

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Cory Houser, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Mandy Campbell, Jerid Lindemuth, and Gary Williams. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, Judy and Bill Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Mandy reading devotions. Treasurers' reports were reviewed and sent to audit. The electric price in the parsonage was an over estimate by PPL and will be reflected in next month's bill.

Pastor's report: Confirmation will be Memorial Day weekend. Christian Unity Service was held on Jan 22nd. Mid-Week Lenten services will be held alternating between Mt. Zion and Emmanuel Churches at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Worship & Music Committee – Hymns were picked thru May 14th.

Think Tank – A re-organizational meeting will be held in the near future.

Youth Group – A \$10,000 CD was purchased.

Child Clearance Committee – Committee will have something written up by next month's meeting for council to review.

Old Business: Fabric to cover the black plastic was purchased and will be put up soon. Choir is waiting for the sale book to pick new robes and get them on order.

New Business: The prayer list will be cleared 2 times per year. We will continue reading the Psalm after the First Lesson every Sunday.

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

3 RNGTN 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.

Remember your church this month.....



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Deb Kapusnick, Georgette Herring, Larry Grohol, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: Catechism classes are continuing. Affirmation of Baptism will be May 28, 2023 (Memorial Day Weekend). Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023. There will be a service at the Emmanuel church in Nuremberg at 7:00 p.m. The midweek Lenten services schedule is 03/01, 15, 29 at Mount Zion church in Zion Grove and 03/08, 22 will be at Emmanuel church in Nuremberg (7:00 p.m.) 04/06/2023 Maundy Thursday at Emmanuel in Nuremberg at 7:00 p.m. 04/07/2023 Good Friday 12:00 p.m. Community Worship at Emmanuel in Nuremberg. At 7:00 p.m there will be a parish worship at Mount Zion in Zion Grove.

Office Report: Available for review. Brandonville Union Sunday School will have a Seder on 03/26/2023 at 10:00 a.m. The Sunday school will have an Easter egg hunt on 04/02/2023. Ringtown is selling chicken barbeque dinners on 07/23/2023 and 10/29/2023.

Old Business: Elevator: continues to be a work in progress. We are waiting on parts for the door. We are continuing to sell Redner's hoagie coupons for 5.00\$ and La Casita De Familia coupons for 15.00\$. There was congregational approval at the annual congregational meeting to consolidate the three treasurer's funds into one. More discussion from church council to write up a new job description and procedure is needed before it goes into effect. The offering plate is still placed at the back of the church. We will have an usher take the offering forward during the service to be blessed.

New Business: There was no new business.

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.

**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

- 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.



BUSS LENTEN MOVIE NIGHTS

WED, 6pm, MAR 1,8,15,22,29

...sponsored by Brandonville Union Sunday School in the fellowship hall. Join us for FREE popcorn, soda, and a movie. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and any fingerfoods you would like to share with everyone.

Goodwill offering accepted.



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

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

- 3-30 Marie Shoup
101 E. Washington St.
Shenandoah, PA 17976

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR MARCH 2023

Brandonville

Altar: Marie Clark, Colleen Fowler
Ushers: Marie Clark, Shawn Swank

Ringtown

Altar: Deb Shoup, Janene Ferrara
Ushers: Linda & Smokey Shoup
Bob & Judy Llewellyn
Communion Glass Usher: Clarissa Geary



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. Lutheran World Relief is in dire need of these kits due to all the recent catastrophes. Your help is needed and appreciated.

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 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 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

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.

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.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

3-5 Boy Scout banquet at St. John's
3-15 St. Paul's Chili order deadline for 3-18 pickup 4-6pm
\$9/quart 570-889-3494, 570-889-3074, 570-889-5912
3-23 St. Mary's Shoo-fly pie \$9 or crust \$3 order deadline
for 3-28 pickup, 10am-12noon Call 570-889-3850 to order.
3-26 10am BUSS Seder
4-2 BUSS Easter Egg Hunt
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-B 10:30am-Rngtn
4-15 St. Paul's Chicken & Waffle dinner order deadline
for 4-22 pickup 4:30-6:30pm \$12.50
570-889-3494, 570-889-3074, 570-590-9572
5-14 Recognition of Graduates
5-16 Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale
5-18 10am Old White Church Ascension Day worship
6-(1-3) Synod Assembly at Kalahari Resort
6-2 Rngtn Library Free Book Bingo & Food Sale at Sr. Citizens
6-25 4-7pm St. Paul's 66th Anniversary Community picnic
7-14,15,16 Rngtn Library Book Sale at Sr. Citizens
7-15 Rngtn Yard Sale Day
7-23 11:30am-1:30pm St. John's Chicken BBQ
7-29 Library Softball tournament
7-30 4pm Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish picnic
8-13 10am Old White Church Joint Communion
8-18&19 4-9pm 24th Annual Town Social
9-6 Rngtn Social Ministry dinner
10-14 11am-4pm 10th Annual Fall Festival
10-29 11:30am-1:30pm St. John's Chicken BBQ
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!

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.