

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 6, 2021

**Those present in person and via zoom were** Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Bob Decusky, Mandy Campbell, Bill Rudolph, Debbie Shoup, Pastor Jay, Laura Faust, and Clarissa Geary. Also present were Judy Rudolph, Marion Chupasco, and Gary Schell. Clarissa opened the meeting with devotions.

Jim Milhem, a representative of the Boy Scouts of Hawk Mountain Council was present to explain the bankruptcy of BSA. Hawk Mountain Council is not bankrupt. The BSA filed for bankruptcy to be able to cover any abuse claims from previous years. St. Johns doesn't have any known claims for the years applicable so we shouldn't have to do anything else. The meeting then continued with the reading of the minutes from the November meeting. The minutes were approved with one correction. Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** There were 8 hospital visits, 7 private communions, 1 catechism class, 3 private counseling, and 2 baptisms. Pastor Jay also attended a meeting of the Library Board and participated in the Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at the UCC Church. All Saints Sunday was celebrated, new members were taken in, and Dylan Melnick received his First Communion. Pastor Jay also attended an online workshop on anger presented by the ELCA.

**Office report** was reviewed and added that the organ was serviced.

**Committee reports:**

**Think Tank:** Met via zoom and discussed the Fall Festival. It was decided to shorten the time by one hour. 11am to 4pm instead of 5pm. Christmas caroling this year will be held on Friday, December 17. Tim Fetterman is going to drive a hay wagon through town with carolers using a speaker to amplify the singing over the noise of the tractor.

**Capital Campaign:** The envelopes are in and will be distributed for January. Those who donate using the envelopes are asked to include their regular envelope number on the capital campaign envelope. Mandy gave a presentation the end of November during church reporting there were 31 pledges totaling \$227,060. \$30,133 has been received so far which is 13.27% of pledges. Bill and Judy made a pledge chart to track pledges and amounts received. The chart will be displayed in the back of the church.

**Youth Group:** The profit for the sandwich and apple dumpling fund raiser was \$699.00 A big thank you to Rentschler's for supplying the apple dumplings, 6 youth and 2 adults are registered for the Youth Gathering to be held next summer.

**Old Business:** We received prices from Cumberland Stained Glass to restore the stained glass window in front of the church. Discussion was held on possibly having the window removed and stored until needed. A motion was made to use the regular liturgy for Christmas Eve singing 3 hymns and ending with Silent Night and also have Ashley Teter lead the December 26<sup>th</sup> service, again using the regular liturgy. The choir will sing an anthem on Christmas Eve. Decorating will be done on the 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service.

**New Business:** Gary presented the budget. A line item for Seminarian Scholarship Fund of \$1,000 was added. Mask wearing when inside the building is highly recommended. An email will be sent to members and signs will be posted.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.  
Joan Mensinger, secretary

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7, 2021

**Members in Attendance:** Pastor Jay, Bob Fritz, Dotsy Fritz, Joe Cocco, Marie Clark, Debbie Kapusnick, Mario Curreli, Georgette Herring, Judi Kline, Marion Chupasco  
Devotions were given by Pastor Jay.

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Reviewed and sent to audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Hospital visits 8, private counseling 3, private communions 7, baptisms 2, catechism zoom classes 1, Pastor Jay attended Ringtown Library Board meeting, participated in the Thanksgiving Eve community service, participated in an ELCA workshop on anger, three youth received First Holy Communion at Brandonville on All Saints Sunday. Six youth will be attending the ELCA youth gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2022. There is one youth from Brandonville, C.J Oslar.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business:** La Casita de Familia coupons are still available. We are selling coupons for Redner's hoagies for 5.00\$. The Keller Estate: We will be taking a proposal to the congregation in January at the annual meeting. The Christmas worship service: we will do a regular Sunday service, singing three hymns, and the candlelighting during Silent Night, the choir will sing one anthem up front instead of the hymn of praise before the gospel, masks are highly recommended. The Sunday after Christmas service we will do a regular Sunday service. It is a non-communion Sunday. Pastor Jay has asked for vacation. Ashley Teter is willing to do the service.

**New Business:** A budget proposal for 2022 was available for review.

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

*Remember your church this month.....*



**Council members present either in person or via Zoom** were Clarissa Geary, Cory Houser, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Janice Wasser, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Tracy Laudeman, Laura Faust, Mandy Campbell, and Pastor Jay. Also present were Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Gary reading devotions. Pastor Jay presided over the meeting until new officers were elected. Marion read the December minutes. Minutes were approved with one correction. Treasurer reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** 6 Hospital visits, 17 Private Communion, 4 private counseling sessions, 1 Catechism class, and 1 funeral. Pastor Jay asked council for any comments/feedback on the Christmas Eve service. Council expressed it went well and was nice to hear the choir singing.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Social Ministry** – Baskets were made and delivered to the shut ins.

**Think Tank** – 16 people attended the Christmas caroling hayride. Thank you to Tim and Ron Fetterman for providing the tractor and hay wagon.

**Capital Campaign** – Capital Campaign envelopes are in the back pews of the church and ready for people to pick them up. A January meeting is planned.

**Youth Group** – Youth group received a check from the Hazleton-Lehighon Mission District for \$2,400 towards the ELCA youth gathering.

**Old Business:** The contract for the Stained glass window in the front of the church was discussed. This recommendation will be brought to the congregation at the congregational meeting on January 30 for approval. A new checking account thru M&T was opened for the Building Fund. New hymnals can still be sponsored. 17 or 18 have been sponsored to date.

**New Business:** The Audit committee will meet Jan 12, 2022 at 6pm. A thank you note from the Ringtown Library was received thanking St. John's for use of pavilion and parking lot for their activities. The Boy Scouts were approved to hold the Pine Wood Derby Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and a dinner meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made to open another checking account with Mission Investment for the new building fund. \$5,000 will be left in the M&T account and the rest will be moved over to the Mission Investment account to earn interest. The 2022 Election of officers was held and the results are as follows: President: Bob Decusky, Vice President: Wayne Mensinger, Secretary: Laura Faust, Treasurer: Gary Schell

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Laura Faust, secretary

**Members present were:** Bob Fritz, Joe Cocco, Mario Curreli, Dotsy Fritz, Millie Krupilis, Deb Kapusnick, Judi Kline, Pastor Jay, and Marion Chupasco. Meeting opened with devotions by Pastor Jay.

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Funds available reviewed and sent to audit.

**Pastor's Report:** 6 hospital visits, 17 private communions, 1 Zoom catechism class, 1 funeral, Youth Group has 6 youth going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. They applied and received a Synod grant for \$2,400 toward their trip. Christmas Eve – everything went well.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business:** 2022 Proposed Budget was approved as presented in December. Fundraisers- several La Casita de Familia and Redners coupons were sold before Christmas. Keller estate – the elevator proposal is the only one received. The elevator and paving to be presented as recommendations by church council at the Annual Congregational Meeting. A discussion was held on distribution percentages for remaining funds.

**New Business:** The audit committee – Marie agreed to serve along with Shawn or another person. Concern was raised about the bottom 2 steps and the safety issues when people are leaving. Worship and covered dish picnic will be held July 31 at 4pm. Election of officers: Pres.- Pastor Jay; Vice Pres.-Bob Fritz, Sec.-Marie Clark, Treas.-Barb Kawa

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

**HEATING FUND ENVELOPES**

Your donations in this envelope will be used to help defray the rising cost of heating the church building during the winter months. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUN, 10am at Brndvl**

Sunday School is a valuable way to nurture our children and help them grow in their Christian faith. All of our young people, as well as adults, are encouraged to attend. Classes are available for age 3 and up. If you know someone who needs transportation, offer them a ride or contact the church office and we will try to provide transportation. Sunday School teachers also play an important role in our children's faith life. Please consider being part of this educational process and sharing your faith with our youth. **Teachers and helpers are needed!**

## **CATECHISM CLASS SUN, FEB 13, 1pm on Zoom**

All 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade members and those eligible who have not been confirmed yet are required to attend classes and fulfill expectations in order to affirm their baptism on the Day of Pentecost, June 5, 2022.

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

FEB & MAR Signup sheets are available on the counter at Brndvl and on the SS area table at Rngtn. If you signed up as a communion assistant, lay reader, or usher on the Time & Talent sheets, please add your name and choose the dates you would like to serve. For those who are reading lessons, the Celebrate inserts are also there to take.

## **RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**

The Ringtown Church Council has set up a "Capital Campaign Fund" with the goal of moving forward toward a new church building. "Capital Campaign" envelopes are available in the pew if you would like to make a contribution toward this building project. Member envelopes are in the SS area near the 2022 offering envelopes. Please pick yours up today.

## **REDNER'S HOAGIE VOUCHER FUNDRAISER**

...sponsored by St. John's, Brndvl Cost: \$5 each/6 inch hoagie Vouchers can be used at Redner's deli or Quick Shoppe. Funds raised to benefit the General Fund.

**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.



## ***CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!***

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

2-24 Alice Beaver  
174 Wood St.  
Ringtown, PA 17967

## **"SOUPER BOWL" FOR WORLD HUNGER SUN, FEB 6**

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.

## **RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Thank you to all who have returned pledge cards and have become part of our effort to raise funds for the construction of a new church facility for St. John's, Ringtown. Over the past few years, we have shared with you information about the current state of the church building in which we currently worship, the high cost to repair the facility, and the opportunities provided us by constructing a new building in which to worship and serve the needs of our community. This is possible only through the commitment and generosity of our members. We have had a good start to our campaign to raise funds for this construction and we are thankful for the generosity so many have shown toward this project. Our ability to move forward with our plans relies on further and continued commitment by our congregational members and friends in order to raise the capital we will need to make this goal a reality. We ask all of our members and friends to consider prayerfully how you might become part of this effort. If you have made a pledge, we want you to know how grateful we are. If you are considering a pledge toward the Capital Campaign, we encourage you to consider prayerfully becoming a part of this effort, helping us to move forward toward this goal. If you are unable to commit to this Campaign, we ask for your prayers and continued commitment to the ministry we share already. As we continue to move into the future, there will be plenty of opportunities for all of our members to become involved in making this proposal a reality. We will need folks to serve on various committees, to share in the work of fundraising and to be a part of our active ministry through worship and service to the community. In truth, we will be able to accomplish this goal with the support of our members and friends. Please consider making a pledge to our Capital Campaign if you have not done so. Also, regardless of what you are able to do in regard to our Capital Campaign, we ask that you pray for our congregation, and for a continued commitment to sharing God's love in this beautiful valley.

## 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES & 2021 CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENTS

...on the front pew at Brndvl  
...in the SS area at Rngtn  
Pick yours up today. See Bob Llewellyn for Rngtn statements.  
Capital Campaign envelopes are also available for pickup at Ringtown.

### 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.



## FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS

2<sup>nd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11am at Ringtown  
3<sup>rd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11am, FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC at Nuremberg  
REDNERS GIFT CARDS are available for purchase to help fund the Ringtown Food Pantry. The pantry receives 5% on gift card sales. Contact Susie Drukker 889-3755 or Ann O'Boyle 889-5305 to purchase cards for \$20, \$25, or \$50. Use your card at Redners and the church or Brandonville Union Sunday School will receive 1% for all receipts submitted through them, helping fund another organization, too.

**NOTE:** All eligible area residents may file papers to choose to go to either the Ringtown or Nuremberg Food Pantry. You must choose one or the other, you cannot go to both.

A Food Pantry is available at the Ringtown Union Twp. building and at the North Union Twp. building in Nuremberg for all area residents of Ringtown Borough, North Union, East Union, and Union Twp. Donations of non-perishable food items are requested to help stock them. Please bring your donations to the church or other designated collection sites. Ringtown area clergy will refer people to the pantry.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

2-6 Boy Scout Pinewood Derby  
3-6 Boy Scout banquet  
7-(24-28) ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN  
8-19&20 4-9pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Town Social  
10-8 11am-4pm 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival

*What in the world is God doing?  
How can I help?*

GIVE Thanks  
to the LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD;  
HIS love ENDURES  
FOREVER!

*Psalms 107:2*