

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7, 2020

Council members in attendance by zoom were Pastor Jay, Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Gail Becker, Bob Decusky, Gary Schell, Bill Rudolph, Janice Wasser, Laura Faust, Ron Ferrara, Grace Kamarousky, and Clarissa Geary. Also in attendance were newly elected council member Debbie Shoup, Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph. The meeting opened with devotions led by Joan. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's reports were given, reviewed, approved and filed for audit. Gary did mention since members are sending in checks it is difficult to reimburse other accounts such as the M & I when all donations are included in one check and there is no cash available.

Pastor's report: 1 Funeral, 3 prayer chat zoom meetings, 2 catechism classes on zoom, and a Library Finance Committee meeting. Pastor Jay noted that FaceBook traffic has increased. You tube services averaged 65 views per service while we were having in church services. Since we have gone back to online worship the views have increased. Catechism met on zoom and watched the movie A Christmas Carol. There were some technical problems. Students are sending responses from the meeting and their worship sheets to Pastor Jay. Ashley Teter is doing Sunday School lessons for Advent on YouTube which is getting a good number of views. Pastor Jay has asked members to set up their own Advent wreaths at home to join in the lighting during online services. After the service those who wish to participate will meet in the church parking lot for a lighting of candles, Christmas Gospel reading and singing Silent Night. Time is 8:30. Minimal church decorating will be done:

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Social Ministry: Birthday cards are being sent out, shut in baskets will be assembled and distributed, and a discussion of the beef bracciole dinner was held.

Youth Group: The Election day hoagie sale was a success, a Gertrude Hawk candy sale and a candy bar sale are being held and a soup sale may be held in January.

Think Tank: Mr. Sticky sale was a success. Discussion and ideas were presented for the Christmas Eve service. Bob Llewellyn is posting on our FB page information on the winter sky.

Building: The new furnace was installed in the parsonage. Bob Decusky organized and oversaw the project. The snow blower will be inspected to make sure it is ready for use.

Old Business: Pastor Jay researched cameras to be used to record services. Price is approximately \$400 for the camera and \$400 for an iPad. 2 Thrivent cards totally \$500 will be used towards the cost. Marion reported that we were not approved for the PPE reimbursement. We still didn't receive anything from Boscov's pertaining to the Friends and Family Fundraiser.

New Business: The 2021 budget was reviewed. Discussion was held on how we are going to hold the annual meeting. Nothing was decided yet.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 1, 2020

Members in Attendance: Pastor Jay, Bob Fritz, Dotsy Fritz, Marie Clark, Judy Kline, Millie Krupilis, Georgette Herring, Mario Curreli, Marion Chupasco
Devotions were given by Pastor Jay.

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurers' Reports: Available for review and sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: Zoom chats 3, Funerals 1, Catechism classes 2. Attended the Ringtown library finance committee. For the month of November we had an average of 65 views. The last service of the month had 98 views, that was the first Sunday in Advent. Pastor Jay is putting together prayers and liturgy for online services. The Advent wreaths are up at both churches. Everyone can create their own Advent wreath at home, all you need are four candles. For All Saint's Sunday 11/01/2020 there were a lot of candles. The service went well. We are working on putting together a booklet for Christmas Eve. It will be sent out prior to the service. Pastor has added the lighting of the wreath and the Christ candle. He will zoom on the Christ candle during what would have been communion. Everyone is encouraged to contemplate "what is Christmas and how God has touched us". Jesus is the light for all people. Pastor Jay will be taping services from both churches. We are trying to plan a candle lighting service outside on Christmas Eve (Brandonville 7:30 p.m. and Ringtown 8:30 p.m.). The catechism class had its first zoom class 11/30/2020. A movie was shown. Technology was a problem. Not all of the children have the same capabilities with internet service. Everyone did, however, get through it. The kids were great. Ashley Teter from Ringtown has been working on setting up Sunday school classes for both churches during Advent leading up to the Christmas story. This can be found on the YouTube page. The youth group is having a Gertrude Hawk candy sale. They will also have a soup and hoagie fund raiser early next year.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Fundraisers: we sold all 20 of the Zumudio's coupons. There is a second batch of 25 coming. We did get a Thrivent card for the fundraiser. This will support Donna Vale's medical expenses. The hoagie sale continues to be a work in progress.

New Business: We are not sure how long our services will be done online. We need to consider how we are going to do the annual congregational meeting. It can be virtual or by phone or possibly postpone the meeting. Proposed Budget: 6100.00\$ Sunday school, 30123.00+500.00\$ shared expense (we are not sure on the shared expenses), 45,507.00\$ total.

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

Have you remembered your church this month?



2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick yours up for January use.
...on the kitchen counter at Brandonville
...on the pews in the Sunday School area at Ringtown

POINSETTIA NOTE: If you purchased a poinsettia for Christmas and have not taken it home, you may make arrangements to pick it up.

ST. JOHN'S BRANDONVILLE & RINGTOWN WISH LIST

If you would like to make a special contribution to the church this year, the following items are requested, **please check with the church office before purchasing to avoid duplicates:**

--Rngtn-iPad and USB cables to record worship service
approx. \$500

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

If you are a Thrivent member and qualify to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Project seed money gift card, please contact the church office. We have several upcoming events at Brandonville and Ringtown, and some of our Thrivent members have already applied for previous events. These gift cards help purchase supplies for our events and add to the profits raised. You either qualify for 1 or 2 projects. If you are not sure, contact Thrivent to see if your products qualify. Your help is greatly appreciated!

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Members whose Thrivent products have earned Choice Dollars in 2020 have until March 31 to direct where they want this money to be deposited. This is not done automatically. You must direct the money to the nonprofit organization registered at Thrivent online (preferred by Thrivent) or by calling Thrivent at 800-Thrivent.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS SUN, JAN 31, 2021 (tentative date)

All committee and organizational reports are due by JAN 5, 2021 to be included in the Annual Meeting booklet. As your committee or organization is ending the year, it is a good time to think about the 2020 accomplishments achieved and your goals for 2021. Help keep our church family informed by sharing information about the purpose, activities, and accomplishments of your committee or organization.

Treasurers' books deadline for audit - JAN 10

ROCK YOUTH GROUP BUY A MILE

Each mile you would like to buy is \$1.00 and will help ROCK get to the 2021 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Envelopes are located in the narthex at Brndvl and on the SS area table at Rngtn or write your name and "ROCK YOUTH GROUP BUY A MILE" on an envelope. Envelopes can be given to Laura Faust or Jamie Serafin or mailed to the church office PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Thank you for continuing to support ROCK.

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.