

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 1, 2021

The meeting was once again held by zoom. **Those council members in attendance were** Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Pastor Jay, Gail Becker, Jerid Lindenmuth, Bill Rudolph, Debbie Shoup, Bob Decusky, Clarissa Geary, Laura Faust, and Grace Kamarousky. Also in attendance were Gary Schell, Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph. Pastor Jay opened the meeting with a prayer. The minutes were read and approved with corrections of Laura Faust was also at the February meeting and Graham Fritz is working on his Eagle Scout Project. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: 1 end of life visit with prayer, 4 Zoom prayer chats, 1 catechism class, 1 funeral, Synod Zoom meeting, Library Board Zoom meeting. Online service views averaged in the low 60's for Sunday services, Ash Wednesday 42 and midweek service was 37 views. Pastor Jay is writing the liturgies for these services. 38 people received ashes on Ash Wednesday. Porch communions will resume.

Office report reviewed.

Committee reports:

Youth Group: A profit of \$749 was realized from the Krispie Kreme sale. A hoagie/sandwich sale is being held to support Bear Creek Camp attendees.

Old Business: The roast pork dinner will be held from 4pm until sellout. Pastor Jay and Jamie continue to work on internet speeds with the camera and Ipad. Gary checked on KWH for PPL and was given a reduced rate since he called. Jerid purchased the lock box for office drop-offs and Bill will install it. PPP paperwork still needs to be completed. Discussion was held on payment for those attending Bear Creek Camp. Previous years each child paid a deposit of \$25 with the church contributing a total of \$600 and fund raisers were held to defray remaining costs.

New Business: A letter was received from synod pertaining to the candidacy process for ministry for Ashley Teter. Ashley will help with leadership of the congregation. A motion was made to support Ashley with \$1000 per year for financial aid. A lengthy discussion was held on in person church. It was decided to meet again on March 15 to make a decision based on the numbers for Covid.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2021

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

Secretary's report: read and approved

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

Pastor's report: end of life visit 1, Zoom chats 4, Catechism 1, funerals 1, Synod Zoom meeting, Ringtown Library board Zoom meeting, Zoom catechism class went better. Movie and questions on Luther. Next class will be an independent study on Genesis and creation similar to Lenten midweek 1 study with a Zoom class on March 14. Average views in the 60's for Sunday services. Ash Wednesday and Lenten midweek views in the 40's. Ash Wednesday outdoor Imposition of Ashes- 20 people attended at Brandonville. Cotton swabs were used to administer ashes. Pastor Jay has been writing the liturgies for all services.

Office report: available for review. Baptisms are starting to be scheduled tentatively.

Old business: 5 more La Casita de Familia gift certificates were sold to benefit the General Fund. The other upcoming fundraisers are a work in progress.

New business: Discussion on opening worship: Concern with Covid contacts recently within the area. There is still a fairly high rate. Palm Sunday and Easter services are a concern with larger attendance. Possible way of doing something—Palm distribution outside as we did last year, recorded services for Palm Sunday and Easter with another possible brief service outside on Easter depending on weather. It was decided to wait 2 weeks and have another Conference call meeting on March 16 at 6:30pm to rethink plans.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Marion Chupasco, acting secretary

Remember your church on Easter...



**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.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUN, MAR 28-Passion Palm Sunday-Procession w/Palms
9am-B 10:30am-R
THR, APR 1 - Maundy Thursday online
FRI, APR 2 - Good Friday online
SUN, APR 4 - The Resurrection of Our Lord
9am-B 10:30am-R

**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.

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.

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.

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES
SUN, MAY 16**

If you know any member who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or other schools during the year, please contact the church office with their name so they can be included in this year's recognition.

**HELEN ROULIN SCHOLARSHIP
Deadline: May 2**

All Ringtown Valley high school girls grades 9-12 are eligible and encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of community involvement rather than scholastic aptitude, academics, or athletics. Call the church office for an application 570-889-5203.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
5-2 Helen Roulin scholarship deadline
5-13 10am Annual Ascension Day Worship at Old White Church – tentative
5-16 Recognition of Graduates
5-18 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales-B&R-tentative
5-23 Day of Pentecost – Affirmation of Baptism
6-(21-25) Vacation Bible School - tentative
8-20&21 22nd Annual Town Social
9-11 Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner at St John's, Rngtn
9-11 11am-3pm Ringtown Library Basket Raffle
9-12 God's Work Our Hands Sunday
9-16 Brndvl Hoagie Sale
10-9 8th Annual Fall Festival
7-(24-28)-2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

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.