

Council members in attendance were: Pastor Jay, Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Gary Schell, Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Gail Becker, and Grace Kamarousky. Also in attendance were Marion Chupasco and Judy Rudolph. The meeting opened with devotions led by Clarissa. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: 1 funeral, 2 hospital visits, 2 private communions, 1 private counseling, 3 zoom meetings and a Library committee meeting. A meeting will be held on 11/8 for catechism students and their parents. As of now, classes will be held through Zoom. Pastor Bill Zimmermann conducted the worship service while Pastor Jay was on vacation. Pastor Jay thanked council for approving his vacation. There has been an average of 66 views per service on YouTube. Pastor Jay is going to research prices to purchase a camera and microphone to record services. Synod Assembly was held in October and Christopher deForest was elected as Bishop.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Think Tank: Mr. Sticky sale scheduled for November 11.

Youth Group: A hoagie and sandwich sale scheduled for Election Day, Nov. 3.

Old Business: Marion noted that she has submitted the requested financial reports to the Schuylkill County Cares Act and is waiting for approval of reimbursement for PPE. The rib dinner reported a profit of \$1,045. Council thanked Bobby and Anna Marie Decusky for their time and donations of supplies for the take out dinner. Many positive reviews were received. It was decided not to participate in the Olde Fashioned Christmas sponsored by the Rotary. The Friends helping Friends benefit at Boscov's was somewhat confusing so it's hard to tell how much we will receive in donations. The number of covid cases are increasing so it was approved to suspend communion for the time being. Church services will still be held with restrictions in place. Christmas Eve service will be recorded and posted online. Pastor Jay suggested that we could meet in the parking lot on Christmas Eve to light candles and sing Silent Night. Decorations will be minimal for Christmas Eve. The regular liturgy will be used for the Sunday after Christmas instead of the Service of Carols and Lessons.

New Business: 2 council members are needed to fill the vacancies left by Gary Schell and Sam Lindner ending their terms.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Joan Mensinger, secretary

Members in Attendance: Pastor Jay, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Judi Kline, Millie Krupilis, Deb Kapusnick, Marion Chupasco Devotions were given by Pastor Jay.

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurers' Reports: Reviewed and sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: Hospital visits 2, funerals 1, private communions 2, private counseling 1, zoom chats 3, Pastor Jay attended a Ringtown library gala/raffle committee meeting. Pastor Jay was on vacation 10/12/2020 through 10/24/2020. Thank you to Pastor Bill Zimmermann for filling in and to everyone who helped with the service. Pastor Jay has continued with the zoom chats on Thursday evenings. Synod Assembly took place and a new bishop was elected, Christopher deForest. His career as a pastor was a second one. He previously worked in private industry. He has experience with technology and worked with charity world wide. He will be installed in December. The streaming of services has been averaging 66 views weekly during the month of October. We are still only doing one live stream service per week.

Office Report: Available for review. The Thanksgiving service has been cancelled.

Old Business: The Boscov's friends and family day was very confusing. There were multiple St. John's churches. The confusion was on Boscov's end and their set-up. We are waiting to hear on the gift certificates for Zamudio's restaurant. We would sell the coupons for 15.00\$. We will purchase 20 coupons (money would come from the general fund), then we would get an additional 25 using a Thrivent card. This would be a fund raiser to assist Donna Vale. Other fundraisers are a work in progress. The Christmas Eve service will be held virtually. We will be able to play the video at a specified time, then afterward do a 15 minute candle lighting service outside at the church. There is a concern regarding communion during Sunday services. Pastor Jay would like to suspend communion for a while. Pastor Jay is leaning toward all virtual services if the COVID-19 numbers continue to climb. The maximum capacity inside our church is 22 people.

New Business: Ringtown has asked to meet with Brandonville for the budget meeting. The budget is the same for next year. We will come back next month with the budget. Council elections are scheduled for the end of November. The terms expiring are Judi Kline, Dotsy Fritz, and Georgette Herring. They are willing to serve another term. There will be a preliminary Confirmation class on Sunday 11/8/2020 through zoom.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Marie Clark, secretary

Remember your church at Christmas...



In Person Worship Suspended

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

Term ending DEC 2021	Term ending DEC 2021
Ron Ferrara	Mario Curreli
Clarissa Geary	Deb Kapusnick
Joan Mensinger	Millie Krupilis
Janice Wasser	Term ending DEC 2022
Term ending DEC 2022	Marie Clark
Gail Becker	Bob Fritz
Grace Kamarousky	Judi Kline
Wayne Mensinger	Term ending DEC 2023
Bill Rudolph	
Term ending DEC 2023	Dotsy Fritz
Robert Decusky	Georgette Herring
Laura Faust	
Jerid Lindenmuth	
Deb Shoup	

After careful consideration, it is with a heavy heart that we must share with you that we are suspending in-person worship services both at St. John's, Brandonville and St. John's, Ringtown. With the growing positivity rate in our local area, the stress being placed on our medical facilities and staff and the very real probability that any group of people gathered now and in the near future could include a person who is infected by the Coronavirus, we have made the difficult decision to move our worship services to online only. We hope that you will understand that this is not an easy decision to make, but with the current growth of people testing positive in our area and the vulnerabilities so many of our members share, plus our not wanting to contribute in any way to community spread so as to protect our medical workers, we thought it best to worship in a way which ensures the safety of all. We will continue to post current worship services each week on our YouTube and Facebook pages for all to watch and worship and hope that you can find God's good news and love in these online opportunities. We will share more information this week regarding our Advent seasonal worship services and offer some suggestions as to how you might share in the expectation and wonder of Advent with us. Our hearts are heavy as we enter into this holy time of the year, but our faith remains strong in the One who was, who is and who is to come.

Pastor Jay

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Please mail to or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to place a donation in honor or memory of someone for Christmas. Mail to: St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967

Please note the use of different funds:

General: day to day operating expenses

Memorial: worship supplies (altarware, candles, paraments, linens, music, etc.)

Maintenance/Improvement: upkeep and repairs to church property

Special Building (Rngtn only): toward new church building

Endowment (Rngtn only): savings for future needs

Cemetery: upkeep of cemetery

Deadline: DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

LUMINARY MEMORIALS

The Ringtown Sunday School is once again making luminaries to light on Christmas Eve. Please mail to or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to sponsor a luminary in honor or memory of someone for Christmas. Donation is \$5.00 each for Lutheran World Relief. Mail to: St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967

Deadline: DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Donating through a QCD

If you are age 70 ½ or older, IRS rules may allow you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457(b)s, inherited IRA plans, etc.). If you take the RMD as income, it will count as taxable income. This additional taxable income may push you into a high tax bracket and may also reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, instead consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to St. John's Lutheran. Please speak with your financial advisor before taking any funds from your tax deferred retirement account.