

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – October 20, 2024**

The October 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, October 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Jay Byerly, Ricki Finstad, Leigh Rothharpt, Warren Schick, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder and Stephanie Walton. Julie Kilkenny was not in attendance.

The minutes from the September 2024 meeting were submitted by President Lambeth, as Secretary Kilkenny was absent from this meeting. Council approved the minutes.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. September 2024 offerings \$22,825, an increase of \$6,836 over August. Treasurer Finstad commented that he did not transfer funds from the Emergency Fund into the checking account yet; instead he kept them in interest-bearing investments, as he was advised by the bank president. He noted that average monthly offerings are still short of budget amounts by \$10,400/month. Expenses for the month of September were \$18,399, a decrease of \$14,619 from August. September offerings were \$4,426 greater than expenses. However, the 2024 average monthly deficit was \$9,400. The checking account balance at 9/30/24 was \$32,527, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren reported a change in the Saturday service musicians: George Schwalm will have to step away due to transportation and work schedule issues, and Sarah Richter has stepped in. Pastor Berggren has participated, along with President Lambeth, in the formulation of more formal agreements with the various organizations who use our facilities (Boy Scouts, basketball teams, Pantry). 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:**

**Boy Scout Troop 852:** Stephanie Walton updated Council on activities for BSA Troop 852. Tristan Walton's Eagle Scout ceremony is scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>, the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his grandfather Tommy Neumann's Eagle Scout ceremony. Troop member Chip Charlton is refurbishing the FLC kitchen for his Eagle Scout project; he expects to have it completed before Thanksgiving.

**Food Pantry:**

- President Lambeth reported that she and Jim Hughes met to discuss the Pantry's latest draft of the **written agreement** between the Pantry and HCLC. She reiterated her stance that this agreement should not be an extremely legalistic detailed document, as HCLC and the Pantry have worked together with a handshake agreement for 40 years - - rather this will spell out some areas of responsibilities for each party and help alleviate Hilshire Village's concerns about the Pantry's future plans. Council members agreed that keeping the agreement simple and modifying areas as needed was their preference. Warren Schick made a motion (which was seconded by Ricki Finstad) that Council approve this agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

**Storm Recovery:** Ms. Lambeth reported that recovery from the storm damage was winding down. The roofing company completed their repairs, and only a couple of the damaged trees still need to be removed. Dr. Finstad added that the contractors were paid in a timely fashion.

**Advent:** Council discussed plans for 2024 Advent, which begins Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Wednesday noon services will be in the Atrium, with a BYOL (bring your own) sack lunch after the service. Council discussed plans for a Sing-Along (with potluck snacks only) after the Sunday service and Congregational Meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. She emphasized 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
- Congregational Meeting Part I and Christmas Sing-Along: 12/8

**Stewardship:** Council discussed plans for Stewardship Sunday, which will be on November 24<sup>th</sup>. President Lambeth spoke with John Stokes, who offered to give a presentation during worship on Sunday. She is hoping to have the Time and Talent portion of stewardship then also. Also incorporated into Sunday's festivities (November 24<sup>th</sup>) will be the re-dedication of the FLC kitchen, which is being refurbished as Chip Charlton's Eagle Scout project.

**New Business:**

**Nominating Committee:** Ms. Lambeth noted that Steve Schulze agreed to be the Council representative on the Nominating Committee. A motion was made by Jay Byerly, seconded by Hans Sunder, and approved by Council that Mr. Schulze would join the Nominating Committee as Council representative.

**Other New Business:**

- Mr. Schick suggested HCLC consider recognizing those who have joined the congregation

recently in a New Members section in the worship service.

- President Lambeth noted that Sussy Terry will be out of the office for a couple of weeks, and Council discussed protocols for unexpected issues that might come up in her absence.
- Ms. Walton remarked that the lock to the Boy Scouts' meeting room is not working, and she requested Council permission to rekey the lock on that door. Mr. Byerly made a motion to rekey that lock (seconded by Mr. Schulze); the motion passed. Council discussed the condition of the locks to the other classrooms.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, December 1, 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