

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 4, 2021

The meeting was held by zoom. **Council members in attendance were** Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Pastor Jay, Gail Becker, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Jerid Lindenmuth, Debbie Shoup, Clarissa Geary, Grace Kamarousky, Janice Wasser, and Laura Faust. Also in attendance were Marion Chupasco, Judy Rudolph, and Gary Schell. Pastor Jay opened the meeting with devotions and presided over the meeting until new officers were elected. Pastor Jay read the minutes of the last meeting. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: There were 19 porch communions to shut ins where Pastor Jay distributed the elements in sealed containers and would proceed with the communion from the porch. This procedure seemed to work out well. There were 3 Zoom Prayer Chats. Pastor Jay also worked on the liturgies for the services in December including Christmas Eve. Since returning to online worship the YouTube views have averaged 77 per Sunday service. Christmas Eve had 201 views. There was also a Christmas Eve service at Brandonville. The candlelighting service to be held outside was cancelled due to rain. A New Year's Eve candlelighting service was held instead. There were 25 to 30 people in attendance. The service was also live streamed. Pastor Jay said we could possibly keep this as a yearly service. Ashley Teter has done 5 Sunday School online videos through Advent with an average of 66 views. Pastor Jay also conducted 3 funerals.

Office report was reviewed. The mask and towel sale done by Marion and Sandy was and continues to be very successful with a profit of \$1,538.00 so far.

Committee reports:

Youth Group: A soup fundraiser will be held in January. \$114.85 was generated from the Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale.

Christian Education: Learning Ministries will be held online this year.

Old Business: Bob Llewellyn did a breakdown of the Pay Pal account. We received \$5,135 in offerings from the account with fees totaling \$170.57 for a balance of \$4,964.43. That was about 3.43%. Some contributions were from nonmembers and there were some substantial amounts donated by individuals. A Mevo Camera was purchased from Best Buy to be used in recording services. A tablet or iPad still needs to be purchased to use with the camera. There is some concern with internet speed that still needs to be worked out. Pastor Jay thanked all who helped with decorating the church for Christmas. Members also volunteered to take down the decorations. Budget worked out as Gary will make adjustments to what was received from PayPal to be divided between Ringtown and Brandonville. The budget will be mailed out to members through email and paper mail, to review before a short meeting to be held on the 31st for the express purpose of passing the budget. We will have another meeting later, after things open up from the pandemic, to go over other business.

New Business: It was decided to postpone the Capital Campaign until at least spring when hopefully the Covid numbers are on the decline. The audit will be done January 10. Election of officers was held and the results are as follows:

Officers for 2021 are: President Bob Decusky, Vice President Wayne Mensinger, Secretary Joan Mensinger, Treasurer Gary Schell

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 5, 2021

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

Secretary's Report: Was approved as amended.

Treasurers' Reports reviewed and sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: Funerals 3, couldn't do

Christmas Eve candlelighting services due to bad weather, private communions 19 (front/back porch using plastic container/cups/baggies-they are handed through the door, a Eucharist prayer and blessing are performed), zoom chats 3, Pastor Jay continues his work on Facebook -liturgy/services-material. Sunday services 4 (77 views per service) Christmas Eve for Brandonville there were 56 views, Sunday school 5 sessions were put together by Ashley Teter 66 views. These sessions were on YouTube during Advent/Christmas season.

Office Report: Available for review. Many events are still up in the air. The Prayer for Christian Unity Service is cancelled.

Old Business: We will continue virtual services through January. We can address future services at the February meeting. The youth group candy sale went fairly well. January 24th there will be a curb side soup sale/pickup only. The national youth gathering is in 2022. The budget passed still stands. The Brandonville percentage is down for the shared expenses. For this year we will be slightly lower compared to last year. Fundraisers: La Casita de Familia - Donna Vale received a check just before Christmas. We will be getting the next batch of gift certificates together and will apply for a Thrivent card. The next fundraiser goes to the General fund. The hoagie sale is a work in progress. The congregational meeting: A special meeting later in the year will be called by council. On the day of the annual meeting we will conduct only necessary business. It will be a brief 5 minute meeting to vote on the budget. A cover letter will be sent out to explain what we are doing. The meeting will be 01/31/2021 at 7:00 p.m. The rest of the booklet will be available at a later date, the budget will be sent out now. Members can send back any comments before the meeting. We have not received any further information from Boscov's regarding friends/family day. The towel/mask fundraiser is doing well.

New Business: All decorations were taken down. The poinsettias are okay to stay. We are not really sure how to distribute the offering envelopes this year. The next 2 Sunday's, 12-2 p.m. we will distribute the envelopes at the church. We will need an audit committee (Marie Clark and Shawn Clark). Election of officers: President: Pastor Jay, Vice President: Bob Fritz, Secretary: Marie Clark, Treasurer: Barbara Kawa.

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

**“SOUPER BOWL”
FOR WORLD HUNGER
SUN, FEB 7**

If you would like to make a donation to World Hunger for “Souper Bowl”, write your name and “Souper Bowl World Hunger Offering” on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

***LENTEN
SELF DENIAL ENVELOPES***

Write your name and “My Lenten World Hunger Offering” on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday.

***ASH WEDNESDAY
w/IMPOSITION OF ASHES
WED, FEB 17***

***MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP
WED, FEB 24, MAR 3, 10, 17, & 24***

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUN, MAR 28-Passion Palm Sunday-Procession w/Palms
THR, APR 1 - Maundy Thursday
FRI, APR 2 - Good Friday
SAT, APR 3 - Easter Vigil
SUN, APR 4 - The Resurrection of Our Lord

EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

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

Please note the use of different funds:

General (Rngtn only): day to day operating expenses

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

Maintenance/Improvement: upkeep & repairs to church property

Special Building (Rngtn only): toward new church building

Endowment (Rngtn only): savings for future needs

Cemetery: upkeep of cemetery

Deadline: MAR 21 to be included in the Easter bulletin

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick yours up
...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, RINGTOWN
WISH LIST DONATION**

--Rngtn-iPad and USB cables to record worship services
In memory of Miriam & Dave Beaver and Judy & Jack Bower by: John & Joan Bower

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2-6,7,9 5-7pm Little League registration at St. John’s, Rngtn
2-7 Krispy Kreme & Coffee order deadline
for 2-14 pickup in St. John’s, Rngtn parking lot
2-16 Easter flower order deadline
2-17 Ash Wednesday w/Imposition of Ashes
6-5 5th Annual Ringtown Library Wine & Food Gala -cancelled
8-20&21 22nd Annual Town Social
9-11 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner at St John’s, Rngtn
9-11 Ringtown Library Basket Raffle
10-9 8th Annual Fall Festival
7-(24-28)-2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

ROCK YOUTH GROUP BUY A MILE

Each mile you would like to buy is \$1.00 and will help ROCK get to the 2022 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.