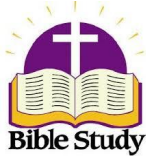


Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Churches

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

- Wed, Sep 10 (7pm): Burr Oak WELCA bazaar and raffle
- Fri, Sep 12 (10am): Pr. Becker leads the worship service at Green Lea Manor (Mabel)
- Sat, Sep 13 (2:30pm): 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 14 (after worship): Special congregational meeting at Highland to discuss sidewalk/parking
- Tue, Sep 16 (1:30-4pm): Meeting of the Upper Iowa River Conference of the ELCA (Big Canoe)
- Wed, Sep 17 (noon): WELCA of Big Canoe lunch and meeting (Big Canoe)
- Sat-Sun, Sep 20-21: Pastor Becker will be in Valparaiso, IN
- Sun, Sep 21 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) 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 (11am-1pm): Bazaar meal at Highland
- Sun, Sep 28 to Tues, Sep 30: Pastor Becker will be attending the Tri-synodical fall theological conference
- Oct 1-6 – Pastor and Detra will be in Oregon for his brother's funeral
- Sun, Oct 5 (8:45am): Bible class (on the Nicene Creed) meets in the nave at Big Canoe – Pr. Gies
- 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) – Pr. Gies
- 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)

Highland Church Congregational Meeting Minutes - August 10, 2025

Following Joint Worship at Highland

Call to Order: President Anna Jetson called the meeting to order at 11:13 AM.

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

Presentation of Proposed Improvements of the North sidewalk and parking areas, handicap parking: Myron Krauskopf presented three options for the project and their proposed cost estimates. Lowest cost estimates were from Kelly Construction. Congregational members discussed at length the options with numerous other alternatives, which included handicapped alternatives and moving the storage shed. Darlene Larson-Sollien motioned to delay the vote to get additional information. Dan Dutka moved to table the topic to get further information and check on options. Eric Selness seconded the motion. Further discussion on more options to be brought forward. Motion carried.

Prayer: by Pastor Becker.

Announcement regarding raising funds for Aase Haugen Capital Campaign pledge of \$1000.00 for 2025. Anna Jetson mentioned donation cans are placed in church for noisy offering.

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting by Dennis Karlsbrotten, seconded by Darlene Larson-Sollien, motion carried. Adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Council Meeting - August 17, 2025

Council members present: Brian Biger - President, Steve Emery - Vice President, Deb Monson - Secretary, Laurie Emery - Treasurer, Seth Ferguson, Vernoe Whitaker, Kathryn Thompson, and Pastor Becker. Pastor Becker gave the prayers.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand \$909.10. Benevolence \$1,500. Laurie wrote a check for the Cemetery Fund for \$500 for lawn mowing.

Secretary Deb Monson read the minutes from the 6/29/25 council meeting with one correction - the fall dinner on October 5th will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Septic update: Sawyer Wise has submitted his bid for replacing the old septic system.

1250 gallon tank
300 feet of drain field and insulation
Proper abandonment of old tank
Labor and installation for a total of \$7,525.00

New tank plus installation materials	\$5,775.00
Abandonment of old tank	\$ 250.00
Labor	\$1,500.00
Total	\$7,525.00

A motion was made by Seth Ferguson to accept the bid and was seconded by Steve Emery. The bid was approved by the council.

Laurie Emery stated the cost would be covered by CD's. Bill Stoen advised that he will apply for a grant from The Depot Outlet. Bill said a grant may be up to \$5,000 if approved. If the grant is approved, we may not see the grant money until December.

President Brian Bigler said that the cost of printing the newsletter is getting to be astronomical. The council discussed sending the newsletter by email with 20-30 copies being printed and placed at the back of the church.

A motion was made by Seth Ferguson to send the newsletter by email, seconded by Kathryn Thompson and the motion was approved by the council.

Pastor Becker discussed providing sack lunch to farmers during harvest time. The date for this would be the second Sunday in October. People would be needed to pack the lunches and drivers to deliver them to farmers. The lunch would consist of a sandwich, chips, and a drink. Deb Monson advised the council that Big Canoe WELCA will be having their Bake and Quilt Sale on Saturday, October 11th.

Bill Stoen has ordered two fixed plaques/signs with the digital QR Code people can scan to give to Big Canoe. A decision has to be made as to the placement of the plaques.

Brian said that the buses and flowers need to be trimmed before the wedding at Big Canoe on September 13th.

Brian requested a motion to adjourn, the motion was made by Steve, seconded by Vernoe, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Monson - Secretary

Be Mindful When Visiting a Cemetery

Visiting the cemetery can be a way to honor a loved one, but did you know about the hazards in a cemetery? Here are some etiquette and safety tips when visiting a cemetery.

- Watch your footing, avoid sitting or climbing on monuments, and be aware of your surroundings.
- Bad weather, rain, and wind can break tree branches and can erode or undermine monuments.
- Older monuments can get brittle, break, and even fall.
- Frost can cause newer monuments to slide or "walk" off their foundation.
- As much as we cherish our loved ones that have passed away, be mindful of the memorabilia you place at their grave site. Small objects can roll, animals can move them, and even the wind can take them away. When the groundskeeper mows or trims, memorabilia can pose a hazard to him or those visiting at that time.
- If you have broken memorabilia at the gravesite, please remove it.
- If you see or know of a hazard in the Big Canoe Cemetery, please notify the cemetery committee so that someone can address the issue.

Tammy Nordheim thanks the cemetery committee, the groundskeeper, and the public for taking such good care of the Big Canoe Cemetery. There is still ongoing work to be done. With the recent rains in August there are a few more tombstones to be repaired. If anyone would like to donate to the cemetery repairs, please contact anyone on the cemetery committee: Steve Emery, Sandy Gavle, Matt Amundson, Erik Stoen, or Carey and Tammy Nordheim.

Other Announcements:

Confirmation instruction begins Sunday, September 7th after the service (11-11:30am).

Prayer cards are available to fill out before or during the first part of the worship service. Please hand your completed card to Pastor Becker, 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, Faith, Steve G., Steve L., Bob, Tara, Savannah, Linda, Hailey, Loren, Danny, Brayden, Walter, Ellen, Matt, Barb, Betty, Jim, Sam, and Cindy. 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!

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** began Sunday, September 7th.. The next Sunday school will be in the basement of Big Canoe on **Sunday, Sep 21**, 9:00-9:40 a.m. 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. 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.

The **Burr Oak WELCA** is holding its **annual bazaar and raffle** on Wed, Sept 10, at 7pm. All are invited to attend. Raffle tickets are \$1 (available from any church member). There will be fellowship, baked goods, quilts, and gifts. For a list of the raffle items, see the poster that is on the bulletin board at Big Canoe.

There will be a **special congregational meeting at Highland** next Sunday, Sept. 14, after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the updated bid for the sidewalk and additional handicap parking on the northside of the church.

Big Canoe WELCA meets at Big Canoe on Wed, Sep 17, at noon. A meal will take place first, followed by the meeting.

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.

Please join Caryl from Helms Funeral Home here at Big Canoe Lutheran on Sunday, Sept 21, for an **Advanced Planning Seminar** after the morning service from 11:30am - 1pm. Enjoy a FREE lunch by U2 BBQ and learn about the benefits of pre-planning for your end-of-life needs. **The free meal will consist of Swiss steak, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli salad, and a dessert.** Please RSVP to Caryl at 612-730-3003 to ensure your spot. You can also RSVP to Virginia Karlsbrotten. **It is very important to RSVP asap!!** We look forward to seeing you!

Highland's Offering

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

Aug 10: \$1,105 for current; \$15 for benevolence.

Aug 24: \$1,159 for current; \$15 for benevolence.

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

Aug 17: \$825 for current; \$10 for benevolence.

Aug 31: \$1,093 for current; \$62 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

Aug 10: 38

Aug 17: 56

Aug 24: 46

Aug 31: 53

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

Aug 10: 456 views

Aug 24: 624 views

Aug 31: 376 views

To teach is to learn again. "Let the wise listen and add to their learning" (Prov. 1:5).

Change of newsletter communication

Due to the increasing costs of printing and mailing, the newsletter will no longer be mailed by the US Postal Service. We will begin emailing the newsletter to members and others that request it this month, September 2025.

While we do have some emails of members, we do not have all.

Please take a second to email the church with your name and email address:

Send to: bchlutheran@gmail.com

First and last name: _____

Email address(s): _____

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner



**MEATBALLS, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, CARROTS,
DINNER ROLL, SALAD BAR, DESSERT**

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH , 2025

Serving in church basement 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost: \$15.00 - Pay at the door
(children 5 and under free)

Carryouts available
No Pre-Sale

For More Information/Questions Call:

Bev Stortz 563-546-7739, Amanda Stortz, 563-419-4882
Janice Thorson, 507-251-5214 Deb Monson 563-379-4764

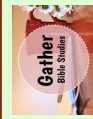


Shared Ministry Newsletter

September 2025



*To submit information for the monthly Shared Ministry newsletter, please email Linda Folsad at linda.folsad49@gmail.com
By: September 15th for the October 2025 Newsletter



All are invited to join us for
BIBLE STUDY held at
Highland Lutheran Church on Friday,
September 12, 2025 at
9:30 am!
Bring a Friend!



CANOE RIDGE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Drive-thru/Take Out Only
Dinner ~ Serving 4-7 pm
MENU: Mike Reick's Chicken, Real Mashed Potatoes, Homemade Dressing, Gravy, Corn, Cranberry Salad, Lefse, Rolls, Cookies & Bars

Tickets: \$17.00
Advance purchase appreciated.

Available at:
Ladybug Landscapes,
Decorah Rental, Main St.
Stylisks & Orietta Food
Coop

Shared Ministry Meeting Highlights

August 13, 2025

- Reviewed Joint Worship event held in Highlandville July 27, 2025 and discussed improvements. Date of September 20, 2026 at Big Canoe tentatively set for the next joint service.
- Shared Ministry churches will continue the Round Robin rotation for the 2026 Lenten season. Worship planning to begin in October.
- Meeting with Church wide Synod Staff about our Shared Ministry Group was rescheduled for November 4th.
- Talked about ways to jointly engage in projects and events. Considering a multi-day event/trip with the youth, possibly to the Boundary Waters.
- Per Surveys taken during Lent there was interest in LWR Baby Care Kits and GHM Newborn Kits. Anna Jetson would instruct those interested.
- Setting up a contact list/group of youth leaders in each church
- Feed a Farmer event to be held 1st or 2nd week in October. Shared Ministry churches invited to participate
- Compiling a Shared Ministry "Yearly Calendar of Events" to keep everyone informed of happenings in each church.

* * *

BURR OAK LUTHERAN CHURCH BAZAAR & RAFFLE

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm

All are welcome to join us for a fun-filled evening!

Raffle Tickets are available from any Burr Oak member

St. John's WELCA Garage Sale

Friday, October 10 ~ 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday, October 11 ~ 9 am—Noon

ORLEANS LUTHERAN CHURCH—FALL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, September 14, 2025 ~ Serving 11 am-1 pm

Mike Reicks Chicken and all the fixins' 8 Homemade Desserts 8 Pies \$15.00 Carry outs available
Ridgeway Community Center—680 County St. Ridgeway, IA

HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

Luncheon ~ Bake Sale ~ Bazaar

Sunday, September 28, 2025 beginning at 11:00 am

Big Canoe Lutheran Church Meatsball 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

Worship Services ~ September 2025



	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Highland & Big Canoe Pr. Matthew Becker Website: bchlutheran.org	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (Nicene Creed) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Big Canoe	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (Nicene Creed) 10:00 am—Worship/HC at Highland	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Big Canoe (Nicene Creed) 9:00 am—Sunday School at Big Canoe 10:00 am— Service of the Word at Big Canoe	8:45 am Adult Bible Class at Highland (Nicene Creed) 10:00 am— Service of the Word at Highland (Bazaar Meal following worship)
Burr Oak Pr. David Werges Lisa Kammerer—Diacon Hesper Website: boh Lutheran.org	Steam Engine Days 9:00 am Ecumenical Worship service—Stage on Steam Engine grounds. No Worship services at Burr Oak or Hesper	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am - Worship	8:30 am Worship/HC Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Worship/HC Celebrating Faith Milestones	8:30 am Worship Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am - Worship
Canoe Ridge Pr. Matthew Russler	8:30—am Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am Sunday School at Glwd.	10:30 am - Worship at Canoe Ridge 9:30 am—Sunday School at Glwd.	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
Glenwood Website: glenwoodlutheran.org	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
St. John's & Hauge Pr. Randy Kittelson Website haugeLutheran.com	9:00 am—Worship/HC at Madison Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am—Worship/HC at Peace. Lunch following worship. "God's Work, Our Hand's" projects at each church following worship	9:00 am - Worship/HC at Madison 10:30 am—Worship/HC at Orleans	9:00 am—Worship/HC at Madison 10:30 am - Worship/HC at Peace	9:00 am—Worship/HC at Madison 10:30 am - Worship/HC at Orleans
Ridgeway Lutheran Parish (Peace, Orleans, Madison) Pr. Nathan Wicks Website ridgewayparish.weebly.com				

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 11:00 Youth Confirmation Holy Communion 13th Sunday after Pentecost		1:00 p.m. Bingo Tweten Lutheran Healthcare Spring Grove	Burr Oak WELCA annual bazaar and raffle 7:00 p.m.		Pastor Becker leads worship service at Green Lean Manor in Mabel 10:00 a.m.	Wedding
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Highland Holy Communion 14th Sunday after Pentecost Congregational meeting at Highland after service		Upper Iowa River Conference of the ELCA (Big Canoe) 1:30-4:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. WELCA meeting Big Canoe Hannah Circle serves lunch			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 15th Sunday after Pentecost Caryl from Helms Funeral Home Advanced Planning Seminar & meal after service 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.		Pastor Becker attends a Pastor's retreat in Chicago through September 25th				
28	29	30				
8:45 Bible Class 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service Big Canoe 16th Sunday after Pentecost 11-1:00 Bazaar Meal-Highland	Pastor Becker will be attending the Tri-synodical fall theological conference 9/28 to 9/30					

October 2025

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