

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Deb Shoup, Laura Faust, Wayne Mensinger, Tracy Laudeman, Mandy Campbell, Jerid Lindenmuth, and Gary Schell. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Gary reading devotions. The October minutes were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Three First Communion candidates met and finished lessons. They received First Holy Communion on November 6th. Two at Brandonville and one in Ringtown.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee Reports

Property: Walk thru was done in parsonage. The oven in the church needs to be looked at as one side does not stay lit. There is a leak in the flower room on the spicket that needs to be addressed. Bill will blow leaves around the church and parsonage into the garden area. All the shrubs around the parsonage need to be cut back, Volunteers will be asked.

Worship and Music: Hymns were picked thru February 19th. They also gave suggestions for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Think Tank: Fall festival went well, a good time was had by all. They thanked council for having the drink stand.

Capital Campaign: The committee has reached \$294,600 in pledges and \$128,329 in contributions as of October 31st. Please remember any donations made by end of the year are tax deductible.

Sunday School: Sunday school will start on November 20th at 9:30am.

Old Business: Chicken BBQ went well. 276 tickets were sold with a profit of \$2,804.98. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for the seed money and thank you to the Lions members for their help. A motion was made to give the \$108 council made at the fall festival toward the Stained Glass Window Project. The stained glass window will be removed starting November 14th.

New Business: A joint Budget meeting is scheduled for Nov 15th at 6:30pm. The mission support for next year will be budgeted the same as 2022 at \$9,000. Marion will ask Ashley to hold the service of lessons and carols on New Year's Day. An open house is scheduled for Nov 13th from 2-4pm for anyone interested in taking photos of the stained glass window before it is removed. A special Prayer will also be done during the worship service. The Christmas Eve service will be held as in the past. There will not be a Christmas Day service on Sunday, Dec 25th. Mt. Zion is holding a service at 9am and all are welcome to attend there. Church council members whose terms are ending in 2022 are Mandy, Cory, Bill, and Wayne. Mandy and Cory can serve another 3 years. Bob will ask 2 other people to replace Bill and Wayne. The council thanks them for their years of service.

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

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Philip Smith, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Debbie Kapusnick, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurers' Reports: Available for review and sent to audit. The end balance is trending downward. We need to think of fundraisers to build up the balance.

Pastor's Report: The catechism students had their first catechism class. Pastor Phil will be moving forward with the classes. The First Holy Communion students received their instructional classes. Pastor Phil had two pre-baptism sessions. There will be a supply pastor for the scheduled baptisms.

Office Report: Available for review. Brandonville Union Sunday school will hold an Election Day bake sale.

Old Business: Elevator: Continues to be a work in progress. The structure is up and they are working on the roof. Hoagie Sale: We are continuing to sell Redner's hoagie coupons. They are 5.00\$. We are also continuing to sell La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$. The Valley Forge Trail Riders sent a donation for 200.00\$. A thank-you note will be sent out to them.

New Business: A motion was made to accept Larry Grohol as a new council member, in order to fill one of the vacancies. Marion received an e-mail from the Synod. We will have supply pastors for November 6th and the 27th. Bob Fritz will fill in on November 13th and Grace Trutt will do the 20th. Additionally we will have a supply pastor for December 4th and the 11th. We are unsure of the services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are working on Christmas Eve. We are just waiting to hear from the Synod. The possibility for a movie night was expressed.

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

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Term ending DEC 2023	Term ending DEC 2023
Robert Decusky	Joe Cocco
Laura Faust	Dotsy Fritz
Jerid Lindenmuth	Georgette Herring
Deb Shoup	Term ending DEC 2024
Term ending DEC 2024	Donna Anthony
Clarissa Geary	Deb Kapusnick
Tracy Laudeman	Millie Krupilis
Gary Schell	Term ending DEC 2025
Janice Wasser	Marie Clark
Term ending DEC 2025	Bob Fritz
Mandy Campbell	Larry Grohol
Cory Houser	
Jewel Tuberty	
Gary Williams	

Remember your church at Christmas...



WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED!

...for non-communion Sundays when there is no supply pastor available. Please let Marion know if you are willing to help out. Synod will supply a sermon if needed.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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.



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!**

RINGTOWN SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTE Classes will be held at 9:30am DEC 4, 11, & 18

CATECHISM CLASS SUN, JAN 8, 1pm at Rngtn

All 8th & 9th 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, MAY 28, 2023.



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.

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Our pledge total is now \$294,060, toward our \$300,000 goal! There's still time to make a pledge! Please contact the church office for a pledge card.

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 offering envelopes. Please pick yours up today.

ELW HYMNAL DONATIONS

If you would like to donate one of the new ELW hymnals for \$25 each, please write Memorial Fund, your name, and 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.

**LA CASITA DE FAMILIA RESTAURANT
GIFT CERTIFICATE 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 farmer's market.



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

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

12-13 Allen Stauffer, Sr. 946 Green Mountain Rd. Zion Grove, PA 17985	1-14 Lois Faust 523 W. Main St. Ringtown, PA 17967
1-18 Creta Lindenmuth 284 W. Main St. Ringtown, PA 17967	1-25 Mildred Stauffer 946 Green Mountain Rd. Zion Grove, PA 17985

St. John's Helping Hands
"White Gifts"

St. John's Helping Hands is requesting donations of "White Gifts" wrapped in white paper and marked man or woman and contents marked on the tag (i.e. powder, slippers, socks, shirt, necklace, etc.). These gifts will be donated to the nursing homes. **Deadline: DEC 11**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
& MEMORIALS**

Signup sheets for Christmas 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

Window Restoration (Rngtn): toward restoration of Garden of Gethsemane altar window

Endowment (Rngtn): savings for future needs

Cemetery: upkeep of cemetery

Deadline: DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

LUMINARY MEMORIALS

The Ringtown Sunday School is once again making luminaries to light on Christmas Eve. A signup sheet is on the table in the SS area if you would like to sponsor a luminary in honor or memory of someone for Christmas. Donation is \$5.00 each for Lutheran World Relief.

Deadline is DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Sponsors are welcome to take the luminaries home following the Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

SUN, DEC 18, 6pm

...starting and ending at St. John's

All ages welcome.



Brandonville Union Sunday School

Christmas program

Sun, Dec 4, 4pm

...light refreshments will follow. All are welcome to attend.



**CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP**

DEC 24

**BRANDONVILLE 7pm
RINGTOWN 10pm**

*Come and celebrate Christmas Eve
with carols and candlelight.*

**CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP**

9am at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove

Communion opportunities

DEC 4 & DEC 11

9am-B 10:30am-R



STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

Sometime last year, a concern was raised about the condition of the Garden of Gethsemane stained glass window above the altar. It was very obvious to all worshipers that water was definitely affecting the perimeter of the glass frame as evidenced by the swelling and falling of the plaster, but to what extent no one knew for sure. The Building Committee was asked to bring in the stained glass company they were dealing with, so a call was placed to Cumberland Stained Glass in Mechanicsburg. Bryan Lerew, owner, had seen the window previously and remarked that it was one of the nicest "Garden" windows he has ever seen, so when he was asked to look at it, he promptly did so. He stated that the lead in a window has a life expectancy of 80 to 100 years because it fatigues and the glass moves. (By the way, the contract for the window was signed on August 2, 1926.) His concern was not that the window would fall out of the frame, but a visual inspection, inside and outside (with his binoculars) showed that the glass was bulging. The glass crown at the top of the window was bowed at least an inch. In addition, the expansion rods were fully extended and the glazing was falling off some parts of the window. The bulging only temporarily releases the pressure, BUT the pressure never goes away and eventually the pieces break out of the panel. The compression can be caused by settling of the building over time, and the alternate freezing and thawing of water, and there was ample evidence of water both around the frame's perimeter and at the ceiling level on both sides of the widow. When asked what his recommendation was, he stated that the window needed to be removed, so last January a special congregational meeting was held to present the information to the congregation. After the presentation, and discussion of Cumberland Glass Company's proposal, a vote was taken and the congregation voted to remove, store, and eventually restore the window. On November 14, Bryan and two workers arrived to remove the window. He stated that the window should be removed in two days. Two workers worked off a lift on the outside and Bryan worked off a ladder on the inside. The sealant on both sides of the window hardened and had to be chiseled out of the stone mullions so the panels could be removed. When they got to the left side of the window, the frame was deflected over ¼ inch and was placing a lot of compressional force on the window, and the panels could not be removed. Individual pieces had to be first removed so there was space to take the panel from the frame. The glass edges on the inside of the mullions were crushed as well. The large glass panels of concern were the angel's wings (special furled glass), the angel's face, and Jesus's face (only painted portions of the window). These were safely removed after considerable effort. After an additional two days, the final piece was removed. The window is now being stored in Mechanicsburg until its restoration.

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

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.

2023 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2023, please specify which one you are providing, flowers or bulletins.

Bulletin prices: regular Sundays \$5.00-B \$10.00-R
Christmas & Easter festivals \$10.00-B \$20.00-R

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12-4 4pm BUSS Christmas program

12-4 7pm St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens

12-10 9am Rngtn Christmas decorating

12-11 "White Gifts" deadline

12-15 Christmas memorial deadline

12-18 6pm St. John's, Rngtn Christmas Caroling

12-24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7pm-B 10pm-R

12-25 Christmas Day Worship 9am at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove

1-1-23 Service of Lessons and Carols

1-5-23 Annual Report deadline for committee & organization reports

1-10-23 deadline for treasurers' books for audit

1-28-23 Learning Ministries Day at Hope, Cherryville

1-29-23 Annual Congregational mtgs B & R