

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – March 15, 2026

The March 2026 Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

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

The **minutes** from the February 2026 meeting were submitted by Steve Schulze (Secretary Julie Kilkenny was absent) and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported February 2026 offerings were \$20,920, which was \$4,692 greater than January. February expenses were \$29,554, which was \$4,434 greater than January. The February deficit (expenses > offerings) was \$8,634. February 2026 offerings were \$14,778 less than budget amounts. The checking account balance at 2/28/26 was \$58,144, 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 reported on Lenten activities and thanked those who are presenting lessons from the book "Killing Jesus" at the Wednesday services. He praised the efforts of HCLC group leaders to get their annual reports in on time for the upcoming Congregational Meeting on March 22nd. He noted the formation of a "forward-looking" Assets and Ideas congregational group and summarized its mission. 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.

Committee Reports and Old Business:

Buildings and Grounds/Maintenance:

- Ms. Lambeth reported that a problem with the FLC (Gym) kitchen refrigerator was minor: the GFCI tripped. Several Council members proposed that it would be beneficial if a list of GFCI switch locations could be posted, so members could check this before calling a repair company.
- She noted that the "sink hole" near the square grate along the sidewalk to the south entrance of the Atrium has been fixed. Alan Lambeth is also coordinating with Selvin Young to improve the sprinkler coverage in that same area so the sod can be rejuvenated.

WELCA: Penny Schick reported that the Upcycled Crafty Ladies' SpringFest is on March 28th.

Food Pantry: President Schulze gave an update on the Pantry expansion. The Pantry is waiting on approval for building permits from Hilshire Village. Mr. Schulze expects that

CenterPoint will complete its utility pole work in early April and that the refrigerators will be delivered in May. He will also meet with Pantry representatives regarding final building plans.

Staff Vacation Policy: President Schulze and presented his research to clear up questions into vacation policy for the HCLC office manager. He found the agreement from 2003 (when Ms. Terry, formerly Basurto was hired). Employees started with 2 weeks of paid vacation, then 3 weeks after 15 years, then 4 weeks after 20 years. President Schulze notified Ms. Terry that she has 4 weeks of paid vacation.

New Business:

- President Schulze reiterated his intention to resume **regular Growth/Outreach Committee meetings** after Easter. Discussion ensued, and the next meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 26th after the Sunday service.
- Ms. Schick reminded Council about last month's discussion about forming a **pastoral continuity committee** to discuss procedures in the event Pastor Berggren is unavailable (due to illness, vacation, etc.) Pastor Berggren has not heard back from the Synod on obtaining an updated list of supply pastors. Ms. Schick and other Council members noted the previous discussion about involving others in the congregation in this, *not* just Council.
- Pastor Berggren reported that Shannon Martin has volunteered to help with **visitation** of homebound HCLC members and friends, taking on some of recently-retired Deaconess Donohue's duties.
- Council approved a request by Alma Byerly to begin a monthly **women's study group** (9am on the 3rd Saturday of each month).
- Russ Richter proposed adding spoken **announcements** at the beginning of the Sunday worship service, as it seems not all congregants are reading the written announcements in the bulletin or on the Power Point slides. Ms. Schick added that this would be a tool to reach those who stream the service and do not have access to the printed information.
- Council discussed comments about the electronic sign at the corner of Wirt and Westview.
- Pastor Berggren noted that the **Synod Convention** is May 12-13th at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Sugar Land. President Schulze and Nancy Beamesderfer will be attending for Holy Cross.

The April Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 2026 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