

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)**  
**Minutes for Council Meeting – February 22, 2026**

The February 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 11:02 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Anita Cooper, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Russell Richter, Penny Schick and Hans Sunder. Tangie Cooper attended as a special guest. Council member Jay Byerly was not in attendance.

The **minutes** from the January 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

**Nominating Committee:** Chairperson Tangie Cooper presented the slate of candidates for Council and Committee positions to be elected at the Congregational Meeting Part II on March 22, 2026. [Members of the 2025 Nominating Committee are Tangie Cooper, John Cooper, Debbie Pruitt, Warren Schick and Council representative Wendy Lambeth.]

The candidates for 2026 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): Jay Byerly, Bert Martin, Lucinda Moore, Penny Schick, Hans Sunder (*3 positions to fill*)

Nominating Committee (1-year term): Alice Braun, Linda Cuzzort, Tillie Remmert, Ike Thompson

Endowment Committee (2-year term): Pat Boessling, Sharon Wagner (*2 positions to fill*)

President Schulze thanked the Nominating Committee for its hard work. A motion to accept the Committee's slate of candidates was made, duly seconded and approved by Council.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He met with Rob Carty for the hymn selection for March-May 2026. He reported the passing of HCLC member Julie Yanta on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. He is working on Lenten preparations, including the Wednesday services, which will include historical context from the book "Killing Jesus" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. He noted that Julie Richter, Shannon Martin and Wendy Lambeth will be presenting parts of this study, and he is hoping to hold a class to help parishioners interested in honing their preaching skills. He was happy with the congregational response for Ash Wednesday services. Other activities included making phone calls and visits to parishioners; providing counseling and ministering for prayer requests; outreach to the community; and various church ministry meetings.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He remarked that January 2026 offerings were low -- \$16,228, which was \$12,746 less than December. January expenses were \$25,119, which was \$8,854 less than December. The January deficit (expenses >

offerings) was \$8,891. January 2026 offerings were \$17,124 less than budget amounts. The checking

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account balance at 1/31/26 was \$61,589, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

**Committee Reports and Old Business:**

**Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance:**

- Ms. Lambeth reported that the problem with the FLC (Gym) heater was actually a switch that somehow got turned off; it has been fixed.
- She also reported that Alan Lambeth is in the process of repairing a "sink hole" near the square grate along the sidewalk from the School of the Woods carpool line to the Atrium.

**WELCA:** Penny Schick reported that upcoming WELCA activities include the Upcycled Crafty Ladies' SpringFest on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The WELCA Annual Meeting has not been scheduled yet.

**Food Pantry:** President Schulze gave an update on the Pantry expansion. The Pantry's plans were approved by Hilshire Village, and the new freezers have been ordered. The new freezers will be located behind the Pantry in the southwest corner of the church property. He said it is possible that CenterPoint could require a new utility pole, but that has not been determined.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Council approved Ms. Lambeth's request to set the date for VBS for the week of June 22-26, 2026, 9:00am-12noon.

**Building Use Request:** President Schulze noted that the Pantry was scaling back its building use request for the cooking classes due to the upcoming expansion plans.

**New Business:**

- Council discussed ideas on establishing procedures to ensure pastoral continuity in the event Pastor Berggren is unavailable (due to illness, vacation, etc.) Members discussed how difficult it has been in the past to find a supply pastor when Pastor Berggren went on vacation. President Schulze said he would check with the Synod to get an updated list of supply pastors. He thought Pastor Berggren's idea of the "speakers class" was also a good way to increase member volunteer opportunities, as well as identify friends of Holy Cross who may be retired pastors or lay leaders. Ms. Kilkenny stressed the need to be intentional and involve others in the congregation for this, not just Council.
- President Schulze remarked on his intention to resume regular Outreach Committee meetings. Council members noted the importance of publicizing these meeting dates to the entire congregation.

- As she embarks on her new adventure of retirement, Council would like to thank Deacon Lisa Donahue for her service to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Her caring ministry to homebound HCLC members has been a blessing, and we are grateful.

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The March Council Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

The Congregational Meeting Part II is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2026 after Worship (and also before the Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> service at 6:00 p.m.).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kilkenny,  
Secretary, Church Council