

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – February 18, 2024

The February 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, February 18, 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, and Warren Schick. Stephanie Walton was absent. Penny Schick and Stephen Schulze attended as special guests.

The minutes from the January 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. January 2024 offerings were \$30,983, an increase of \$255 over December. Expenses for the month of January were \$25,698, a decrease of \$5,345 from December. Treasurer Finstad was pleased to report that January offerings exceeded expenses by \$5,285. The checking account balance at 01/31/24 was \$38,163, not including restricted funds. Dr. Finstad provided a quick summary of investments this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He noted that he made fewer visitations last month, as his wife was in the hospital for six days and he caught the upper respiratory infection that was going around. He noted that registration for the Synod convention in May is coming up; Nancy Beamesderfer will also attend. Pastor Berggren's regular activities included preparing for worship and Lenten 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 the next WELCA General Meeting will be on March 2nd. Among items to be discussed are new lighting in the church office and a decision whether to host a hospitality booth at the Springfest Market.

Nominating Committee: Penny Schick presented the slate of candidates for Council and Committee positions to be elected at the Congregational Meeting Part II on March 10, 2024. [Members of the 2023 Nominating Committee are Penny Schick, Jeannette Dukleth, Gloria McGarvey, Ruby Schaper and Warren Schick (Council representative)]. The candidates for 2024 positions are as follows:

Council President (1-year term) : Wendy Lambeth
Secretary (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny
Treasurer (1-year term): Ricki Finstad

Council Members (2-year term): Jay Byerly, Wayne Schaper, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder
(3 positions to fill)

Council Member (1-year term): Leigh Rothharpt

Nominating Committee (1-year term): Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, Tillie Remmert,
Amy Schomburg

Endowment Committee (2-year term): Nancy Beamesderfer, Pat Boessling, Marilyn Flick,
Sharon Wagner (2 positions to fill)

A motion to accept the Committee's slate of candidates was made, duly seconded and approved by Council.

Congregational Meeting Part II: President Lambeth noted that the slate of candidates needs to be publicized as soon as possible. **Committee reports** also need to be submitted before the Congregational Meeting (March 10, 2024). She will contact Sussy Terry, who normally sends a reminder to committee and ministry leaders, so the reports can be compiled into packets for the meeting. President Lambeth thanked Warren Schick for drafting proposed revisions to the **bylaws**, which he presented to Council: 1) clarification that the Secretary and Treasurer are voting members of Council (C12.01 Bylaws Section VIII), and 2) delineation of the Memorial Fund Committee (C14.01 Bylaws Section IX). Council discussed the need for a further clarification, which Mr. Schick agreed to add; Council voted to present the revisions for approval at the Congregational Meeting.

Youth: President Lambeth updated Council on Youth activities.

- The **Children's Business Fair** on February 10th was a huge success. There were 60 booths; each booth had at least 3 kids (and 1 adult supervising). The participants had to pay for their booth, make their own product, do their own marketing and be able to answer questions about various details of their product. A bookmobile that was onsite handed out free books to kids at the fair and the Pantry.
- BSA Troop 852 has an **Eagle Scout ceremony** on February 25th.
- President Lambeth and Ms. Walton are beginning plans and looking at dates (July 22-26, 2024) for **VBS**. They are considering doing the camp in-house this year instead of hiring Lutherhill counselors.

Improvements to Campus / Building and Grounds (B&G): President Lambeth reported that the issues with CenterPoint and the gas meter have been resolved. Parts of the campus were without gas for a month, but in the end, CenterPoint replaced the meter with the correct size meter. Alan Lambeth came up with a solution (at least temporarily) for the natural gas odor in the Family Life Center kitchen; it was not a gas leak, but a case of pilot lights going out on the burners of the stove. The pilot lights for the burners will be shut off when not in use, and manually lit the before each use. He posted signs with instructions next to the stove. Other B&G issues were relatively minor.

Lent and Easter: Council discussed Maundy Thursday plans; it was decided that this year there will be a worship service (in the sanctuary), but not the customary dinner in the FLC. As in previous years, breakfast will be served after the Sunrise Service on Easter morning.

Food Pantry: The Pantry will present its expansion plans at the Hilshire Village Council Meeting on February 27th. Representatives from the Pantry and HCLC will meet on February 19th.

New Business:

Council discussed ideas on evaluating security on the church campus. Pastor Berggren suggested asking the Spring Valley Police Department for their thoughts on improving security and ways to deescalate potential conflicts. Ms. Kilkenny asked if they might have ideas for the usher teams to consider.

Council discussed renewing the maintenance contract on the icemaker in the FLC kitchen. Ms. Kilkenny will research alternatives.

Early Learning Center: Margaret Gehman (ELC Head of School) spoke with President Lambeth about a program for free lead testing of water at preschools. Ms. Gehman will research this further. Wayne Schaper asked about the possibility that new rules might require that the ELC to have additional egress doors.

Mr. Schick suggested posting information about RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions from 401(k), IRA's, etc.) to the financial section of the website. Parishioners who are subject to RMD's could designate part of their RMD directly to the church and reduce their tax liability.

The March Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, March 17, 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