

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

Upcoming Events

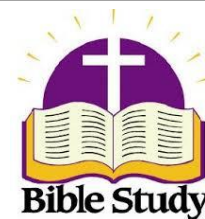
- **Thurs, Jan 9:** Zoom class for the Nigerian Lutherans resumes
- **Sun, Jan 12 (8 AM):** Big Canoe Auditing Committee meets (BC)
 - Please have all books requiring an audit at Big Canoe by Saturday, January 11th.
- **Sun, Jan 12 (after worship):** BC Council prepares 2025 budget (BC)
- **Wed, Jan 15 (9 AM):** Shared Ministry meeting (St. John's)
- **Thurs, Jan 16, and Fri, Jan 17:** Pastor Becker will be at the Mayo Clinic
- **Sun, Jan 19 (10 AM):** Worship w/ the Baptism of Enley Lynn Courtney (BC)
- **Tues, Jan 21 (1:30 PM):** Depot Annual Meeting
- **Sun, Jan 26 (after worship):** Big Canoe Annual Meeting
- **Jan-Feb** – During the Epiphany season, Pastor Becker is available to visit homes to provide a brief house blessing. Contact him via email or text if you are interested in having him bless your domicile.

Additional Announcements:

- Worship planning sheets are on the table in the back of the nave at Big Canoe (by the mailboxes). Please sign up to participate as Scripture readers, communion assistants (council members), and ushers.
- Prayer cards are available on the table in the entryway at Big Canoe. Please fill out a prayer card if you have any special prayer requests. Give the completed card to an usher who will give it to Pastor Becker before he leads the congregation in prayer in the worship service.

Food Pantry Collection

Big Canoe WELCA will be collecting for the Decorah Food Shelf. Non-perishable items or cash donations will be accepted and appreciated. There will be a container for both in the church entry. Thank you in advance for your help in what you give.



Bible Study
Pastor Becker's

Sunday-morning Bible Class

8:45 a.m. each Sunday
fellowship hall of the church of service.
The class will last about 50 minutes.
Please consider taking advantage of this
educational opportunity
as a way to grow in your Christian faith.

Pastor Becker · 219-916-8535 · matthew.becker@valpo.edu

Office hours:

Wednesdays at Highland, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursdays at Big Canoe, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays at Big Canoe, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

While he plans on taking Mondays off, he can be reached at any time by his cell for emergencies.

Joint Council Meeting December 18, 2024

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order. Pastor Becker gave the prayers.

Big Canoe Council members present: Brian Bigler-President, Steve Emery-Vice President, Laurie Emery-Treasurer, Deb Monson-Secretary, Venoe Whitaker, Kathryn Thompson, Bill Bullerman, and Pastor Becker.

Highland Council members present: Steve Langland-President, Al Erickson-Vice President, Darlene Larson-Secretary, Danny Dutka-Treasurer, Karen Erickson and Anna Jetson.

Deb Monson read the minutes from July 28, 2024. Danny Dutka made a motion to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Steve Langland. Minutes were approved and placed on file.

Bill Stoen gave an update on finding an insurance company that will provide insurance for the church. Bill has been in contact with American Family Insurance to get a quote. There are two other companies that may be a possibility as well.

Many churches are being dropped by Church Mutual Insurance. Big Canoe will also be losing its Workmen's Compensation Insurance effective January 1, 2025.

Pastor Becker may meet with the executive council and ask for a review of his providing pastoral services. Pastor is also working on updating the church membership.

- He provided a 12 point list of goals for 2025. These goals are above and beyond preaching the word and administering the sacraments. He would also like to keep the youth connected to the church.
- He reminded everyone that Big Canoe and Highland are very long standing congregations. Big Canoe since 1853 and Highland since 1895.
- He would like to discuss the church schedule at the annual meeting and give attention to the number of Sundays that communion is given.

Brian recommended Pastor Becker on all that he has done and will be doing for the church and what Pastor Becker wants to do for the church.

Pastor is conducting home visits. The names of the congregants visits will be kept confidential.

The proposed 2025 budget was worked on. Steve Langland made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget. Steve Emery seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Steve Langland made a motion to adjourn the council meeting, which was seconded by Steve Emery. Brian called the council meeting adjourned.

Pastor Becker gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson, Secretary

Big Canoe Council Meeting December 22, 2024

Council members present: Brian Bigler-President, Steve Emery-Vice President, Laurie Emery-Treasurer, Deb Monson-Secretary, Shelley Bigler, Venoe Whitaker, Kathryn Thompson, Bill Bullerman, and Pastor Becker.

President Brian Bigler called the meeting to order. Pastor Becker gave the prayers.

The following members of Big Canoe are to serve as the Auditing Committee. Bob Thomas, Rita Hurd-Thomas, Michelle and Mark Borreson. A motion was made by Brian to approve these members to serve as the Auditing Committee. It was seconded by Shelley Bigler and the motion was approved by all voting aye.

The budget meeting is set for January 12, 2025 after church services.

Steve is to contact Sandy Gavle, Pat O'Regan, and Darrell Stoen, the current Nominating Committee to call and find council member replacements. Shelley Bigler will be going off of the council, Vernoe Whitaker agreed to stay on the council.

Pastor Becker is working on updating the church membership.

Brian asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was second by Steve Emery and passed by all voting aye.

Pastor Becker closed the meeting with a prayer.

A phone call from President Brian Bigler was received later that afternoon. A bill has been received at church from Church Mutual for Worker's Compensation Benefits. Church Mutual will continue to be the insurance carrier for Workmen's Compensation at Big Canoe.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson, Secretary

January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Communion						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Communion						All books requiring an audit should be at the church today
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Big Canoe Auditing Committee meets 8:00 AM 8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Big Canoe Council prepares 2025 budget after service			Shared Ministry Meeting 9:00 AM St. John's	Pastor Becker at Mayo Clinic		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Baptism of Enley Courtney		Depot Annual Meeting 1:30 PM				
26	27	28	29	30	31	February 1
8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship, Big Canoe Big Canoe Annual Meeting after service						February worship services at Highland



Shared Ministry Newsletter

January 2025



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

All are invited to join us for



BIBLE STUDY held at Highland Lutheran Church Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9:30 am!

Discussion centers around Bible studies in the **GATHER Magazine**, an ELCA publication.

Bring a Friend!

Let Anna Jetson know if you are in need of a copy of the Bible Study.

If school is delayed or cancelled, Bible Study is also cancelled.

NE IA Synod Virtual Treasurer's Meeting

Thursday, January 23rd
6:30 pm—8:00 pm.
Topics to include info on Church W-2's and Contributions, and 2025 Minimum Compensation Guidelines. Treasurers will receive info on how to join the Zoom meeting.



Shared Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025
9:00 am at St. John's Lutheran Church

The agenda for this meeting includes finalizing plans for the Lenten Round Robin rotation services and exploring ways our churches can continue to connect and share ministry. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn, ask questions and share ideas!



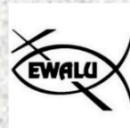
NE IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2025

June 7, 2025 at Bien VenU in Cedar Falls 7:30 am check-in—5 pm closing

The synod is taking a closer look at how congregations are connecting and collaborating together in ministry, cultivating relationships, and sharing in mission. The 2025 Synod Assembly theme is "Created to be Connected" and will give insights into how congregations have learned to be the church together. This topic seems to fit in with the purpose of the Shared Ministry Group and may offer some useful information.

Online registration begins Monday, February 10th. A set of rooms with special pricing is available at Holiday Inn/Bien VenU Event Center for those wishing to come Friday. An opening worship service hosted by Fredsville Lutheran Church will be held Friday night, June 6th at 7 pm.

EWALU Bible Camp




Registration for the 2025 Camping year is now open! Two new camps have been added: "**Splash Camp**" for 8th Graders and "**Wanderers**" for students in grades 9—12. An Early Bird discount of \$40 is offered to those who register by February 28th. In addition, this year tiered registration is available to assist families with the cost of camp.

EWALU FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 1:00—4:00 pm
Sledding, hiking, Arts & Crafts, Scavenger Hunt. Indoor and outdoor fun!
Check out ewalu.org for more information and to sign-up.

Worship Services ~ January 2025

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe	Joint worship 10:00 am at Big Canoe
Burr Oak Hesper Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Deacon	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>Coffee</i> <i>Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship/HC	8:30 am Worship <i>Coffee</i> <i>Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship	10:00 am Worship/HC 11:00 am—Burr Oak Annual Meeting 8:30 am Worship/HC <i>Coffee</i> <i>Fellowship</i>	8:30 am Worship/HC <i>Coffee</i> <i>Fellowship</i> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am—Hesper Annual Meeting
Canoe Ridge Glenwood Pr. Matthew Rossler	8:30 am worship at Canoe Rid/HC. <i>9:30 am Coffee</i> 10:30 am worship at Glenwood/HC	10:30 am - worship at Canoe Ridge 8:30 am worship at Glenwood <i>9:30 am Coffee</i>	8:30 am worship at Canoe Ridge <i>9:30 am Coffee</i> 10:30 am worship at Glenwood	10:30 am - worship at Canoe Ridge Glenwood Congrega- tional Meeting. <i>Coffee to follow</i>
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittleson	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge <i>10:30 Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's <i>10:30 Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at Hauge <i>10:30 Coffee Hour</i>	Joint Worship/HC 9:30 am at St. John's <i>10:30 Coffee Hour</i>

Websites:

www.WomenoftheELCA.org
www.NEIASynod.org
www.bchlutheran.org Big Canoe/Highland Lutheran
www.glenwoodlutheran.org Glenwood/Canoe Ridge
www.bohlutheran.org Burr Oak/Hesper Lutheran
www.haugelutheran.com Hauge/St. John's Lutheran

Upcoming Events: 2025

Jan. 15: 9 am—Shared Ministry meeting at
 St. John's
 Feb 21-22— SWO Winter Retreat at EWALU
 Stone Center
 Feb. Upper Iowa River Conference Assembly
 Mar. 5— Lenten Bible Study at Wildberry Winery
 ASH WEDNESDAY worship at St. John's
 Mar. 7— World Day of Prayer