

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 3, 2023**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Mandy Campbell, Jerid Lindenmuth, Tracy Laudeman, Jewel Tuberty, and Gary Williams. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph. The meeting was opened with Pastor Smith saying a prayer. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Mid-week Lenten services have been well attended by all congregations. One visit to a shut-in.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Child Clearance Committee – A motion was made to add the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention policy to the bylaws of the church.

Call Committee – A joint council meeting with the Bishop is being held April 11th to discuss our ministry profile.

Old Business: A thank you to Jewel, Deb, Bob and Cory for putting up the white cloth, which now covers the black plastic where the stained glass window was. A motion was made to give \$400 toward each youth attending Bear Creek Camp this summer. The rain gutter in the back of the church still needs to be fixed but a bucket truck is required, Bob will look into getting one.

New Business: Thank you to Gary Williams for repairing the door, lock, and screen door at the parsonage. The annual joint congregational picnic will be held August 26th at 6pm.

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.

**RINGTOWN CEMETERY WORK DAY
SAT, MAY 13, 9am**

Help is needed. Meet at the cemetery. Bring your sprayers.

Remember your church.....



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 4, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Dotsy Fritz, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Georgette Herring, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: The Lenten services were well attended by both congregations. The Ascension Day service is scheduled for May 18th. St. Paul's church has charge this year.

Office Report: Available for review. A joint congregational picnic will be held in August in St. John's, Ringtn lot instead of a dinner in November.

Old Business: Elevator: continues to be a work in progress. Parking lot: continues to be a work in progress, Fund Raisers: We are continuing to sell Redner's hoagie coupons for 5.00\$ and La Casita De Familia coupons for 15.00\$. Combining of the three financial funds: The policies and procedures for the separate accounts need to be reviewed and consolidated into one. Council will initiate this process after the elevator project is completed.

New Business: If anyone knows of members graduating this year from any institution, of learning please contact Marion. A joint council and call committee meeting with Bishop Christopher deForest and Pastor Carl Shankweiler is scheduled. Pastor Phil noted that next year the Tamaqua train station will be celebrating its 150th anniversary (1874-2024). The plans for the celebration are in the works.

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.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY
THR-SAT, JUN 1-3
at the Kalahari Resort**

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR MAY 2023

Brandonville

Altar: Shirley Hornberger, Nancy Trim

Ringtown

Altar: Clarissa Geary

Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown

Tracy Laudeman, Joan Mensinger

Communion Glass Usher: Tracy Laudeman

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

125th ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH

THR, MAY 18, 10am

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Kevin McLemore. To celebrate the 125th year of gathering at the Old White Church for Ascension Day worship, the committee is providing a light luncheon at the Senior Citizen Center following the service. Please join us on this occasion.

May 11, 10am- Old White Church cleaning day

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.

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. **Deadline: June 1**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, 10am at Brndvl

SUN, 9:30am at Rngtn (1st 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 \$189,812 (64.55%)
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

5-11 10am Old White Church cleaning day – bring supplies
5-13 9am Rngtn Cemetery Work Day – bring your sprayers
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 w/reception
5-29 10am Memorial Day service at the Old White Church
5-29 11:07am Memorial Day parade
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 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
8-26 6pm Annual Congregational Covered Dish picnic
in St. John's, Rngtn pavilion
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

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.

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.



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