

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (HCLC)
Minutes for Council Meeting – August 16, 2026

The August Church Council meeting was called to order by President Stephen Schulze on Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 11:10 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 July 2026 meeting were submitted by Secretary Julie Kilkenny and approved by Council.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Ricki Finstad. He reported that July 2026 offerings were \$28,464, which was \$9,826 greater than June. July expenses were \$55,801, which was \$24,801 greater than June. July expenses were \$27,337 greater than June expenses. Year to date expenses of \$225,197 exceeded offerings by \$69,192, an average deficit of \$9,885/month. The checking account balance at 7/31/26 was \$24,420, not including restricted funds. Treasurer Finstad gave a summary of investments and other items in his report and noted that the annual insurance premium is included in these figures. Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Berggren updated Council on his activities for the month. He conducted memorial services for Holy Cross members Marilyn Collins (8/14/26) and Fredda Yurk (8/15/26). He thanked Penny Schick for her help in coordinating details for these services. He noted the official celebration of the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 16th (with an early dedication on August 9th). 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 and Wendy Lambeth described ongoing work by Alan Lambeth on the cooling towers for the sanctuary A/C system.
- Council continued the discussion on landscaping the north wall of the sanctuary in the Westview lawn. Tillie Remmert determined that there is \$3,800 available in memorial funds for this project. Ms. Lambeth contacted a landscape contractor who could accomplish the project for this price.
- Mr. Schulze updated Council on the progress to try to fix recent problems with one of the projectors for the Power Point presentation in the sanctuary.

Technology Committee: President Schulze asked Council to consider establishing a Technology Committee to guide the responsible use of digital tools that support worship, communication, and administration. There are several programs that Holy Cross uses that are

outdated or being discontinued, and this team would coordinate with users to assess needs, recommend solutions, and help ensure that the technology serves the congregation effectively. Discussion ensued about who should attend, and a meeting was scheduled for August 23rd.

WELCA: Mr. Schulze asked for an update on WELCA activities. Ms. Schick did not attend the last meeting, but gave a brief summary of items WELCA is working on, including organizing (and donating extra serving pieces in the Annex kitchen) and scheduling a “deep clean” of both kitchens. Mr. Byerly relayed a comment about new members needing better clarity of WELCA projects and finances to be shared at the meetings.

Food Pantry: President Schulze asked for Council input before he meets with Pantry representatives to review the agreement with HCLC, specifically how the new refrigeration units (and associated electricity costs, as well as natural gas costs for the standby generator) would affect the current agreement. Ms. Lambeth made a motion for President Schulze to propose at that meeting that Holy Cross would be responsible for up to \$100/year for natural gas costs during power outages; the Food Pantry would pay for costs incurred after that. The motion was duly seconded and passed by Council.

Home Visitation: Pastor Berggren reported that the next meeting for the Home Visitation ministry will be August 23rd.

Youth Ministry: Pastor Berggren reported that the first meeting of the Youth Group will be on September 9th. This group of middle and high school students will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of each month in the Youth Room at Holy Cross.

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday Youth Group: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 6 – 8 pm (begins September 9th)
- Blessing of the Animals Service: Saturday, October 3, 2026
- Fall Open House / Stewardship Sunday: October 25, 2026 (Stewardship Service also on Saturday, October 24th)
- Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 31, 2026
- WELCA ThankOffering Service: Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22, 2026

New Business:

- President Schulze received a proposal from Modern Elevator to upgrade the control system for the HCLC elevator, as it has become impossible to get replacement parts. Council discussed several options within the proposal (ranging from \$8,500 - \$56,000), as well how this would affect the current maintenance contract.
- Mr. Schulze received a draft of an agreement from Big Little School (1203 Wirt Rd.) to formalize the long-standing arrangement it has had with Holy Cross to shelter in place at HCLC in the event of an emergency at the school. A motion was made (and seconded) to sign the document and formalize this arrangement; Council approved this action.

The September Council Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 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