

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 7, 2021

Those council members in attendance were: Pastor Jay, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Laura Faust, Janice Wasser, Debbie Shoup, Clarissa Geary, Wayne Mensinger, and Joan Mensinger. Also in attendance were Marion Chupasco and Judy Rudolph. May minutes were read and approved with one correction. Treasurer's reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: 2 private communions, 2 private counseling, 1 funeral, helped with Ascension Day service, 2 confirmation classes and meetings of the Library Board and VBS. There were 43 views on YouTube. Ashley Teter assisted with 2 services, delivering the sermon at one of them. She did an excellent job. Cassandra Teter was appointed to the synod council. Confirmation was held. Donations of over \$400 were received through pay pal.

Office report reviewed.

Committee reports:

Capital Campaign: Met by phone and discussed gearing up efforts in August and running through November.

Property: The lawn mower still needs service. Graham Fritz's Eagle Scout Project was completed including staining the shed, installing netting in the pavilion to keep the birds out, and installation of new parking lot lights.

Building: Bob Llewellyn has been in contact with our civil engineers at JMR who in turn have been in contact with the borough engineers to work out final details for construction permission.

Youth Group: Setting date for Heisler's trip.

Town Social: Meeting date set for June 16 at 6:30.

Think Tank: The theme of the float in the Memorial Day Parade was changed to highlight our Christmas in July celebration to be held July 24, 5-7 in the church lot. There will be a visit from "vacationing Santa Claus", Christmas cookie contest, hamburgers and hot dogs, reading of the Night Before Christmas, distribution of books as gifts for the children. Thrivent cards are needed. Pastor Jay has applied for a grant from the synod to be used toward either Christmas in July celebration or the Eagle Eye on Ringtown project. So far The Eagle Eye on Ringtown has interviewed Bob Llewellyn for information on the ROTG program and Tanya Savitsky for information on the Library. Mr. Sticky bun orders will be available for pick up on June 9 from 3 to 5:30.

Old Business: Our current internet service will be upgraded to a new one. The copyright licenses are in use. The Ipad case and SD card were donated. As of July 1 the following worship modifications will take place: communion will be the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month during the regular time in the service still using disposable cups and wafers in paper cups, masks will be worn or not worn by choice, still singing only the last hymn. Have outside services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays when there is no communion and sing all hymns when outside. In the case of bad weather we will worship inside the building.

New Business: Mandy Campbell was appointed to council. Vacation for Pastor Jay, July 6-12 was approved. Ashley Teter has agreed to do the service for that Sunday. Marion mentioned the folding machine will need service.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 8, 2021

Members In Attendance: Pastor Jay, Mario Curreli, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Judi Kline, Deb Kapusnick, Georgette Herring, Donna Anthony, Joe Cocco, Marion Chupasco

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: Funerals 1, private counseling 2, private communions 2, attended Ringtown Library Board meeting, attended and assisted with the Ascension Day service, met with the Vacation Bible School staff, YouTube/Facebook average views for Brandonville was 12, spent time with those young people who were confirmed, we have been getting requests for baptisms

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: We will do a hoagie sale with vouchers starting August 1st. The other fundraisers continue to be a work in progress. July 25th is our annual congregational covered dish picnic service 4 p.m. at Sekula's pavilion. Pastor Jay will do a pork shoulder, and Bob Fritz will do hamburgers. The copyright licenses will be a shared expense. The current internet service will be upgraded. The Keller estate: we will set up a congregational meeting for June 27th to discuss options. We will take guidance from this council meeting to the congregation. These wish list options were presented: an elevator, technology (purchase and use in the future, purchase internet service for the church), pave the parking lot (to keep the mud back), a seminary scholarship. Other distribution ideas can be received from congregational input. Upcoming worship services: we are still wearing masks, not singing, not using the hymnal. Starting July 1st mask wearing will be your choice. The last hymn will be sung. We will use the hymnal for the service. Communion will be offered on the 1st and 3rd Sunday in the church and will be done up front. Non-communion Sunday's will be outside. We need people to sign up for lay readers, communion ushers, and communion assistants. The bank accounts have been moved to M&T bank.

New Business: Pastor Jay recently received an email from the Valley Forge Trail Riders who will be holding an event in the field behind the church the weekend of September 19th. They will set up on Thursday and pack up Sunday. We could possibly do the service outside that Sunday. Pastor Jay will reach out to them. Pastor Jay requested vacation July 6-12. The Ringtown congregation has a seminarian candidate who is willing to do the service on July 11.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Marie Clark, Secretary

REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH WHILE ON
VACATION...



**ST. JOHN'S, BRANDONVILLE
WORSHIP & COVERED DISH PICNIC
SUN, JULY 25, 4pm, at the Sekula pavilion**

Worship to be held outside (weather permitting). You are asked to bring a covered dish as suggested by the first letter of your last name:

A-L Casseroles M-S Salads & Vegetables T-Z Desserts

**BEEF BRACIOLE DINNER
WED, SEP 1, 4-6pm**

...sponsored by Social Ministry

Menu: stuffing wrapped in beef, baked potato, veg, coleslaw, roll, butter, dessert COST: \$10.00

TAKEOUTS ONLY

For Tickets call 570-889-5309 or 570-889-5203

**LA CASITA DE FAMILIA RESTAURANT
GIFT CERTIFICAT FUNDRAISER**...sponsored by St. John's, Brndvl. Cost: \$15 each The \$15 certificate will be deducted from the total of your food purchase. Funds raised go to the General Fund. Certificates can be used at both locations in Shenandoah and the Hometown farmers market.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

7-11 4-8pm AMUMC Strawberry Social
7-(16-18) Ringtown Library Book sale at Sr. Citizens
7-17 Ringtown Library Yard Sale Day
7-24 5-7pm Christmas in July in St. John's parking lot
8-7 4pm-? Mt. Zion picnic
8-8 10:30am Old White Church Joint service
8-8 4pm ROCK Youth Group trip to Heisler's
8-20&21 22nd Annual Town Social
8-22 11am-3pm Ringtown Little League Chicken BBQ \$10/meal
9-1 4-6pm Beef Braciole dinner at St. John's, Rngtn
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
12-11 3pm Bach & Handel Chorale Christmas concert
at St. John's, Rngtn
7-(24-28)-2022 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

**INTERESTED IN HELPING TO RECORD
WORSHIP SERVICES?**

...see Jamie Serafin for more information about this opportunity.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As we begin to transition into more worship participation, there are signup sheets available for greeters, communion ushers, lay readers, or communion assistants.

**22nd ANNUAL TOWN SOCIAL
FRI & SAT, AUG 20 & 21
DONATIONS REQUESTED...**

It's time once again to prepare for our Town Social by asking for your help with donations:

- soda-12 oz cans (Coke, Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Root Beer, Sprite, Ginger Ale) Also diet & caffeine free in each brand
- hot cups (8 ounce)
- paper towels
- heavy duty plastic forks
- napkins
- 9 & 10 inch heavy duty paper plates (no styrofoam)

Signup sheets are available on the table in the SS area for other donations needed for our Town Social. Donations of baked goods should be brought on FRI & SAT, AUG 20 & 21. Help is needed for set up on Thursday at 6pm and in food stands both days.

We will once again have the theme basket auction. Donations of **new items** to be used to assemble theme baskets are requested (i.e. baby items, fishing, car care, baking, gardening, hair/body care, gift certificates, etc.). If you would like to donate a completed theme basket, please contact Jamie Serafin and let her know what type it would be. Theme basket donations are accepted at the discretion of the committee.

TOWN SOCIAL PERSONAL ADS

If you would like to place a personal ad at the Town Social for a \$10 donation (i.e. Happy Birthday or Anniversary, Congratulations, Best Wishes, etc.) please contact Eileen Teter 570-889-3051 or the church office 570-889-5203 by **JULY 18**. Please forward your personal ad information and a \$10 check to St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967. Thank you for all the support you provide to our congregation throughout the year!

**SUMMER
EVENTS**



JULY 24, 5-7pm in St. John's parking lot

Join us on July 24 as we celebrate Christmas in July in the parking lot of St. John's, Ringtown. Because Christmas was impacted by Covid last year, we are taking some time this summer to celebrate God's presence in our lives and our wonderful community as we are able to come together again for fellowship. The celebration will take place from 5-7pm and will include food (hamburgers/hot dogs, etc), fun (games and activities for all ages) and the presence of the jolly elf from the North Pole who will join us fresh from summer vacation. Children will be welcomed to have pictures taken with Santa and share in story time. In short, we will spend a few hours celebrating each other's company, enjoying food, sharing in Christmas joy and giving thanks to God for God's loving presence at Christmas and all year through. There is no cost to this event. It is open to the entire community.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE CONTEST

As part of our Christmas in July celebration, we will be holding a "Best Christmas Cookie of the Ringtown Valley" contest. The contest is open to anyone, and you are encouraged to submit as many types of Christmas cookies as you wish. The entry fee for the contest is 2 dozen cookies of each type you enter. Judges will taste the cookies and declare a winner, who will take home a "Best Christmas Cookie" of the Ringtown Valley trophy. Each judge will taste one of your cookies for judging purposes, and the rest will be shared with those who attend the event. Mark your calendars for the contest, which will take place on July 24. Cookies for the contest must be received by 5pm that day for judging. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 570-889-5203.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Because of issues surrounding Covid-19, our Capital Campaign Committee delayed the beginning of St. John's Capital Campaign program. Later this summer, we will be meeting with KLS Services to begin laying the groundwork for the Campaign. It is our intention to start the Campaign in full at the beginning of September and finish the Campaign by November. Please keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements from the Capital Campaign Committee as we put together this effort to fund the construction of a new church facility. As always, contributions toward this effort can be made at any time by earmarking your donation to the Special Building Fund of St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you for the many ways you support our congregation's ministry and mission.

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. Benefit members qualify for 2 cards per year. If you are not sure, contact Thrivent to see if your products qualify. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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.