

# Big Canoe & Highland Lutheran Church News

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

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

Mailing address: Highland Lutheran Church P.O. Box 155 Highlandville, IA 52149

September 2026

## Worship Services:

Big Canoe 1st & 3rd Sunday at 10 am  
Highland 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10 am  
1st and 2nd Sundays w/Holy  
Communion

### **5th Sunday dates:**

March 29, November 29 at Big Canoe  
May 31, August 30 at Highland

Watch **Live** Sunday Broadcasts on  
**Facebook** by going to Big Canoe  
Lutheran Church and  
liking/following the page.

## 2026 Big Canoe Leadership

Seth Ferguson, President  
Matt Bigler, Vice President  
Deb Monson, Secretary  
Bill Bullerman, Council  
Steve Nordheim, Council  
Eric Stoen, Council  
Sawyer Wise, Council

### **Appointed**

Laurie Emery, Treasurer  
Lisa Bullerman, Financial Secretary

## 2026 Highland Leadership

Myron Krauskopf, President  
Ed Stoen, Vice President  
Kristy Selness Secretary  
Gary Halverson, Council  
Eric Selness, Council  
Danny Dutka, Council  
Gary Selness, Council

### **Appointed**

Danny Dutka, Treasurer  
Virginia Karlsbrotten, Financial  
Secretary

### **Church Secretary**

Judi Krauskopf  
563-380-5758  
[jrydopn@gmail.com](mailto:jrydopn@gmail.com)

Starting September 6<sup>th</sup>,  
**Pastor Becker's Sunday  
morning Bible Class has a  
new time!** At 9 am each  
Sunday, class will be in the  
fellowship hall of the  
church of service and last  
about 45 minutes. Please  
consider taking advantage  
of this educational  
opportunity as a way to  
grow in your Christian faith.  
The adult class is studying  
the Gospel according to St.  
Matthew. All are welcome  
to attend!



## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF BIG CANOE AND HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCHES AND THEIR MINISTRIES.**

We have several options to receive your  
offering:

### **ELECTRONICALLY:**

via our website, [bchlutheran.org](http://bchlutheran.org).  
Click on the "Support: link on the  
page. Or via the QR code below.



### **BY MAIL:**

Big Canoe Lutheran Church  
1381 Big Canoe Road  
Decorah, IA 52101

Highland Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 155  
Highlandville, IA 55149

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Becker:**

**219-916-8535**

Email: [matthew.becker@valpo.edu](mailto:matthew.becker@valpo.edu)

Email for both churches: [bchlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:bchlutheran@gmail.com)

Website: [bchlutheran.org](http://bchlutheran.org)

**General Phone:**

**563-546-7974**

Unanswered calls will go directly to voicemail. Please leave a detailed message  
with a call back number and it will be directed to the appropriate person to  
return your call.

Dear friends and members of Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches,

Earlier today I received an email that contained a blessing, written by Susan Larson. I thought I should share it with you. (I have modified it just a little.)

*May God surprise you today with oasis moments of refreshment and encouragement.*

*May God delight your heart with a kind and unexpected word.*

*May God use you to be a refreshment to others.*

*And may you pause today, notice the good things around you, look up, and give thanks.*

*You are blessed and loved.*

*God's grace in Jesus Christ is sufficient for the day.*

*So, be present in the moment and trust God to give you what you need.*

See you in church!

Pastor Becker

8-26-26

WE encourage members to submit prayer needs or share answered prayers.

Our current **prayer list**: Stacy, Norman, Michael, Arlene, Ron, Hailey, Brooke, Kristy, Karen, Maria, Randy, Bernice, and Don

### *Important Upcoming Events*

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**Sept 6-** 9am Bible class (note the new time)

**Sept 11-13:** Hesper/Mabel Steam Engine Days (**Hesper Lutheran Food Tent**)

**Sept 16** (7pm): **Burr Oak Lutheran WELCA Bazaar and Raffle** (Burr Oak)

**Sept 19** – 10 am Men's Breakfast at **Highland**, RSVP to Pastor Matt

**Sept 20** - 9 am Kick off **Sunday School** at Big Canoe Sunday school room at BC

**Sept 20-** 10 am Shared ministry joint worship service at Big Canoe w/Holy Communion.  
Potluck after service

**Sept 27** – 10 am **Highland welcomes new members Krauskopf & Ostern Families**

**Sept 27** - **Highland WELCA Bazaar**, with meal.

**Oct 3** - (10am-10:30am): Blessing of the animals in the **parking lot at Big Canoe** – Feast of St. Francis

**Oct 4-** **Big Canoe** welcomes new members Jon, Debra, Lucas Aske and Heidi Jo & Garrett Wise



The **children's Sunday School** is starting at Big Canoe on Sunday, **September 20 (9am-9:40am)**. Sunday school meets in the fellowship hall. Kjersten Folstad will be the leader and key teacher. Please speak with her to sign up for snacks and to help (as she directs).

### Highland has exciting news!

Starting Sunday October 11, Sunday School will also meet at **Highland**, on the second Sunday of the month, meeting at 9am-9:40am, in the fellowship hall.

We need people to sign up to bring snacks at Highland on those Sundays.

**Big Canoe WELCA** is collecting for the **personal care kit for LWR** through the end of October. Anyone who does not wish to shop but wants to donate should contact Emma Thompson or Deb Munson. The personal care kit includes: one light-weight bath-size towel (20x40 up to 52x27); two or three bath-size bars of soap in original packing (equal to eight to nine ounces); one adult-size toothbrush in original packing or multi-packs that can be separated into envelopes; one sturdy comb; one metal nail clippers (can be finger or toe clippers; attached file is optional). There will be a tub in the church entry for items.

The **joint council** voted to begin holding **one Saturday-evening service (5pm-5:45pm)** in the months where there are five Sundays. Pastor and council leaders will decide which Saturday that will be in those four months that have five Sundays. On the weekend when the Saturday service takes place, there will not be a Sunday service. This is a trial experiment! Stay tuned for which Saturday in November we will hold the 5pm service.

The **Shared Ministry Worship and Potluck** will be held at Big Canoe Lutheran Church on **September 20, 2026**. The service will be in the nave, while the potluck will be served in the fellowship hall. The meal is entirely potluck, so people are encouraged to bring a variety of food (hot dish, salad, casserole, or bars) to share. Pastor Werges (of Burr Oak and Hesper) will be the preacher. Pastor Becker and Pastor Kittelson (of St. John and Hauge) will be the assisting ministers. That service will include Holy Communion



# Highland Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

## August 9, 2026

**Call to Order:** President Myron Krauskopf called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM.

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Becker provided a prayer.

**Attendance:** President Myron Krauskopf, Vice President Ed Stoen, Secretary Kristy Selness, Treasurer/Council member Dan Dutka, Council members Eric Selness, Gary Selness and Pastor Matthew Becker. Not present Gary Halverson.

**Pastoral Report:** Pastor Becker informed Council [as a reminder] of the Men's Breakfast on September 19, 2026, at Highland. A Joint Council meeting will be set up sometime within the next month or so. One item on the Joint Council meeting will be some tree removal at the parsonage. Pastor Becker praised Judi Krauskopf for the good work she has been doing as Church Secretary and they have been looking at some new church record software to be discussed at the Joint Council meeting. Pastor Becker informed Council he will be taking his last vacation in September and Pastor Gies will be covering the September 13, 2026, service.

**Secretary's Report:** Kristy Selness read the June 14, 2026, Council meeting minutes. Pastor Becker reported that the joint Worship Service and Potluck with the Shared Ministry Congregations will be held at the Big Canoe Church on September 20, 2026, not at the parsonage. Dan Dutka reported the correct balance for the Anniversary fund is \$375.10, not \$175.10 as reported. All in favor of the corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan Dutka provided a financial update through July 2026. Current fund balance of \$11,570.43. Benevolence fund balance of \$1,333.00. Anniversary fund balance of \$375.10. In the current fund, we have received \$420.00 in donations for the Side by Side Ride, and a donation from the Selness family for their reunion. Discussion by Council. Filed for audit.

### Old Business:

Side by Side Ride. Dan Dutka reported things are moving along for the ride. The temporary breaker box for electrical service to the small shed is at the Church and the outside electrical plug is installed. Assignments for duties have been mostly completed. Reminder of the pick and husk corn on Saturday, the day before the ride. Preregistration form is on the web site. Flyers have been shared with the Shared Ministry Congregations.  
No other old business.

### New Business:

AgriStar fire in Postville. Pastor Becker stated the Bishop has sent out a letter to other congregations for donations/gifts to help the over 600 people impacted by the fire. Items requested are diapers, infant formula, baby wipes and toilet paper. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville is accepting the donations/gifts. Items can be dropped off at Big Canoe or Highland Churches and Pastor Becker will deliver them every two weeks for the next month or so. A monetary donation was discussed by Council. A motion of \$500.00 to send monetary relief to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville was made by Ed Stoen, seconded by Eric Selness, motion carried.

Vote on New Members transferring in (Ostern family). Myron Krauskopf and Pastor Becker have a request from the Ostern family to transfer into Highland Lutheran Church from Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove. Motion by Eric Selness to accept the transfer, seconded by Gary Selness, motion carried.

Welcome New Members Church Service. A date to welcome two new families to Highland Lutheran Church is to be determined, either on August 30 or August 23, with the pending weather.

No other new business.

**Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn meeting by Myron Krauskopf, seconded by Ed Stoen, motion carried. Adjourned at 12:08 PM.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Selness, Highland Church Council Secretary

**Next Meeting:** October 11, 2026.

In the aftermath of the **fire in Postville**, we are gathering the following items that will be delivered to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville. The **ONLY** items being asked for at this time are diapers (all sizes); infant formula (all kinds, especially sensitive stomach); baby wipes; and toilet paper. These items should be dropped off in the entryway at Big Canoe or the meeting room at Highland (upstairs). Pastor Becker will deliver the items every two weeks for the next month or so.

The **Shared Ministry Group** recently voted to send the offering collected at the Shared Ministry worship service on September 20 to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Postville, to help with the relief efforts. (Worshipers in that service who want to give an offering to their home congregation will need to mark their offering envelope accordingly. Blank offering envelopes will be available in the entry way to Big Canoe on that Sunday.)

## POSTVILLE DISASTER RELIEF

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is working in partnership with Zion Lutheran, Castalia, and St. Paul Lutheran, Postville, to provide immediate and long-term relief for those affected by the fire at the AgriStar processing plant. Monetary donations received by the Synod will help provide food, household supplies, hygiene products, rent and utility assistance, support for caregivers, and more as directed by congregational and community coordinators. The NE Iowa Synod is also partnering with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to provide additional emotional care, spiritual care, and stress reduction programs in the coming months. 100% of your donation will go directly to those in need.



### HOW TO DONATE

Donate by scanning the URL code below or going to:  
<https://onrealm.org/neiasynod/give/postville>



**Northeastern Iowa Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

319-352-1414

[neiasynod.org](https://neiasynod.org)

201 20<sup>th</sup> Street SW Waverly, Iowa 50677

Volunteers are needed for **Postville Heart and Soul**. If you are interested in helping to distribute items, please sign up using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8w9Xm2h4s1id5yDD2oh9jLvG5jswlntGlXj7WV4m67Z5TMw/viewform?usp=header>

The **Postville Food Pantry** has now opened an extra day each week to meet the increased demand. Please consider sending a check to: Postville Food Pantry, Box 1129, Postville, IA 52162. You can also send a check to the Decorah Community Food Pantry, PO Box 26, Decorah, IA 52101.





# Shared Ministry Newsletter

## September 2026



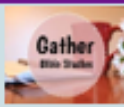
Please submit  
information for the  
monthly Shared

Ministry newsletter, to  
[linda.folstad49@gmail.com](mailto:linda.folstad49@gmail.com)

By: September 15th for the  
October 2026 Newsletter

### GATHER

Bible Study:  
2 pm Tuesday,  
September 8, 2026 at  
Highland Lutheran Church.  
Come and join us!



St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church

### **GARAGE SALE!**

Friday, October 2nd  
9:00 am—5:00 pm  
Saturday, October 3rd  
9:00 am—NOON

### **MEATBALL SUPPER BIG CANOE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(1381 Big Canoe Rd. Decorah, IA)

**Sunday, October 18, 2026**

**Serving:**  
**11:00 am—3:00 pm**

#### **MENU:**

*Meatballs  
Potatoes & Gravy  
Buttered Carrots  
Dinner Rolls  
Assorted Salads  
Coffee, Milk, Water  
Bars and Cookies*



### **Shared Ministry Community Worship & Potluck**

**Sunday, September 20, 2026 at Big Canoe Lutheran Church**

(1381 Big Canoe Road; Decorah, IA)

***Worship in the Church Sanctuary at 10:00 am***

***Special Music performed by a group from Decorah Chorale.***

Following worship a potluck meal will be served in the Church  
Dining Room. Outdoor seating for the meal will also be  
available. Fun activities for the youth on the Church lawn  
weather permitting!

***Bring a dish to pass and come to share worship & fellowship with area  
friends and neighbors!***



### ***Burr Oak Lutheran Church Bazaar & Raffle***

(2358—360TH St. Decorah, IA)

**Wednesday, September 16, 2026—7:00 pm**

Baked goods, quilts, gift cards and many nice raffle items! Raffle  
Tickets are \$1.00 each and may be purchased from any Burr Oak  
Lutheran Church member. Come and join us for an evening of fun  
and fellowship!



### **HIGHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR CRAFT & BAKE SALE**

(3824 Highlandville Rd. Decorah, IA)

**Sunday, September 27, 2026**

**MEAL—11:00 am—1:00 pm.**

**MENU:** Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Assorted Salads & Desserts,  
Rommegrot, Bun & Beverages

Adults: \$15 Children (5-12): \$10.00 Under age 5: Free  
Carry outs available. Inside seating with air-conditioning

*Hope you can join us!*



### **GLENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER**

(1197 Old Stage Road; Decorah, IA)

**Sunday, October 25, 2026—Serving Noon—3:00 pm**

**MENU:** *Lutefisk, Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn  
Lefse, Rolls, Rommegrot, Desserts*

Advance tickets only. Sales will begin in early October  
**Questions? or to order tickets call the Church office: 563-202-2554**



## Worship Services ~ September 2026

|  | September 6<br>Fifteenth Sunday after<br>Pentecost                                                                                                                   | September 13<br>Sixteenth Sunday after<br>Pentecost                                               | September 20<br>Seventeenth Sunday<br>after Pentecost                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | September 27<br>Eighteenth Sunday<br>after Pentecost                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                   | <b>Highland &amp; Big Canoe</b><br><br>Pr. Matthew Becker<br><br><b>WEBSITE:</b><br><a href="http://bchlutheran.org">bchlutheran.org</a>                             | <i>9:00 am—Bible Study/<br/>School at Big Canoe</i><br><br>10:00 am<br>Worship/HC at<br>Big Canoe | <i>9:00 am—Bible Study/<br/>Highland—Pr. Gies</i><br><br>10:00 am<br>Worship/HC at<br>Highland.                                                                                                                                                                             | <i>9:00 am—Bible Study<br/>Big Canoe</i><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>Kickoff/Big Canoe<br><br><i>10:00 am—Shared<br/>Ministry Community<br/>Worship and Potluck<br/>at Big Canoe</i><br><br>11:00 am Highland Bazaar                                         |
|                                                                                   | <b>Burr Oak</b><br><br><b>WEBSITE</b><br><a href="http://bohllutheran.org">bohllutheran.org</a><br><br>Pr. David Werges<br>Lisa Kammerer—Deacon<br><br><b>Hesper</b> | 8:30 am<br>Worship/HC<br><i>9:30 Coffee Fellowship</i><br><br>10:00 am Worship/HC                 | <i>9:00 am—Ecumenical<br/>Worship Service on<br/>the Steam Engine<br/>Grounds. No Worship<br/>services in Burr Oak or<br/>Hesper</i><br><br><i>Hesper Lutheran Food<br/>Tent. Serving Break-<br/>fast 7:00—11:30 am<br/>Saturday &amp; Sunday<br/>Sept. 12th &amp; 13th</i> | 8:30 am Joint Burr<br>Oak/Hesper worship<br>in Burr Oak. Presen-<br>tation of Bibles &<br>Milestone Pebbles<br><i>9:30 Coffee/Wed.<br/>School Registration<br/>and Carnival</i><br>10:00 am— Shared<br>Ministry Community<br>Worship/Potluck at<br>Big Canoe |
|                                                                                   | <b>St. John's &amp; Hauge</b><br>Pr. Randy Kittelson<br><br><b>Facebook:</b><br>Hauge and St. John's<br>Lutheran Churches                                            | Worship/HC<br>9:30 am at<br>St. John's                                                            | Worship/HC<br>9:30 am at<br>Hauge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 10:00 am—Shared<br>Ministry Community<br>Worship & Potluck at<br>Big Canoe                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Glenwood</b><br><br><b>WEBSITE:</b><br><a href="http://Glenwoodlutheran.org">Glenwoodlutheran.org</a><br><br><b>Canoe Ridge</b>                                   | 10:30 am<br>Worship/HC<br><br>8:30 am Worship/HC                                                  | 8:30 am Joint<br>Glenwood/Canoe<br>Ridge Worship at<br>Glenwood.<br><br>9:30 am First day of<br>Sunday School                                                                                                                                                               | 10:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am—Sunday<br>School at Glenwood<br><br>8:30 am<br>Worship<br><br>10:30 am<br>worship                                                                                                                                                |

### Upcoming September Events

Sept. 11-13: Hesper/Mabel Steam Engine Days.  
 Sun. Sept. 13: 9:00 am Ecumenical Worship on the grounds  
 Sept. 16: 7:00 pm—Burr Oak WELCA Bazaar & Raffle  
 Sept. 20: 10:00 am - Community Worship and Potluck at Big Canoe  
 Sept. 27: Highland Lutheran Fall Bazaar

## LABOR DAY

*Honoring American Workers*

**September 7, 2026**

A BIG thank you to all who participated in our very first Side by Side Ride and Sweet Corn Boil. This event started as an idea to raise funds to satisfy a pledge we made to support the construction of The Highlands Senior Living Communities (formally Aase Haugen). And Highland WELCA was looking to try something other than the ice cream social to help meet their end of the year donation goals. We are happy to say that the ride and the meal were a success. Along the way, we had some fun picking and shucking and learned more than we wanted to about corn! The best part was we got to know our fellow parishers better. So, thank you for volunteering. Here are some awesome photos that were shared with us by Barb Lund, Bill Stoen, Darlene Larson, Judi Krauskopf and Beth Sims. Our prayers were answered, thank you Lord!















# September

| <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>                                                                                                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                        |                                                                     |                                                                         |                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                              | Wednesday                              | Thursday                                                            | Friday                                                                  | Saturday                                                                                                |
| <p><i>Not all storms come to disrupt your life. Some come to clear your path.</i></p>                                                                           |                                                                                   | 1                                                                                                    | 2                                      | 3                                                                   | 4<br><i>I'm not old, I just need some WD-40 and a little duct tape.</i> | 5                                                                                                       |
| <p>6 Big Canoe</p> <p>9 am Bible class</p> <p>10 am Worship service w/Holy Communion</p>                                                                        |  | <p>8 2 pm Gather Bible study @ Highland</p> <p>1pm Bingo @ Tweeten</p> <p>PB leaves for vacation</p> | <p>9 1:30 Big Canoe WELCA Lesson 4</p> | <p>10</p>                                                           | <p>11</p>                                                               | <p>12</p>                                                                                               |
| <p>13 Highland</p> <p>9 am Bible class  with Pastor Gies</p> <p>10 am Worship service w/ Holy Communion</p>                                                     | <p>14</p>                                                                         | <p>15</p>                                                                                            | <p>16</p>                              | <p>17</p>                                                           | <p>18</p>                                                               | <p>19 10 am Men's Breakfast at Highland. RSVP to PB</p>                                                 |
| <p>20 Big Canoe</p> <p>9 am Bible class (nave)</p> <p>9 am SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>10 am Shared Ministry joint worship service with potluck meal after service</p> | <p>21</p>                                                                         | <p>22</p> <p><b>Newsletter deadline</b></p>                                                          | <p>23</p>                              | <p>24 12:30 – 5:30 pm Blood Drive @ Stone Ridge Church, Decorah</p> | <p>25</p>                                                               | <p>26 8:30 am Upper IA River Cluster D Fall Gathering at Springfield Church, 1969 Middle Calmar Rd.</p> |
| <p>27 Highland</p> <p>9 am Bible class</p> <p>10 am Worship service</p> <p>Welcome new members</p> <p>WELCA Bazaar with meal 11 – 1pm</p>                       | <p>28</p>                                                                         | <p>29</p>                                                                                            | <p>30</p>                              | <p>1</p>                                                            | <p>2</p>                                                                | <p>3 <i>The reason I am old and wise is because God protected me when I was young and stupid</i></p>    |



# **Big Canoe Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner**



**Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,  
Carrots, Dinner Roll,  
Salad Bar, Dessert  
Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**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  
or Janice Thorson, 507-251-5214 Deb Monson 563-379-4764  
Shirley Bigler 563-546-7788 Detra Becker 219-916-8577**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR

*Craft and Bake Sale*

**Sunday, September 27, 2026**

Highland Lutheran Church  
3824 Highlandville Rd  
Decorah, IA 52101

**Meal: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Menu: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, assorted salads and desserts,  
rommegrot, bun and beverage.**

**Carry outs available 563-735-5974**

**Inside seating with air conditioning**

**Adults \$15.00, children (5-12) \$10.00, under 5 free**

**Proceeds go towards our year end benevolence**





**Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches**  
**1381 Big Canoe Rd**  
**Decorah, IA 52101**