

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

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Cory Houser, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Mandy Campbell, Tracy Laudeman, Jewel Tuberty, Janice Wasser, and Gary Williams. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, Judy Rudolph.

The meeting was opened with Deb reading devotions.

**Treasurers' reports** were reviewed. Note the electric price for the parsonage was \$0 for this month because of an over estimate by PPL last month.

**Pastor's report:** Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Pastor Smith finished confirmation class with Avery Kaminsky. Confirmation is set for Memorial Day Weekend. He attended the Blue and Gold Boy Scout banquet on March 5<sup>th</sup> and was asked to participate in the Ascension Day Service on May 18th.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Think Tank** – Had a re-organizational meeting and will continue moving forward with community involvement activities and the fall festival. They are actively looking for new members.

**Child Clearance Committee** – A policy will be emailed to council members to review before the April meeting.

**Capital Campaign** - \$189,159 has been raised as of Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. This is 64% of the goal and we are only 38% thru the campaign.

**Call Committee** – They are waiting on a meeting with the Bishop.

**Old Business:** The electric pew candles have come in and will be stored until the Christmas season. Fabric to cover the black plastic was purchased and will be put up the week of March 13<sup>th</sup>. Lynn Canty's church generously donated choir gowns to our church, therefore new gowns will not be purchased. Two thank you notes were read from St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Newport and Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elliptsburg, PA. They thanked the congregation for the donations of Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice Hymnals.

**New Business:** The Tiger cubs were looking for a small community project and so they are straightening up the church pews and picking up sticks in the parsonage yard on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, weather depending. A new contract was received from Crossan-Savage Inc for the organ maintenance. The cost went up \$20/visit. As of March 1<sup>st</sup> the Synod raised the rates of supply pastors. The parking lot lines need to be repainted as there is confusion with the outline of the new building. A volunteer has offered to do this if we have the equipment and paint.

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 MARCH 7, 2023**

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

**Secretary' Report:** Approved as read.

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

**Pastor's Report:** Catechism classes were completed 02/26/2023. The midweek Lenten services have been attended by people from both Brandonville and Ringtown. Pastor Phil attended the Boy Scouts Blue and Gold banquet. The Ascension Day service is scheduled for May 18th. St. Paul's has charge this year.

**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 also have an Easter egg hunt on 04/02/2023.

**Old Business:** Elevator: continues to be a work in progress. Currently they are working on the electrical, the carriage, and the painting. We are continuing to sell Redner's hoagie coupons for 5.00\$ and La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$.

**New Business:** We are scheduled for three supply pastors over the next couple of weeks. We will have a supply pastor for Palm Sunday. Pastor Phyllis Pellieter was very appreciative for the cards she received from everyone. If anyone knows of anyone graduating this year from any institution of learning please let Marion know. Bishop Christopher deForest will be scheduling a joint meeting for the call committee and church councils in the very near future.

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

*Remember your church at Easter.....*



**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

## WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR APRIL 2023

### Brandonville

Altar: Jan George

Ushers: Shawn Clark, Ellen Kuczynski

### Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Linda Shoup

Ushers: Tyson Davidson, Bill Rudolph  
Eileen Teter, Janice Wasser

Communion Glass Usher: Gary Williams

Acolyte: Avery Kaminski

## HELEN ROULIN SCHOLARSHIP

**Deadline: May 7**

All Ringtown Valley high school girls grades 9-12 are eligible and encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of community involvement rather than scholastic aptitude, academics, or athletics. Call the church office for an application 570-889-5203.

## RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

**SUN, MAY 14**

If you know any member who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or other schools during the year, please contact the church office with their name so they can be included in this year's recognition.

## ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE

**TUE, MAY 16**

...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 luncheon items will be available. Please bring containers for takeouts.

## ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

**AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH**

**THR, MAY 18, 10am**

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Kevin McLemore.



## 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 Easter Sunday. Envelopes are also available on the SS area table at Rngtn and in the entry way at Brndvl and by bulletins.

## 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.**

## SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, APR 2, 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. Envelopes are also available on the SS area table at Rngtn and in the entry way at Brndvl and by bulletins.

## 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



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**SUN, 10am at Brndvl**  
**SUN, 9:30am at Rngtn (1<sup>st</sup> SUN of month)**

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!**

## 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

**Pledge monies received to date \$189,159 (64%)**  
**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 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- 5-21 5-7pm St. Paul’s Ice Cream Social
- 5-28 Day of Pentecost – Affirmation of Baptism
- 6-(1-3) Synod Assembly at Kalahari Resort
- 6-2 Rngtn Library Free Book Bingo & Food Sale at Sr. Citizens
- 6-3 BUSS Knoebels trip
- 6-(19-23) 6:30-8pm Vacation Bible School
- 6-25 4-7pm St. Paul’s 66<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Social
- 9-6 Rngtn Social Ministry dinner
- 10-14 11am-4pm 10<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## 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

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.

## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

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

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.

