

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – March 17, 2024

The March 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, March 17, 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, Warren Schick and Stephanie Walton. Wayne Schaper was absent. Stephen Schulze attended as a special guest.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. February 2024 offerings were \$17,478, a decrease of \$13,508 from January. Expenses for the month of February were \$33,026, a decrease of \$7,328 from January. However, the February deficit (of expenses over offerings) was \$15,548. The checking account balance at 02/29/24 was \$22,439, not including restricted funds. Dr. Finstad provided a summary of investments this month. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren gave a brief summary of his annual report to Gulf Coast Synod Bishop Rinehart. He elaborated about his response to a question about significant developments at Holy Cross during the past year: 1) livestreaming of weekly worship service, 2) weekly recording of sermon YouTube channel in advance of weekend services (for those who cannot attend in-person), 4) HCLC support of the ESB Food Pantry, which is a significant outreach ministry for Holy Cross and other area churches, serving 57,504 people last year. He noted other community outreach in the form of sharing HCLC facilities with the Early Learning Center, a Boy Scout troop, a Girl Scout Daisy troop, youth basketball teams, classes in art, CPR and first aid. Pastor Berggren reached out to Officer Moore (Spring Valley Police) about a review of security protocols for HCLC; he will keep Council updated on developments, and he expects to meet in March or April. His regular activities include 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 WELCA will sponsor a potluck meal after worship on May 15th and probably one in October. ThankOffering weekend will be on November 9th and 10th.

Congregational Meeting Update: President Lambeth remarked that the Congregational Meeting Part II went well. She noted feedback she received about the large amount of paper used in the packets distributed to parishioners at the meeting, specifically the committee and ministry reports. After some discussion, Council approved a plan to decrease the number of Committee reports provided at the Annual meeting; instead committees can provide updates for the congregation during the year via Crossties, Sunday News articles, etc.

The candidates elected 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, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder
(1-year term): Leigh Rothharpt

[Returning Council members (with 1 year remaining): Warren Schick, Stephanie Walton]

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

Endowment Committee (2 year term): Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner

[Returning Committee members (with 1 year remaining): Amy Schomburg, Wayne Schaper]

The proposed changes to the By-Laws were approved:

C12.01 VIII (regarding composition and voting status of Council)

C14.01 IX (regarding the Memorial Fund Committee)

Installation of new members was scheduled for April 7, 2024.

Youth:

- President Lambeth reported that **VBS** plans are underway. The camp will take place July 22-26, 2024.
- Ms. Walton reported that six **Boy Scouts** received Eagle Scout status this month. Ms. Lambeth remarked on the successful Scout Sunday service.

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

- Pastor Berggren commented on the improvements around the church grounds. The Memorial Fund Committee has been working on landscape projects in the Westview courtyard, the walkway to the south entrance to the Atrium, and restoring the plantings outside of the playground which were damaged by the drought last summer. An Eagle Scout project to add benches outside of the Pantry entrance not only provide a welcome amenity for Pantry clients, but enhance the HCLC campus as well. He praised HCLC member Tristan Walton's Eagle Scout project to upgrade the ELC playground.
- President Lambeth reported that Dr. Finstad is researching options for the FLC kitchen icemaker. He is looking into a smaller, self-cleaning icemaker. This would eliminate the cost of the current maintenance agreement. Council approved this measure.

- President Lambeth repeated her desire to address the challenges with the commercial stove in the FLC kitchen, i.e., the pilots for the burners blowing out and the accompanying odor, the commercial ventilation system and recurring inspection costs.

Lent and Easter: Pastor Berggren reported that things were on track for Easter. Council discussed plans for Holy Week.

Food Pantry: President Lambeth reported on developments for the proposed Food Pantry expansion. A resident in the neighborhood, who is not in favor of the expansion, has presented his opposition at several meetings of the Hilshire Village Council and Planning Committee. Council had a lengthy discussion about possible solutions/compromises for this problem.

New Business:

Ms. Lambeth was approached by Marilyn Flick about Holy Cross participation in a hospitality ministry program in the Medical Center. Currently she collects calendars and miscellaneous items from the congregation to distribute for patients' families who are temporarily staying in the Medical Center. She noted they need more calendars, note pads and bingo prizes; President Lambeth asked her to check on what items they are requesting, so it can be publicized.

Treasurer Finstad asked whether Telge Lot 1 was still on the market, as he was approached by someone interested in the property. Council asked him to get more details on the seriousness of the buyer and report back with any developments.

On behalf of the Council and congregation, Ms. Kilkenny expressed thanks to all outgoing Council and Committee members for their service to Holy Cross; and also to all returning and newly elected members.

The April Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 21, 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