

Preliminary Draft 2 Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC) **Minutes for Council Meeting – August 25, 2024**

The August 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 10:59 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rotharpt, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder and Stephanie Walton. Also attending as special guests were John Stokes and Chip Charlton.

Chip Charlton (from Boy Scout Troop 952) presented Council with a proposal for his Eagle Scout project, renovations to the FLC (Gym) kitchen. His plans, if approved, would be to paint the kitchen and cabinets, replace cabinet hardware and under-cabinet lights, replace electrical outlets with GFCI outlets where appropriate, replace the first aid kit, and if possible, replace the existing commercial gas range with 2 electric ranges (as discussed in prior Council meetings). After a brief discussion Council approved this project, which will probably be finished by mid-November.

President Lambeth thanked John Stokes for representing the **Financial Review Committee (FRC)** at this meeting. She noted that she recently became aware that FRC members needed to be confirmed annually by Council. Currently the members on the committee are John Stokes (chairperson), Jay Fort, Warren Schick, Hans Sunder and John Wegner. After confirming that they wish to continue as members of the FRC, Council approved the motion which was made and seconded, that these members shall serve on the FRC until April 2025. Mr. Stokes distributed FRC reports and gave a brief history of the Committee's activities since the sale of the Telge lots, noting that Telge funds are invested in several market index funds of various degrees of risk (and returns), as well as a money market fund, CD and treasury bonds. He added that at their last meeting the FRC voted to "stay the course" as regards percentages invested in each fund. Mr. Schick added that in its last meeting the FRC decided to closely monitor market conditions and make adjustments between the funds as appropriate; this can be done immediately via online transaction or by phone. It was noted that there were two schools of thought within the FRC on how to invest the funds, and Mr. Sunder asked Council -to consider other investment strategies moving forward, given the current investment climate. A lengthy discussion about the allocation of investment funds ensued. Mr. Sunder introduced a motion (seconded by Mr. Schick) to move \$500,000 from the S&P 500 fund to a cash investment. This motion did not pass. Treasurer Finstad made a motion (seconded by Mr. Sunder) to instead move \$100,000 from the S&P 500 fund into a cash investment; Council approved this measure. Council then issued a *recommendation* that the FRC reevaluate the allocation of investment funds.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. Council approved Dr. Finstad's request to add President Lambeth as signatory for the HCLC checking account. July 2024 offerings were \$26,604, an increase of \$8,069 over June. Treasurer Finstad noted that average monthly offerings were \$9,400 less than budgeted amounts. Expenses for the month of July were \$49,240, an increase of \$18,933 over June. The July deficit (expenses vs. offerings) was \$22,636. Dr. Finstad asked for an infusion of funds to the checking account, as storm-related expenses have depleted the account. A motion was made, seconded and approved to transfer the requested funds into the checking account. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren remarked about how much he enjoyed helping with VBS in July. Interacting with the kids was a nice change to his normal activities. He has been working to prepare for his time off in September. He and John Lambeth have been recording sermons ahead of time. In his absence Deacon Lisa Donahue will preside at Sunday services, Scott Wegner will deliver the Sunday sermons, and arrangements are set for Saturday services, with George Schwalm coordinating music. In addition, Deacon Donahue and Debbie McGarvey Kendall will be providing pastoral care. It was a very busy month again with storm recovery and other repairs, and he thanked Council for the swift response on the installation of speed bumps along the south driveway. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized. His other activities included preparing for worship each week; making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests [along with Deacon Donahue]; outreach to the community; weekly Wednesday Bible Study; and various church ministry meetings.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

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

- Work continues on the sprinkler system.
- A/C issues continue to plague HCLC. The unit in the gym that services the kitchen and restrooms (an old unit) squeaks and chirps. Alan Lambeth will troubleshoot as to parts availability and find the best solution. He is also working on issues with the Annex A/C, which has a thermostat system that is outdated and problematic. Mr. Schulze has not heard back from the A/C company regarding a maintenance contract for the new gym units.

Food Pantry:

- President Lambeth updated Council on the **Food Pantry**. She and Warren Schick are meeting with Pantry representative to work on a **written agreement** between the two parties.
- She thanked the Pantry volunteers for their work to help things in the parking lot go smoother. The speed bumps seem to be working to slow traffic, and the flow of Pantry clients, church traffic and carpool drop-off is going better. Signs to delineate the church parking spaces along the south fence have been ordered.
- At meeting time President Lambeth did not know the status of the Pantry's **proposed expansion** talks with Hilshire Village.

VBS: Stephanie Walton reported on **VBS**, which began July 22nd. She was pleased with the day camp, materials and the volunteer response: there were teachers for all classes, as well as check-in and security volunteers, and 11 Stratford HS students helped as “floaters”. Ms. Lambeth added that she received positive feedback from parents. Ms. Kilkenny thanked Ms. Walton for her hard work to make 2024 VBS a success.

Storm Recovery: President Lambeth reported that the **storm debris** from the Wirt lawn has been removed. The **roof** leaks have been temporarily repaired until the bids from roofing contractors for permanent repairs come in. Ms. Kilkenny reported that the **playground** fence repair is in progress and will be completed before the start of school. The trellis has been replaced, and damage to fix the planter box is underway. She has contacted the tree service contractors about stump grinding and trimming problematic limbs and trees. Storm recovery fund donations were still coming in.

New Business:

- Ms. Walton reported on an unexpected **outreach** opportunity. While working at an Extreme Home Makeover event, she was able to provide communion to participants. They had been unable to attend their own churches for 7 weeks due to the traveling schedule, so she took communion to them.
- Ms. Lambeth revisited the discussion of ideas for a **Time & Talent** program. Stephanie Walton agreed to coordinate this project, and she remarked that this would be a good time to work in a special volunteer recognition event.
- President Lambeth introduced the idea of a neighborhood Fall Block Party as an outreach opportunity. One Council member wondered if this might be need to wait until a different time, as the extra effort toward storm recovery and the upcoming preparation for Thanksgiving and the Advent/Christmas season might deplete the volunteer base.
- Ms. Walton noted that Faith & Blue weekend is October 11-14, 2024. This is an opportunity to show appreciation for law enforcement officers and to invite them to worship at HCLC.

Julie Richter would like to coordinate something for the congregation to show its support for law enforcement.

The September Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 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