

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – June 14, 2026

The June Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 11:04 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

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

The **minutes** from the May 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny with a minor correction and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that May 2026 offerings were \$17,462, which was \$13,760 less than April. May expenses were \$25,976, which was \$4,224 less than April. May expenses were \$8,514 greater than offerings. Year to date expenses of \$138,396 have exceeded offerings by \$29,492, a deficit of \$5,898/month. The checking account balance at 5/31/26 was \$50,283, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report and noted that the annual insurance premium, normally over \$30,000, is due in June. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He thanked the everyone for the wonderful anniversary celebration of his 15 years at HCLC (and 51 years in the ministry). He asked for suggestions for a successor to Anita Cooper, HCLC representative on the Early Learning Center (ELC) Board of Directors, as her term is ending. Other activities included weekly Bible study, 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:

- Wendy Lambeth reported that Alan Lambeth continues his work to bridge the compatibility issues between the new air conditioning equipment and the old wiring in the Annex. He was able to fix a problem with the ELC A/C unit. She added that the courtyard fountain is working again (a faulty GFCI plug was the problem).
- There was further discussion about the intermittent issues with the "syncing" problems and the equipment for the Power Point presentations in the sanctuary.
- President Schulze expressed his interest in replacing the landscaping that was removed along the north wall of the sanctuary in the Westview lawn; Council discussed possible solutions. (The overgrown shrubs were removed earlier this year because of security concerns about people camping in them, but due to budgetary constraints no provision was made to replace them.)

- Russ Richter brought up the roof leak in the gym for discussion. A call was made during this meeting to Alan Lambeth for an update. Past evaluations by roofing and A/C contractors were not definitive about whether it was an A/C problem (which would be covered by the warranty). Mr. Lambeth noted there was water inside the A/C unit on the gym roof. Mr. Schulze will call the A/C company to have them recheck the unit and placement on the roof pad.

Elevator Maintenance Contract: Mr. Schulze reported that HCLC has another year left on the current maintenance contract, so there is no action to be taken at this time.

Food Pantry: President Schulze remarked that he thought the Pantry expansion was almost finished, and several Council members commented on how nice the finished product looks. Ms. Lambeth added that one item left was the final testing of the emergency generator.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Ms. Lambeth updated Council on preparations for VBS, which will be held June 22nd – 26th. She reported that 32 campers (ages 3-10) have signed up, volunteers have been lined up, and she provided details on activities for the week.

Assets and Ideas Committee (formerly Growth/Outreach Committee): The next A&I meeting will be June 28th.

New Business:

July 4th Celebration: President Schulze proposed that Holy Cross hold a 4th of July celebration for the 250th Anniversary of the nation. After a brief discussion Council decided a July 5th Potluck Lunch would be a good way to celebrate. Ms. Kilkenny will contact volunteers and make the arrangements.

Building Use Request: Council approved a request by the Bayou City Band to use the Gym on Sundays 2-4pm, September 2026 – February 2027, *excluding November 2026*.

Home Visitation: Council discussed the redevelopment of the Home Visitation group. Pastor Berggren is talking with prospective volunteers and is working on a plan to involve a group of parishioners to support homebound members and friends of Holy Cross.

The July Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, July 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