

Council members present either in person or via Zoom were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Wayne Mensinger, Tracy Lauderman, Janice Wasser, Jared Lindenmuth, Cory Houser, and Pastor Jay. Also present were Marion Chupasco and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Laura reading devotions. The March minutes were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: 3 private counseling sessions, 12 Private Communion, 10 Hospital/Institutional visits, 2 catechism class, 1 Premarital session and 1 funeral. Pastor Jay has posted Lenten devotionals or poems on the Facebook page as well as they are emailed to the congregation throughout the Lenten season.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Social Ministry The R&K Hoagie sale raised funds to help the fire victims. A Thrivent card was also used to offset some of the cost.

Old Business: Furnaces were cleaned. Ringtown Borough will come and use the tool to find the possible leak in the water pipe. The Stained Glass window contract was changed to add the storage. The contract will be signed and sent in with the \$35,812.50 deposit. A discussion was held about the new hymnals. The committee formed from both churches and the organists recommended we use Setting 10 of the communion liturgy. The congregation will start learning small bits of the liturgy in May.

New Business: A discussion was held about taking professional pictures of the stained glass window before it is removed and use them for fundraisers. Pastor Jay will work on updating the Treasurers' job descriptions. There are issues with the Workmen's compensation forms, the bill has almost doubled. Gary is going to the office in Reading to speak with them to get it resolved.

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

Remember your church...



Members In Attendance: Pastor Jay, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Judi Kline, Joe Cocco, Marion Chupasco

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurers' Reports: General Fund available for review and sent to audit. No report available for Building & Maintenance or Memorial. Deposit paid on elevator.

Pastor's Report: Pre-weddings 1, private counseling 3, catechism classes 2, funerals 1, private communions 12, hospital visits 10. The midweek Lenten service topics have been the five sagas of the Bible. Next week is Holy Week. There will be two services in Ringtown on Maundy Thursday (12p.m. and 7p.m.). The Good Friday service will be at Brandonville (7p.m.). The prayers of intercession have been updated. The process for communion will continue as we have been doing it. On Palm Sunday we will have the procession with palms and the long narrative Gospel and the liturgy will be sung. Pastor Jay has been doing Lenten devotionals and prayers daily. This is a way to think about our journey to the cross. Pastor Jay requested vacation the week after Easter.

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 white paraments have been dry cleaned. The elevator: Bob Fritz has been in contact with the company. Everything is in the hands of the architect. We will be moving forward to obtain the necessary permits. We are not sure when the exact start date is or how long the process will take. The parking lot will be addressed after the elevator. We need to ensure that the drainage is directed away from the building correctly. The signs for out front continue to be a work in progress. They will be worked on once the weather breaks. Treasurers' fund information: Pastor Jay has drafted a general policy for all the treasurer's funds, specifically memorials and how to handle the money when it is received. The Synod also sent information regarding policies for treasurers and how to handle the funds/money. These were given to council for review and further discussion at the next meeting. Mario has resigned as the treasurer for the Memorial Fund. Joe Cocco was nominated and Dotsy Fritz will be the second signature. The new hymnals: A committee from both congregations met. The committee as a unanimous vote decided on setting ten to be used. This is the most familiar hymn tunes. The transition will be initiated in May. The orientation to the new hymnal will begin on May 1st. We will practice during the announcement portion of the service.

New Business: Mario Curreli has resigned as a council member.

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

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

Guest speaker will be the Rev. William Zimmermann.

**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.

**MR. STICKY STICKY BUN SALE
pickup JUN 8, 3-5:30pm**

...sponsored by St. John's, Rngtn Think Tank Readers on the
Grow program. Signup sheets are on the SS area table.

Cost: \$21/half doz **Order deadline SUN, MAY 29.**

Funds raised go toward the stained glass window project.

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 sing the liturgy. 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.

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.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY ONLINE
FRI-SAT, JUN 10-11**

1 male and 1 female delegate are needed to represent each
congregation. If you are interested in attending, please contact
Pastor Jay or the church office for information. This is a great
opportunity to experience the work of our church at large---
beyond the Ringtown Valley.

ELW HYMNAL DONATIONS

If you would like to donate one of the new ELW hymnals
for \$25 each, please write your name and memorial
information (in honor or memory of someone or presented by)
on an envelope with your \$25 enclosed, and place it in the
offering plate or mail it to the church office. A bookplate will
be placed inside the front cover of a hymnal.

**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.

**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.

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.



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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5-8 Helen Roulin scholarship deadline
- 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
- 5-29 Mr. Sticky order deadline for 6-8 pickup
3-5:30pm in St. John's pavilion
- 6-4 BUSS Knoebels trip
- 6-5 Day of Pentecost – Affirmation of Baptism
- 6-10,11 NEP Synod Assembly online
- 6-18 4pm-? Mt. Zion Annual Strawberry Festival
- 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

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