

**Those in attendance by zoom were** Gail Becker, Bill Rudolph, Bob Decusky, Ron Ferrara, Janice Wasser, Grace Kamarousky, Clarissa Geary, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Pastor Jay, and also Marion Chupasco, Judy Rudolph, and Gary Schell. The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** 2 private porch communions, 4 zoom prayer chats, 2 funerals and participated in the parade through town to celebrate Lois Faust's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bishop Deforest held a zoom meeting to share his plans for the future of the synod. Carl Shankweiler is the new associate to the Bishop for our Mission District. January averaged 83 views per service. New Year's Eve service had 119 views. Ash Wednesday service will be recorded and presented online. Pastor Jay will distribute ashes in both parking lots in Ringtown and Brandonville. We will continue to have our Lenten services online even if we open up to in person church. Pastor Jay is asking members to send in some of their favorite Bible stories. He will then pick 5 of them and make it into something similar to a Bible Study to explore those stories.

**Office report** was reviewed. The pork dinner will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> as a take out. The dinner will consist of pork, baked potato, vegetable, applesauce, and dessert. The price will be \$10 per platter. We will prepare for 150 dinners, first come first served. Palm Sunday will at least have distribution of Palms in the parking lot if we are not back to in person services.

#### **Committee reports:**

**Capital Campaign:** Met via teleconference. The committee will reconvene in April or May to work on a campaign starting in August or September.

**Building:** Engineers have completed their work and submitted the results to Bob Llewellyn. A hard copy will be given to committee members for review. Everything seems to be ok.

**Youth Group:** \$1,079 was the profit from the soup sale. Work is now underway for a Doughnut and Coffee sale fundraiser.

**Old Business:** An ipad mini was donated for use with the Mevo camera for recording services and updating internet speed was discussed. The budget was approved at an abbreviated meeting on January 31. Eagle Scout project was discussed.

**New Business:** Gary will check on electric contract. Pastor Jay asked for approval for a 3 day weekend sometime in the future. Antz worked on the furnace and it is now working. Anyone requesting statements of giving are asked to talk to Bob Llewellyn. Jerid Lindenmuth offered to get a lock box that can be mounted on the wall for people dropping off donations. The annual report is available for anyone who would like one. They are on the table in back of the church.

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

**Members in attendance were:** Pastor Jay, Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Judi Kline, Mario Curreli, Millie Krupilis, Bob Fritz, Dotsy Fritz, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary's report:** approved as amended

**Treasurers' reports:** available for review and sent to audit.

**Pastor's report:** Funerals 2, private communions 2, Zoom chats 4, meeting of Ringtown Library board via Zoom chat, Zoom meeting with new Bishop (he laid out his thoughts/ideas/restructuring of staff) Pastor Carl Shankweiler is the new associate of the bishop for the Mission District. The Bishop sent out a pastoral letter to congregations. We will continue to do things as we have been doing them (services/precautions), services: 5 virtual in Jan. 83 views up from previous, New Year's Eve 119 views. Some of the services have been skipping (not sure of cause/possibly upload is not sufficient). Ringtown purchased a camera and are working on increasing internet speed. Lenten season is approaching. Ash Wednesday services will be online. The Imposition of Ashes hopefully will be done at both churches outside (will be done with cotton swabs). People need to wear masks. Need to figure out time (Brandonville 5:30pm). Midweek services, all 5 will be online (Bible study opportunity). Bible stories will be used for Bible study. Pastor Jay to send out notice asking for ideas/input of stories/studies. Youth Group soup sale was pretty successful. They are doing a Krispy Kreme donut and coffee sale (12 oz bags) order deadline 2/7, pickup 2/14.

**Office report:** available for review. There are several baptisms pending (they are not done during Lent).

**Old business:** La Casita de Familia will be done again with coupons (proceeds will go to the General fund), hoagie sale tentative 9/16/2021. Working on other fundraisers. We did not have the congregational meeting at Brandonville (weather was poor). The 2020 budget meeting is sufficient. We are fine with the budget we have set.

**New business:** There are new Thrivent shirts in kitchen at the church. Pastor Jay is requesting vacation days. It would be a couple of days and they are pending at this time.

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

## **SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL**

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, MAR 28, for a special benevolence appeal. Write your name and "Synod Benevolence Appeal" on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Your donations will supplement our annual Synod Benevolence commitment.



**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.

**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 &  
2020 CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENTS**

Please pick yours up

...on the kitchen counter at Brandonville

...on the pews in the Sunday School area at Ringtown

If you would like a copy of your 2020 contributor statement, please contact Bob Llewellyn 570-889-5309.

**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!



**CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!**

Please send your birthday wishes to our members celebrating 90+ birthdays this month:

Marie Shoup  
101 E. Washington St.  
Shenandoah, PA 17976

**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**

3-12 St. Mary's Shoo-fly pie \$8 or crust \$3 order deadline for 3-16 pickup, 10am-12noon Call 570-889-3850 to order.  
3-17 St. Paul's UCC Chili sale order deadline for 3-20 2-4pm pickup \$7.50/quart Call Janice 570-889-3494  
4-22 3-6pm St. Paul's Chicken or Fish Spring Dinner-takeout \$10 570-889-5912, 570-889-3494, 570-889-3074 to order  
4-24 St. John's, Rngtn Pork Dinner-takeout \$10/platter  
Roast pork, baked potato, vegetable, applesauce, and dessert  
5-13 10am Annual Ascension Day Worship at Old White Church  
5-16 Recognition of Graduates  
5-23 Day of Pentecost - Affirmation of Baptism  
8-20&21 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Social  
9-11 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner at St John's, Rngtn  
9-11 11am-3pm Ringtown Library Basket Raffle  
9-16 Brndvl Hoagie Sale  
10-9 8<sup>th</sup> 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.