

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – January 21, 2024**

The January 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Nancy Beamesderfer, Linda Cuzzort, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wayne Schaper, Warren Schick, and Stephanie Walton.

The minutes from the December 2023 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and were approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. December 2023 offerings of \$30,728, which was an increase of \$16,382 over November; average monthly offerings, however, were still \$10,000 less than those projected in the budget. Expenses for the month of December were \$31,042, which was \$1,611 greater than November. The checking account balance at 12/31/23 was \$26,152, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad noted that although December offerings were up, the year-to-date deficit of expenses over offerings at 12/31/23 of just over \$84,000 would probably necessitate the transfer of some investment funds into the checking account. He also gave a quick summary of investments this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren presented the letter for his 2024 parsonage allowance of \$38,000; this was approved by Council. He updated Council on his activities for the month. He reported that he was working on his meditations for mid-week Lenten worship services, which will be based on Marcus Borg and John Crossan's book, "The Last Week". He had a busy month visiting parishioners in the hospital. President Lambeth reported that Woodlawn Funeral Home made a donation to Holy Cross in appreciation for Pastor Berggren's officiation of memorial services for people who didn't have a church home (Pastor Berggren's other activities included preparing for worship services each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [coordinating with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; attending choir practice and various church ministry meetings).

**Committee Reports and Old Business:**

**WELCA:** Nancy Beamesderfer reported that efforts to update the lighting in the church office would resume, now that the holidays are over.

**Youth:**

- Stephanie Walton reported that **Scout Sunday** is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross.

Members of Troop 852 will be assisting with the 9:30am service. She noted that Girl Scout Sunday is March 10<sup>th</sup>, and she asked Ms. Lambeth to see if the Daisy Scout troop would like to participate in worship that day.

- The **Children's Business Fair** will be on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- She remarked that an **Eagle Scout project** to build six benches for the Pantry has been approved. Also coming up is an Eagle Scout ceremony on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Sports Sunday** service is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Council elected to have a reception after the service instead of a potluck lunch. Ms. Walton emphasized the need to reach out to the basketball teams early, so they can plan to attend.
- Ms. Walton and President Lambeth are looking at dates and beginning plans for **VBS**.

#### **Improvements to Campus / Building and Grounds (B&G):**

- President Lambeth remarked that it was a busy month for B&G. She expressed appreciation for those who worked to prepare HCLC for the freeze. The church fared well through it. There was a leak in a sprinkler line by the fountain, which was fixed by the JBS lawn crew. There was also an issue with the heat in the ELC, which it turned out to need a minor thermostat adjustment.

**Congregational Meeting Part II:** The congregational meeting is set for March 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schick remarked that one item that should be included is revision of Section 8 of the Bylaws, which was not rewritten to include the addition of the Secretary and Treasurer as voting members of Council. He added that there should be a new section in the Bylaws to clarify how the Memorial Fund Committee functions. Mr. Schick volunteered to work up drafts for these items.

#### **Other:**

- Ms. Lambeth remarked how great the church looked over the holidays, and she wanted to say a "huge thank you" for everyone who helped with **Christmas decorating** and un-decorating the church for the holidays. She noted that most of the outdoor decorations are now stored in the recently refurbished Media Room closet/storage room.
- Ms. Walton remarked that the Sip 'n Shop went very well last month.
- The Memorial Fund Committee has asked for suggestions for additional projects on the Holy Cross wish list. Mr. Schick suggested a special organ fund and an audiovisual fund, which was approved by Council.

#### **New Business:**

**Building Use Request:** The Pantry submitted requests for 1) its Thanksgiving food project November 1 – December 1, 2024 and 2) the parking lot December 7<sup>th</sup> (8am-12noon). Council discussed a potential conflict with the December Sip 'n Shop. Ms. Lambeth will check with Upcycled Crafty Ladies and the Pantry to avoid any overlaps. Mr. Schick

emphasized the importance of HCLC communication with the Pantry about events that could cause problems with facility usage, especially as regards the parking lot.

Council discussed the schedule for **Wednesday Lenten meals**:

- Feb. 21: Council                                      Feb. 28: WELCA                      Mar. 6: Music (Choir & Hymn Selection)
- Mar. 13: Roundtable Group                      Mar. 21: Men's Breakfast Group

**CenterPoint/FLC kitchen issue:** President Lambeth relayed the course of events to Council, which began with a call to CenterPoint by a guest at the ELC Christmas party (12/19) that there was a strong smell of natural gas in the Family Life Center. CenterPoint came out and shut off the gas to that end of the church campus, which included the hot water heater and heat for the Annex. Several days later, after a separate evaluation by a plumber, it was determined that there was no leak. CenterPoint replaced the gas meter with an undersized meter, an issue Alan Lambeth is working to remedy.

The problem was not a gas leak, but a case of pilot lights going out on the burners of the stove. Ms. Lambeth remarked that this happens regularly and perhaps it is time to evaluate a new solution, as in this instance it was a costly and quite drawn-out process. One short-term solution would be to shut off the pilot lights for the burners and manually light the pilot before each use. There was further discussion; however, additional research is needed.

**Upcoming events:**

- Scout Sunday (February 4)
- Children's Business Fair (February 10)
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten midweek services (February 14, 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 21)
- Sports Sunday (March 3)
- Congregational Meeting Part II (March 10)
- Upcycled Crafty Ladies' Springfest (March 23)
- Easter Egg Hunt (TBA, possibly March 23)
- Holy Week services: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter

The February Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Upon motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny  
Secretary, Church Council