

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – September 22, 2024**

The September 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 11:03 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Leigh Rothharpt, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder and Stephanie Walton.

The minutes from the August 2024 meeting were submitted by Council Secretary Julie Kilkenny. Mr. Schick requested that more detail be included regarding the Financial Review Committee discussion. After discussing the proposed revisions, Council approved the minutes subject to those changes.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. August 2024 offerings were low -- \$15,989, a decrease of \$10,612 from July. Treasurer Finstad noted that average monthly offerings fell short of budget amounts by \$10,400/month. Expenses for the month of August were \$33,018, a decrease of \$16,222 from July. August expenses were \$17,029 greater than offerings. The checking account balance at 8/30/24 was \$21,755, not including restricted funds (this was after the infusion of cash from the Main Street investment funds, as discussed in the August meeting). Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Mr. Schick asked for clarification on the history of the HCLC Emergency Fund, and Council discussed the returns and liquidity of different investments. Council approved a motion by Steve Schulze (2<sup>nd</sup> by Hans Sunder) to liquidate the Weatherford stock and put the proceeds into a money market fund. Council also approved the motion by Mr. Schulze (2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Schick) to take the \$100,000 Emergency Fund CD, which is maturing, and place the proceeds into a separate money market fund. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren reported that he was happy to be back after his time out of the office. He noted the benefit of being able to touch base with parishioners who were ill or underwent procedures during that time. He extended special thanks to Scott Wegner and Deacon Lisa Donahue for leading Sunday worship in his absence, and expressed to Warren Schick how nice it was to be able to watch the services live. (Deacon Donahue also provided pastoral care while he was out.) He noted a generous donation to the ELC for storm recovery from the Houston Hermann Sons Home Association. He updated Council on several members who are hospitalized or homebound. Pastor Berggren's 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):**

- President Lambeth reported that the work on the sprinkler system has been completed. She called attention to the work by Selvin Young, Tillie Remmert and Alan Lambeth to keep the grounds looking nice.
- A/C issues continued at HCLC. Mr. Lambeth rewired the problematic thermostat system upstairs in the Annex, so that new wall thermostats can be installed in the Youth Room and the Annex classroom. The A/C problem in the Gym classrooms and bathrooms also required some rewiring, and an adjustment to a belt stopped the squeaking in the old unit.

**Food Pantry:**

- President Lambeth reported on the progress on finalizing a **written agreement** between the Pantry and HCLC. Ms. Lambeth, Mr. Schick, and parishioner Ted Flick met with Pantry representative Jim Hughes to discuss the agreement. Mr. Schick expressed his frustration that this process has been so drawn out. Ms. Lambeth concurred, but remarked that she felt the two parties were close to finalizing. Council discussed a point of debate about insurance issues in the preliminary draft of the agreement. Mr. Schick emphasized that Mr. Hughes would be happy to talk directly to HCLC's insurance company to settle the issue.
- Ms. Lambeth updated Council on the improved flow of Pantry clients, ELC carpool and church traffic in the parking lot.

**Storm Recovery:**

- President Lambeth reported that a roofing company evaluating the job for storm damage to the roof determined there is also structural damage (in addition to the roof damage) to the Atrium near the elevator. This will increase the scope and likely the cost of the job.
- Mr. Sunder questioned whether HCLC buildings were vulnerable to additional tree damage. Ms. Kilkenny detailed the "urgent" tree work that was done and explained the future tree work to be done when the weather cools off.
- Mr. Schick asked about the status of storm recovery funds (SRF), in particular whether the Telge funds had been reimbursed with excess SRF donations. Treasurer Finstad replied that all the SRF funds received had been spent for repairs. Mr. Schick asked for an accounting for the storm recovery funds at the next Council meeting.

**Advent:** Ms. Lambeth asked Council to think about ideas for 2024 Advent, which begins Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. She would like to have plans in place within the next month, emphasizing the importance of publicizing Advent activities on the website, social media and Crossties.

- Advent Sundays: 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22
- Advent Wednesdays: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

Pastor Berggren suggested having a Bring Your Own Sack Lunch theme for those who want to stay after the Wednesday services and perhaps incorporating a small activity during lunch (ex. signing cards, etc.). *(Note: Christmas Eve 2024 is on a Tuesday, Christmas Day is Wednesday)*

**Other Old Business:**

- **Faith & Blue Sunday** (October 13<sup>th</sup>) plans are underway. Julie and Russell Richter designed posters and a flyer for the HCLC Facebook page and website and invited law enforcement officers from the area. Stephanie Walton volunteered to make a special announcement at the beginning of the service, as well as provide decorations for the informal celebration during coffee hour.
- President Lambeth suggested having **Stewardship Sunday** on November 24, 2024, perhaps incorporating a potluck lunch and celebration of the newly refurbished FLC kitchen (Eagle Scout project).

**New Business:**

**Health & Safety class:** President Lambeth became aware of several people who recently had health episodes, and she noted that it would be helpful for HCLC to have a general refresher (*not* certification) class, so people can familiarize themselves with the AED device, blood pressure monitor, and oximeter located in the Atrium. John Lambeth offered to hold this class and answer questions during coffee after worship on November 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet and a form to request topics to be addressed next to the attendance sheets in the Atrium.

**Nominating Committee:** Ms. Lambeth reported that, in preparation for Nominating Committee work, Tillie Remmert requested the name of the Council representative for the Committee. Mr. Schick explained the requirements for the Council representative, and Ms. Lambeth asked eligible members to think it over for action at the October meeting.

The October Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. This was later moved to October 20, 2024, due to a scheduling conflict.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny,  
Secretary, Church Council