

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – July 19, 2026

The July Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 11:04 a.m. Pastor Berggren opened with a prayer.

In attendance were: Pastor Jim Berggren, Stephen Schulze, Jay Byerly, Anita Cooper, Ricki Finstad, Julie Kilkenny, Wendy Lambeth, Bert Martin, Russell Richter, and Penny Schick.

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

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that June 2026 offerings were \$18,638, which was \$1,176 greater than May. June expenses were \$31,000, which was \$5,024 greater than May. June expenses were \$12,362 greater than offerings. Year to date expenses of \$163,396 exceeded offerings by \$41,854, a deficit of \$6,976/month. The checking account balance at 6/30/26 was \$53,957, 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 paid in June, is not reflected in these numbers. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He remarked on the success of VBS and thanked all the volunteers who made it a fun week. He thanked Anita Cooper for her service on the Early Learning Center (ELC) Board of Directors and announced that Linda Hemphill will serve as the new HCLC representative on the ELC Board (2-year term). He reported that he and Wendy Lambeth met with HCLC member George Zemanek about establishing a youth program for middle and high school kids at Holy Cross (Mr. Zemanek was instrumental in establishing a youth program at the church where he works as paid staff). Pastor Berggren's 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:

- President Schulze reported that the replacement water circulation pump for the sanctuary A/C should arrive in the next week.
 - Alan Lambeth has been working on the leaks in the gym ceiling; he suspects there are some missing and worn rubber washers; he replaced these and will wait for the next rain to evaluate. He also repaired a leaky window in the Annex hallway.
- Council revisited discussion of landscaping ideas and a several quotes for replacing the shrubs that were removed along the north wall of the sanctuary in the Westview lawn. Ms. Kilkenny suggested getting separate bids for the proposed work: 1) a bid to grind the stumps and prepare the soil, which could be done now, and 2) installing new plants when the weather cools.

- Ms. Kilkenny received Council approval for tree work to be done on the Westview lawn and Telge lot before hurricane season ramps up.

Food Pantry: President Schulze updated Council on a conversation he had with a Pantry representative about additional electricity costs after the new refrigeration units were installed, including the possibility of installing solar panels. Pantry officials would like to review the agreement with HCLC and how the added refrigeration units would affect the current agreement.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): Ms. Lambeth gave a brief recap of VBS 2026. She was very pleased with the camp, and reported that approximately 30 campers attended. Enrollment fees and other funds raised enabled the purchase of shelving for the Learning Resource Center and additional walkie talkies. She expressed thanks to the many volunteers who worked hard to make VBS a success. She noted that they expect to cap enrollment for 2027 at 40 campers, so additional volunteers will be needed. Next year's camp dates will be June 21-25, 2027.

Youth Ministry:

- Pastor Berggren and Wendy Lambeth met with Holy Cross member George Zemanek to discuss establishing an outreach ministry geared toward **middle and high school students**. The group Mr. Zemanek developed at his other church was a way for several churches to pool resources and bring together youth to "hang out" in a relaxed setting, play games, watch movies, etc. The group at HCLC will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of the month. Mr. Zemanek and Pastor Berggren would be the sponsors on site, facilitating the discussion of topics of interest and devotionals. Council discussed plans to publicize the meetings, coordinate RSVPs and snacks, and recruit volunteers. Mr. Zemanek suggested a pool table would be a welcome addition for the kids, and Ms. Lambeth asked Council and the congregation to be on the lookout for a used pool table.
- Council scheduled the annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** worship service for Sunday, August 16, 2026.

Home Visitation: Pastor Berggren reported that work continues on the Home Visitation ministry. He is meeting with Alma Byerly who is looking into resources to help train volunteers for this group.

New Business:

Upcoming Events: Council discussed the schedule for the following events:

- Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, August 16, 2026 during worship service
- Wednesday Youth Gatherings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 6 – 8 pm (begins September 9th)
- Stewardship Services: Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25, 2026

- WELCA ThankOffering Service: Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22, 2026
- Blessing of the Animals Service: TBD
- Fall Potluck Open House: TBD
- Vacation Bible School 2027: June 21-25, 2027

Other New Business: Council briefly discussed a flyer Pastor Berggren received from a company that provides market research services for churches.

The August Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 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