

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – February 23, 2025**

The February 2025 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Wendy Lambeth on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Wendy Lambeth, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Stephen Schulze, Hans Sunder and Stephanie Walton. Tillie Remmert and Russ Richter attended as special guests. Jay Byerly, Leigh Rothharpt and Warren Schick did not attend.

The minutes from the January 2025 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and were approved by Council. Also approved was the draft of the minutes from the December 2024 Congregational Meeting Part I, which will be submitted for approval at the Congregational Meeting Part II on March 9, 2025.

The **Treasurer's report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. January 2025 offerings were \$18,756, which was \$24,048 less than December 2024. He noted that January actual offerings were short of budget amounts by \$14,477. Expenses for the month of January were \$31,461, which was \$3,125 less than December 2024. January 2025 expenses exceeded offerings by \$12,705. The checking account balance at 1/31/25 was \$7,537, not including restricted funds. Dr. Finstad noted that in February he transferred \$35,000 from the Maine Street stock dividends to replenish the checking account, as approved by Council at the January meeting. He gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren gave an update on his activities for the month. It was a busy month for pastoral care, with several members undergoing surgery. He expressed appreciation for those who filled in while office manager Sussy Terry was out of the office, notably preparing the Sunday bulletins and bulletins for the funeral service for long-time member Louise McDonald. Pastor Berggren will attend a synod meeting today on procedures for electing the next bishop (at the synod convention in May). He continues working on plans for Lent; the theme for his meditations will be "Words from the Cross". His other activities this month included preparing for 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:**

**Nominating Committee:** Tillie Remmert presented the slate of candidates for Council and

Committee positions to be elected at the Congregational Meeting Part II on March 9, 2025.

[Members of the 2024 Nominating Committee are Tillie Remmert, Linda Cuzzort, Darnell Lucero, Amy Schomburg and Council representative Stephen Schulze.]

The candidates for 2025 positions are as follows:

Council President (1-year term) : Stephen Schulze

Secretary (1-year term): Julie Kilkenny

Treasurer (1-year term): Ricki Finstad

Council Members (2-year term): Alice Braun, Anita Cooper, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter, Penny Schick (3 positions to fill)

Nominating Committee (1-year term): John Cooper, Tangie Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick

Endowment Committee (2-year term): Kenneth Dinges, Marilyn Flick (2 positions to fill)

President Lambeth noted that if Mr. Schulze is elected as President, Council will need to appoint someone to finish the remainder of his term as Council member. A motion to accept the Committee's slate of candidates was made, duly seconded and approved by Council.

#### **Buildings and Grounds:**

- President Lambeth reported on progress on the continuing sanctuary **furnace** issues. Alan Lambeth came up numerous times during the cold weather to check the pilot and make sure the heat was on for worship services. He is still waiting on the three companies he contacted to submit final bids for a new boiler and related upgrades.
- Ms. Kilkenny reported on recent **tree work** done on the church property. Two large pine trees along the Westview side of the west parking lot were dead and had to be removed. Also of concern were several trees on Telge lot 1 that were a threat to the adjacent house. These were removed or cleaned up, as were other large limbs hanging over Westview.
- Mr. Lambeth also installed gutter guards along the north side of the Annex hallway to prevent future roof leaks.

**Synod Assembly:** President Lambeth reminded Council that the 2025 Synod Assembly, which includes the election of a new bishop, will be held in New Orleans this year (May 15-17), and reservations need to be made for the HCLC representatives attending. Pastor Berggren and Steve Schulze will attend from Holy Cross.

#### **Other Old Business:**

- Ms. Lambeth remarked that the **Celebration of Membership Sunday** (February 16<sup>th</sup>) was a success, and the reception after the service was a nice opportunity to meet new members.
- Council discussed preparations for the **Congregational Meeting Part II**, to be held on March 9, 2025. Ms. Lambeth remarked that extra care was needed to get the reports in as

soon as possible and packets and ballots prepared, as Ms. Terry was still out of the office.

**New Business:**

**Lent and Easter Schedule:** President Lambeth discussed plans for Lent and Easter.

- Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>): Imposition of Ashes at 12noon and 6pm
- Mid-week Lenten Services (Wednesdays at 12noon in the Atrium: March 12, 19, 26, 30, April 2, 9). *Light lunch following the service.*
- Maundy Thursday Service & Meal: April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. A sign-up sheet to bring food will be posted in the Atrium. *Stripping of the altar and hanging of the shroud to follow.*
- Good Friday: April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm in the Sanctuary
- Prayer Vigil: Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. *A sign-up sheet (for time slots) will be located in the Atrium to pray in-person (in the chapel) or offsite.* The goal: to have Holy Cross members and friends in continuous prayer throughout the day.
- Easter Sunday (April 20<sup>th</sup>): 7:00am Sunrise Service, 9:30am Traditional Service
- *(As well as regular worship services Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9:30am)*

**Other Upcoming Events:** LoveBugs Children’s Business Fair (March 22<sup>nd</sup>), Spring Arts & Crafts Fair (April 5<sup>th</sup>)

**Financial Review Committee:** Ms. Lambeth updated Council on recommendations from the January FRC meeting regarding CDs which were placed in the Charles Schwab account after they matured in December 2024. The FRC recommended that the majority of these Telge funds be transferred to the Vanguard money market fund until the FRC decides how to invest them; this would improve the FRC’s operations and review of investments. Treasurer Finstad stated his preference that these funds remain in the Schwab account, where they can be invested in higher yielding CDs or Treasury bills. He noted that these funds were moved to Schwab precisely because of the low yield of that particular Vanguard money market fund. Council discussed the challenges of storm damages and repairs to HVAC systems, and emphasized its goal of maximizing investments to continue HCLC programs. A motion was made, seconded and passed to leave these funds in the Schwab account. A second motion to invest all of these funds in 1-year CDs or T-bills (whichever has a higher yield).

**Food Pantry:** The Pantry continued work on its expansion plans, specifically to find a solution that will be agreeable to the neighboring homes. One resident objected to the height of a building behind his house, and discussion of this matter was deferred by Hilshire Village until the next meeting in March. The Pantry came up with a new proposal. They would like to get a freestanding freezer, which would be on a concrete pad but not enclosed in a building. It would have a noise suppression system and would be enclosed by a fence. President Lambeth noted that the Pantry wanted to get HCLC approval before it approached Hilshire Village again.

Council discussed and asked for clarification on several points (such as noise levels, paint colors, drainage, etc.). Council approved the Pantry's proposal subject to clarification of these issues.

**Building Use Request:** Council approved the Pantry's request for use of the gym and parking lot for the 2025 Thanksgiving Meal in a Bag project. (Gym: November 1-30, 2025 and Parking Lot: 6:00am-2:00pm November 24 & 25, 2025.)

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23, 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