</i>  10:00 am Worship	8:30 am Joint Worship In Hesper
<b>Canoe Ridge</b> Pr. Matthew Rossler  <b>Glenwood</b> Website: <a href="http://glenwoodlutheran.org">glenwoodlutheran.org</a>	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge  10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge  8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge  10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge  8:30 am—Worship at Glenwood	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge  10:30 am—Worship at Glenwood
<b>St. John's &amp; Hauge</b> Pr. Randy Kittelson Website: <a href="http://haugelutheran.com">haugelutheran.com</a>	9:30 am—Joint Worship Hauge/HC <i>10:30 Fellowship</i>	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC St. John's <i>10:30 Fellowship</i>	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge <i>10:30 Fellowship</i>	9:30 am—Joint Worship'HC St. John's <i>10:30 Fellowship</i>	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC Hauge <i>10:30 Fellowship</i>
<b>Ridgeway Lutheran Parish</b> <i>(Peace, Orleans, Madison)</i> Pr. Nathan Wicks Website: <a href="http://ridgewayparish.weebly.com">ridgewayparish.weebly.com</a>	9:30 am—Joint Worship/HC at Madison	9:30 am - Joint Worship/HC at Orleans	9:30 am— Joint Worship/HC at Peace	9:30 am—Worship in the Park	9:30 am - Joint Worship/HC at Orleans
<b>Washington Prairie</b> Website: <a href="http://washingtonprairie.lutheran.org">washingtonprairie.lutheran.org</a>	10:30 am Worship/HC	10:30 am Worship	10:30 am Worship/HC	10:30 am Worship	10:30 am Worship



# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 Worship, <b>Big Canoe</b> Communion 8th Sunday after Pentecost					Gather Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Highland	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 Worship, <b>Highland</b> Communion 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Highland WELCA meeting Congregational meeting after service						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00 Worship, <b>Big Canoe</b> 10th Sunday after Pentecost						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00 Worship, <b>Highland</b> Communion St. Bartholomew						
31	September 1					September 6
10:00 Worship, <b>Big Canoe</b> 12th Sunday after Pentecost						

**Sunday, September 7th**  
 8:45 a.m. Bible Class (Nicene Creed) - meets in Nave at Big Canoe  
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School resumes - Fellowship Hall at Big Canoe  
 10:00 a.m. Service w/ Holy Communion at Big Canoe - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

**Tuesday, September 9th**  
 1:00 p.m. Bingo at Tweten Lutheran Healthcare, Spring Grove

**Friday, September 12th**  
 Pastor Becker leads worship service at Green Lean Manor in Mabel

**Saturday, September 13th**  
 Mitch Nordheim and Brooklyn Larsen wedding at Big Canoe

**Wednesday, September 17th**  
 12:30 p.m. WELCA meeting, Big Canoe, Hannah Circle serves lunch