

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – December 1, 2024

The November 2024 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 11:00 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. Chip Charlton attended as a special guest.

Chip Charlton presented to Council the final report for his Eagle Scout project of refurbishing the FLC (Gym) kitchen. He noted that the project came in under budget, even with additional electrical costs. Phase I included the removal of the existing commercial gas stove and installation of 2 electric ranges. Then the kitchen walls and trim were prepped and painted. They also added undercabinet lighting and updated the existing outlets with GFCI technology. Council members thanked him and remarked about what a great job he did.

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

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. October 2024 offerings were \$24,559, an increase of \$1,734 over September. He noted that average monthly offerings are short of budget amounts by \$10,900/month. Expenses for the month of October were \$30,411, an increase of \$12,012 from September. October offerings were \$5,852 less than expenses; the 2024 average monthly deficit was \$8,116. The checking account balance at 10/31/24 was \$23,703, 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 updated Council on his activities for the month. He thanked Holy Cross members and friends for stepping up while he was away for an unplanned medical procedure, and also for their prayers, visits and calls. He expressed his appreciation to Pastor Chris Rothharpt and Bruce Mills for stepping in to help with worship services while he was out. He noted that the Pantry's Thanksgiving project fed approximately 1,100 families this year. His other activities included preparing for Advent, as well as regular services 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 was on November 17th, and the troop is preparing for its Court of Honor ceremony on December 15th.

Buildings and Grounds: President Lambeth reported that things were relatively quiet for Buildings and Grounds. The thermal coupler in sanctuary heater was replaced, and there were small leaks in the gym roof that she hopes will be fixed before it rains. Ms. Kilkenny reported that two more trees were removed, and she is working out the details to replant some of the trees that were lost in this year's storms.

Food Pantry:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that the agreement between HCLC and the Pantry was completed, and that things were going pretty well. She asked for Council members' opinions on how to handle conflicts when normal Pantry client days conflict with special HCLC or ELC events (ex: ELC Christmas program, Sip'n Shop, etc.)
- President Lambeth reported that she and Jim Hughes met to discuss the Pantry's ideas on expansion plans to better serve its clients. Mr. Hughes wanted to get an idea of whether Holy Cross and Hilshire Village are amenable to the Pantry's ideas before spending a lot of money on consultants and architects. The Pantry would pour a concrete pad the same size and in the same location as in the proposal originally presented to Hilshire Village. There would be refrigeration and freezer units on the pad, as well as noise suppression devices and a generator, and would be surrounded by a fence and foliage. The Pantry's hope is that this approach would be acceptable to HCLC, as it is similar in footprint (which was acceptable to HCLC), but much lower in height (which seemed to be a stumbling block for Hilshire Village). In addition, his recommendation would be for Holy Cross to present the new proposal to Hilshire Village. Ms. Lambeth urged that if Holy Cross presents the new proposal, Pantry representative(s) must be at the meeting to answer questions.

Ms. Lambeth explained that the Pantry can only receive deliveries of donated food that requires refrigeration at given intervals. Their goal is to get a bigger refrigeration unit, so they can accept more and better food and accommodate more clients. A straw vote was taken, and Council members expressed support for this idea.

Advent: Council briefly discussed plans for 2024 Advent. The Wednesday noon services will be in the Atrium, with a BYOL (bring your own) sack lunch after the service in the Annex classroom. Ms. Walton is working on compiling bound booklets for the Sing-Along after the Sunday service and Congregational Meeting on December 8th.

New Business:

At the previous meeting Mr. Schick suggested HCLC recognize **new members** of Holy Cross during a worship service. President Lambeth proposed a tentative date of January 26, 2025 and including a reception or potluck lunch.

President Lambeth recognized the diligent work of Barbara Neumann in helping Holy Cross to achieve the **Spring Branch ISD (SBISD) Class of 2024 Good Neighbor designation**. Ms. Neumann and Stephanie Walton have been instrumental in spearheading Holy Cross's involvement in this program over the past several years.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2025 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