

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 5, 2022**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Bill Rudolph, Deb Shoup, Laura Faust, Wayne Mensinger, Tracy Laudeman, and Gary Schell. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Pastor Smith leading in prayer. Wayne thanked Gary and Jewel for coming as their council term will start in January. The November minutes were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Smith submitted his time and mileage. There are two pending new members and he has started doing communion visits with the shut-ins. Mount Zion will host a Christmas Day service at 9:00am all are welcome.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee Reports**

**Property:** Bill kindly fixed the water leak in the flower room. The oven in the kitchen was fixed. The Stained Glass window was removed. They were here for 4 days instead of the 2 that they planned for. Suggestions were made about covering up the black plastic on the inside. They will be looked into and discussed further.

**Old Business:** Ashley Teter will lead Christmas Eve service. There will be no communion. Fellowship Hall rentals will resume since they were suspended during Covid. The meeting room is still off limits for meetings. A cleaning day for the basement will be held January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Christmas decorating will take place December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am. A spring purge will also be scheduled in the near future.

**New Business:** Starting Dec 18<sup>th</sup> offering will be collected by the ushers during the service. Communion procedure was discussed. A motion was made to accept the 2023 budget. Clearances need to be updated for Sunday School staff. Clarissa and others will look into what was passed in 2015 regarding the guidelines and refresh everyone's memories. Bob thanked Wayne and Bill for their years of service as council members.

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

**3 RINGTOWN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

3 Volunteers are needed to schedule Communion Assistants, Lay Readers, and Acolytes for worship. Please let Marion know if you are willing to help with this.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 6, 2022**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Philip Smith, Marie Clark, Donna Anthony, Joe Cocco, Larry Grohol, Millie Krupilis, Debbie Kapusnick, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco  
**Secretary's Report:** Was approved as read.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Available for review and filed for audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Phil Smith has been working to provide communion for the shut-ins. Everything has been moving along pretty good. Pastor Phil has made an open invitation for anyone who wants to attend services Christmas morning 9am at Mt. Zion church. Everyone is welcome.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business:** Elevator: Continues to be a work in progress. An inspection was completed 12/05/2022. The electrical phrase will now need an inspection. 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\$. Ashley Teter will be doing the Christmas Eve service. There will be no communion. We will do the service using the booklets as in years past. Starting on December 18, 2022 we will go back to using ushers for the collection. As of January 1, 2023 we will go back to doing communion as we did before.

**New Business:** The budget for 2023 was discussed. Council reviewed last year's proposed budget and the shared expenses. Larry Grohol will check into getting a Christmas tree for Christmas Eve.

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

**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.



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 9, 2023**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Laura Faust, Tracy Laudeman, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, Janice Wasser, Mandy Cambell, Jerid Lindenmuth, and Gary Schell. Also present were Marion Chupasco, Bill and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Gary reading devotions. The December minutes were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were given, reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Smith is continuing visitation to the shut ins. Catechism instructions have started up again for the new year. He also had one funeral service.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee Reports**

**Capital Campaign:** \$182,953.00 raised as of Dec 31, 2022. This is 62.22% of pledges received and we are only 25% thru the campaign.

**Call Committee:** Ministry site profile was submitted to Synod.

**Old Business:** Marion read the letter she sends to the Supply Pastors every week outlining how our church services are done, specifically communion. Synod guidelines for paying supply pastors was reviewed. The child abuse clearance policy must be finalized. A committee was formed of Clarissa Geary, Mandy Campbell, and Tracy Laudeman. They will update any policies and the church will add them to the bylaws. The rain gutters will be checked. A motion was made to purchase 88 electric pew candles with remote control for Christmas. These will replace all the wax candles we currently use. A person from the congregation is donating all the candles. A discussion was held about putting Ivory fabric with an insulated backing over the black plastic where the stained glass window was. Measurements need to be taken and prices will be brought up in the future.

**New Business:** A new security light and lock system was donated and installed on the door by the church office. The annual audit will be held Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The midweek Lenten services were discussed. The choir is asking for new robes to be purchased. Choir will come up with figures and present to council for approval. The funds would come out of the Memorial fund. The 2023 Election of officers was held, and the results are as follows:

President: Bob Decusky  
Vice President: Debbie Shoup  
Secretary: Laura Faust  
Treasurer: Gary Schell

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

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2023**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Phil Smith, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Debbie Kapusnick, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Larry Grohol, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary's Report:** Was approved as read.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Available for review and filed for audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Catechism classes will begin again on Sunday 01/08/2023. Pastor Phil has been providing communion to the shut-ins.

**Office Report:** Available for review. St John's, Ringtown will be hosting the Prayer for Christian Unity service on Sunday January 22, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

**Old Business: Elevator:** The project is moving forward. We are waiting on another inspector. The removal of the window is the next step. The window will be held in storage. **Redner's Hoagie Coupons:** We are continuing to sell hoagie coupons for 5.00 \$. **La Casita De Familia Coupons:** We are continuing to sell these coupons for 15.00 \$. **Proposed Budget for 2023:** BUSS 7200.00 \$ (same as 2022), NEPS 5800.00 \$, organist 625.00 \$, shared expenses 25,579.00 \$, miscellaneous 500.00 \$, total 39,704.00 \$ The decision was made to continue to leave the collection plate at the back of the church at the top of the stairs. Treasurers' funds were discussed.

**New Business:** The Synod office has supply pastors for January 8, 15, and 22. Lenten Midweek services were discussed. Election of Officers:

Vice President: Bob Fritz

General Fund Treasurers: Barb Kawa and  
Billie Jo Grohol

Secretary: Marie Clark

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

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



**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES &  
2022 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 if you haven't picked yours up yet.



### 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 on Palm Sunday or on Easter Sunday.

### 2023 LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE "By His Wounds We Are Healed"

#### Wednesdays

- 2-22 7pm Ash Wednesday at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- 3-1 7pm Midweek 1 at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove  
Wounds of the Sabbath
- 3-8 7pm Midweek 2 at Emmanuel, Nuremberg  
Wounds of Authority
- 3-15 7pm Midweek 3 at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove  
Wounds of Murder
- 3-22 7pm Midweek 4 at Emmanuel, Nuremberg  
Wounds of Exclusion
- 3-29 7pm Midweek 5 at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove  
Wounds of Hypocrisy

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- 4-2 Passion/Palm Sunday w/Palm Procession  
9am-Brndvl 10:30am-Rngtn
- 4-6 7pm Maundy Thursday at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- 4-7 Good Friday  
12noon Community Worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg  
7pm Parish Worship at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove
- 4-9 The Resurrection of Our Lord  
9am at Brndvl 10:30am at Rngtn

### EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Please mail or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to place a donation in honor or memory of someone for Easter. Mail to: St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967

#### 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: APR 2 to be included in the Easter bulletin.**



### WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

#### Brandonville

Altar: Carol Austra  
Ushers: Ed & Lance Hornberger

#### Ringtown

Altar: Laura Faust, Tracy Laudeman  
Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams  
Laura Faust, Gary Schell  
Communion Glasses: Jewel Tuberty  
Acolyte: Avery Kaminski



### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUN, 10am at Brndvl SUN, 9:30am at Rngtn

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!**

### 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.

### 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.

## “SOUPER BOWL” FOR WORLD HUNGER SUN, FEB 12

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.

### 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.

### 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.

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

## 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

2-5 Boy Scout Sunday at St. John’s, Rngtn

2-10&11 Pinewood Derby snowdate 2-17&18

2-22 7pm Ash Wednesday worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg

3-5 Boy Scout banquet at St. John’s, Rngtn

4-6 7pm Maundy Thursday worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg

4-7 Good Friday

12noon Community Worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg

7pm Parish Worship at Mt. Zion, Zion Grove

4-9 The Resurrection of Our Lord 9am-Brndvl 10:30am-Rngtn

7-29 Library Softball tournament

7-30 4pm Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish picnic

8-18&19 4-9pm 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Social

10-14 11am-4pm 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival

7-(16-20)-2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, SEP-APR

Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, SEP-MAY

### ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

St. John’s, Ringtown received \$1,556.00 in Choice Dollars in 2022.

Your 2022 Choice Dollars must be designated by March 2023.

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!

### 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. Pledge monies received to date \$182,953 (62.22%)**

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 2023 offering envelopes. Please pick yours up today. If you deliver envelopes to a neighbor, please put them in a bag on their doorknob, not in their mailboxes.