

Council members present either in person or via Zoom were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Mandy Campbell, Jared Lindenmuth, and Pastor Jay. Also present were Marion Chupasco and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Deb reading devotions. The February minutes were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit. There were two items to note on the treasurer's report; One was the "Souper" Bowl collection will be divided between World Hunger and the local food pantry as done in previous years. Second was the water bill for the church has more than doubled in one month. Bob will contact the Borough to have them come and inspect it.

Pastor's report: 6 private counseling sessions, 2 pre-baptisms, 1 catechism class, 2 baptisms, and 1 funeral. Pastor Jay also attended 1 Ringtown Library Board meeting and took 5 vacation days. The midweek Lenten services will start March 9th at Ringtown and alternate between churches. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be the same as years passed. We will return to singing the liturgy starting on Palm Sunday. A committee from both churches will be formed to pick liturgy from the new hymnals.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Capital Campaign A temple talk will be done during the month of April. 34% of pledged monies has been received.

Youth Group Youth group will be attending a day at Kalahari indoor water park sometime in June. A May hoagie fundraiser is being planned with funds to go to the new church building.

Think Tank A Mr. Sticky fundraiser will be held in June with proceeds going towards the stained glass window project. They will be purchasing new books for the Readers on the Grow program. 30 children are currently registered. They will have a float in the Memorial Day parade and two new Eagle Eye presentations are being planned.

Social Ministry Personal Care kit donations are being collected and a hoagie sale is going on now with proceeds to support the fire victims.

Old Business: Chicken BBQ dinners are planned for July 31st and Oct 23rd. Pastor Jay thanked the new janitor Landon Ferrara he's doing a great job. Mowers will be serviced. Easter Sunday will only have the 10:30 service this year with the Sunrise Service returning next year.

New Business: Pastor Jay will be on vacation the week following Easter. Bulletins will be cut back by 50 on the next order.

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

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

Secretary's Report: The minutes for both January and February were read and approved.

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

Pastor's Report: Funerals 1, baptisms 2, private counseling 6, attended a meeting of the Ringtown Library Board. Pastor Jay addressed worship as we enter into the Lenten season, both the regular Sunday services and the midweek services. He would like to go back to the traditional services. We will return to singing the Liturgy. The choirs will be singing on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The use of the new hymnals was again discussed. We hope to have a joint committee formed that could meet within the next couple of weeks to discuss the implementation. The discussion would consist of what setting to use and how to introduce it.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Fund raisers: we are still selling Redner's hoagie coupons and the La Casita de Familia coupons. The elevator: Bob Fritz and Pastor Jay met with the company. We will probably tie in the drainage issue with this project. The parking lot drainage needs to be directed away from the building. There was no further information available regarding the snowplowing. The church signs are available and ready for installation. We are just waiting for a break in the weather.

New Business: The white altar paraments need to be cleaned. The cost for the dry cleaning will be paid for through the Memorial Fund. We will call some places to see who does them. The procedure for handling offering and funeral memorials was discussed.

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

Remember your church at Easter...



**ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH
THR, MAY 26, 10am**

Guest speaker will be the Rev. William Zimmermann.



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, APR 10 - Passion Palm Sunday Holy Communion & Procession with Palms 9am-B 10:30am-R
- THR, APR 14 - Maundy Thursday Communion 12noon & 7pm at Rngtn
- FRI, APR 15 - 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae at Brndvl
- SUN, APR 17 - The Resurrection of Our Lord Holy Communion 9am-B 10:30am-R

EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Signup sheets for Easter memorials and flowers not ordered through Cerebral Palsy are on the table in the SS area at Ringtown and in the narthex at Brandonville.

Please note the use of different funds:

- General:** day to day operating expenses
- Memorial:** worship supplies (altarware, candles, paraments, linens, music, etc.)
- Capital Campaign** (Rngtn): toward new church building
- Endowment** (Rngtn): savings for future needs
- Cemetery:** upkeep of cemetery

Deadline: APR 10 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

New Masking Guidance for Worship and Gatherings:
Due to the declining number of Covid cases in our area our masking guidance has been amended to personal preference. Those who attend worship and other church activities are encouraged to follow your personal masking preference. You are welcome to wear a mask or not wear a mask as you choose. We still prefer you use a mask when in the church office. We will use the liturgy from the Lutheran Book of Worship (green book) and begin singing the liturgy again on Palm Sunday. Communion will be held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month using disposable cups and wafers in paper cups and take place up front. For those unable to attend, we will continue to do our best to record at least one worship service each Sunday for at-home worship. We will be sharing more details about these services and will continue to email worship material and post it on Facebook and our congregation's website, www.ringtownlutheran.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or call Pastor Jay.

**ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE
TUE, MAY 17**

...at St. John's, Brandonville, sponsored by the Brandonville Union Sunday School (pre-ordered pints & quarts of soup available)
...at St. John's, Ringtown, sponsored by St. John's Helping Hands

Your donations of baked goods will be appreciated. In addition to baked goods, soup, hot dogs, BBQ, and other luncheons items will be available. Please bring containers for takeouts.

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.

**ST. JOHN'S HELPING HANDS
CARD SALE**

Just a reminder about the ongoing card sale sponsored by St. John's Helping Hands. Get Well, Sympathy, Birthday, and All Occasion cards are available. If you are interested in cards, please see Eileen Teter.

SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, APR 10, for a special benevolence appeal. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or mailed to the church office. Your donations will supplement our annual Synod Benevolence commitment.





ALTERNATIVE “GREEN” CHOICES FOR ALTAR VASES

In an effort to promote “greening” the church, to be more environmentally friendly, some alternative suggestions are being provided to use when you sign up to sponsor altar flowers. In addition to using flowers from a florist, you might consider garden flowers (when in season); 6-8 inch potted plants (i.e. mums, daisies, daffodils, lilies, etc.); greens (i.e. fresh holly sprigs, pine, curly willow, etc). If in doubt, please check with the church office. This is a way to praise God through nature. **No artificial/silk greens or flowers are permitted.**

THRIVENT MEMBERS

St. John’s, Ringtown has received \$1,324 in Choice Dollars in 2021. 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. 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. Organizations registered in our area are both St. John’s, Brandonville and Ringtown and the Ringtown Area Library. You can direct Choice Dollars by going online to your account or calling 1-800-847-4836; press 1 and follow the directions. 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.

CEMETERY REMINDER

Flowers, potted plants, floral arrangements, or other decorations on the cemetery must be removed within 14 days following each holiday or the cemetery caretaker has permission to remove them, especially during grass mowing season.

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY “PERSONAL CARE KIT” PROJECT

The Social Ministry Committee will continue our project of assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief during the Lenten and Easter seasons. In these times when people are fleeing their homes for reasons of personal safety, famine, natural disasters, etc, Personal Care items are rarely taken with them. These kits provide much needed self-care items and the chance to regain dignity.

The following items can be dropped off at the church or you can make a monetary donation for the purchase of these items. Please designate for care kits.

- 1 Lightweight, dark colored bath towels
- 2 Bath size bars of soap (no mini bars)
- 3 Adult size toothbrush
- 4 Sturdy combs (no fine tooth or pocket)
- 5 Metal nail clippers

Please be generous as we assist our neighbors in need. Your hands doing God’s work.

FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS

2nd SAT of month, 9-11am at Ringtown

3rd 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

- 4-2 AMU Methodist Church soup sale order deadline
for 4-9 pickup 11:30am-1:30pm \$7/quart 570-889-5925
- 4-8 3-6pm Rotary Seafood dinner
- 4-10 Passion Palm Sunday Holy Communion
& Procession w/Palms 9am-B 10:30am-R
- 4-10 BUSS Seder during regular SS time
- 4-14 Maundy Thursday Communion 12noon & 7pm at Rngtn
- 4-15 7pm Good Friday at Brndvl
- 4-17 The Resurrection of Our Lord Communion 9am-B 10:30am-R
- 4-23 4:30-6:30pm St. Paul’s Chicken&Waffle Dinner-takeout \$12.50
- 5-15 Recognition of Graduates 5-7pm St. Paul’s Ice Cream Social
- 5-17 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales Brndvl & Rngtn
- 5-26 10am Annual Ascension Day Worship at Old White Church
- 6-5 Day of Pentecost – Affirmation of Baptism
- 6-8 Think Tank Mr. Sticky sale
- 6-10,11 NEP Synod Assembly online
- 6-25 St. Paul’s 65th UCC Anniversary Community picnic 4-7pm
- 7-31 4pm St. John’s, Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish picnic
- 7-31 St. John’s, Rngtn Chicken BBQ
- 8-19&20 4-9pm 23rd Annual Town Social
- 10-8 11am-4pm 9th Annual Fall Festival
- 10-23 St. John’s, Rngtn Chicken BBQ
- 12-10 3pm Bach & Handel Chorale Christmas Concert – tentative