

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

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Jewel Tuberty, Jerid Lindemuth, and Gary Williams. Also present were Pastor Smith, and Marion Chupasco The meeting was opened with Gary Williams reading devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved. Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Prepared one child for baptism, helped Worship and Music committee pick hymns. September 17th will be the initial First Holy Communion and Catechism meetings.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Capital Campaign – To date total contributions are \$204,939, which puts us 69.69% toward pledge goal.

Think Tank – Applications are still being accepted for the Fall Festival. Watch parties are still ongoing Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for the series The Chosen.

Sunday School – Sunday school is starting September 10th. Available ages are 3 years old thru adult.

Property Committee - Tony Gladski Tree service donated approximately 3 hrs of time putting up the rain gutter on both sides of building. He also gave us a quote to trim the parsonage tree. Gary Willimas replaced siding on back porch of parsonage.

Old Business: 24 people attended the congregational picnic on Aug 26th. Helping Hands made the meat and filling and money was donated by the Fellowship committee.

New Business: Accepted one transfer out of the church, Betty Marcoux. A mandated reporter training will be set up in the future for anyone needing the training. A work day is planned for the parsonage on October 7th from 9-12. Please bring rakes, trimmers, gloves, etc.

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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupillis, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Billie Jo Grohol, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Available for review and sent to audit.

Pastor' Report: Pastor Phil and Marion have been working on the service for the elevator dedication ceremony. A preliminary program was available for review.

Office Report: Available for review. A baptism was held on September 3, 2023 at Brandonville. Sunday school starts on September 10, 2023.

Old Business: Parking Lot: Continues to be a work in progress. **New Back Door:** The door is here at the church. It just needs to be installed. This continues to be a work in progress. **Elevator:** The dedication ceremony is scheduled for September 10, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. Bishop deForest will be in attendance. There will be reception following the dedication. We have received a Thrivent card for the event. We will be ordering wraps and sandwiches from the Creekside restaurant. A variety of beverages will be available. The local newspapers have been contacted regarding the event. Members have offered to donate baked goods. The plans for the ceremony were reviewed. **Consolidation of Treasurers' Funds:** The funds have been combined. There is only one additional signature needed to complete the paperwork.

New Business: Worship leaders are needed for October 8th and the 29th.

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.



Thank You...

...to everyone who came out to participate and celebrate with the Brandonville Union Sunday School & St John's, Brandonville as we dedicated the new elevator. A special thank you to Bishop deForest and Pastor Phil for their participation.

...to everyone who helped in any way with the Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner. Your time baking cakes and your purchases were appreciated.

...to those who came out to help clean the kitchen at Rngtn. Your time was appreciated!



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

Please send your birthday wishes to our members celebrating 90+ birthdays this month:
10-28 Donald Williams
PO Box 39
Ringtown, PA 17967

CAMPUS & SERVICE ADDRESS UPDATES

If you know of any member who is attending school away from home or in the service, please notify the church office with their address so they can be included on our mailing list. This is a way to keep our young adults up to date with news and happenings in their church family.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

**2nd & 4th SUN, 9:30am at Rngtn
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. 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!**

BRANDONVILLE UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY SUN, OCT 29, 4pm

Come & join us for a spoooooooktacular time!

RINGTOWN SUNDAY SCHOOL "TRICK OR TREAT" NIGHT DONATIONS NEEDED

We are again sponsoring a hot chocolate stand and request donations of hot chocolate (canisters) and monetary donations to purchase milk. **Deadline: SUN, OCT 22**
Donations of snack size candy are also appreciated.
Trick or Treat night is OCT 31, 6-8pm.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

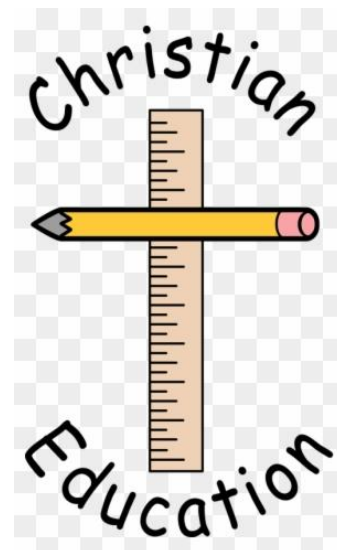
All members in 1st grade or those who have not yet received prior instruction are required to complete these classes in order to receive communion. If you were not able to attend the meeting on September 17, please contact Pr. Philip Smith 570-384-3645 or the church office 570-889-5203 to make arrangements to fill out the information form and schedule a class. First Communion will take place on All Saints Sunday, NOV 5 with an informal reception following worship.

CATECHISM CLASSES BEGIN SUN, OCT 8, 2pm at Rngtn

...and every SUN, 2pm until completed, subject to change with Pr. Phil's discretion (i.e. inclement weather, church event, etc.)

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 19, 2024. Worship attendance sign-in sheets are in the choir room at Brndvl and on the table in the SS area at Rngtn.

If you were not able to attend the meeting on September 17, please contact Pr. Philip Smith 570-384-3645 or the church office 570-889-5203 to make arrangements to fill out the information form.



**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS PROJECT
SAT, OCT 7, 9am**

We will be doing yardwork and cleanup around the parsonage and church. Bring your rakes, trimmers, clippers, etc. Volunteers needed!



**10th ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
SAT, OCT 14, 11am-4pm,
at St. John's, Rngtn**

**CALLING ALL CRAFT, FLEA MARKET,
& YARD SALE VENDORS!**

Food, crafts, games, and this year we are including flea market and yard sale vendors. \$10 for a 10 ft x 10 ft space. Bring a table and canopy in case of inclement weather. Craft, flea market, and yardsale vendors pick up a vendor application at St. John's Lutheran Church or the Ringtown Library. Call 570-889-5203.

A delicious variety of foods provided by Ringtown Valley churches, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and local organizations. Event is sponsored by St. John's Think Tank. Come out and support our "Readers on the Grow" program!

**ST. JOHN'S, RNGTN CHICKEN BBQ
SUN, OCT 29, 12-2pm**

...in the pavilion – takeout only \$13 each

1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert

Signup sheet to provide cookies for dessert is on the SS area table. See church council or the office for tickets.

**BOSCOV'S
"FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" EVENT
WED, OCT 18**

...sponsored by St. John's. For \$5 donation you receive a 25% off shopping pass (**in store only**) and you can register to win prizes. The entire \$5 donation benefits St. John's.

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.

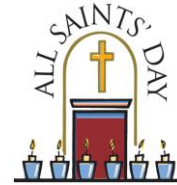
FREE "THE CHOSEN" WATCH PARTY NIGHTS

TUE, OCT 3, 6:30pm "The Chosen" watch party at Rngtn-season end

BRNDVL Watch party will not meet until the next season is available.

RNGTN Watch party will not meet until the next season is available.

Check your bulletins and newsletters for 2024 starting dates.



***ALL SAINTS SUNDAY*
SUN, NOV 5**

During worship that day we will celebrate communion and also remember those from our parish who have died in the past year. As their names are read, a candle will be lit in each person's memory and the church bell tolled. In addition, the Paschal Candle will be lit in memory of all our loved ones as their names are shared out loud by the congregation. This is a day to celebrate and remember our loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant.

**ELECTION DAY
LUNCHEONS & BAKE SALES
TUE, NOV 7**

**at St. John's, Brandonville...11am-sellout
sponsored by Brandonville Union Sunday School
(pre-order quarts of soup)**

**at St. John's, Ringtown...11am-2pm
sponsored by 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.

**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.

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

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Pledge monies received to date \$204,939. 69.69% to the pledged goal, and 61% into the 3 years. 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.

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 Shirley Troy.

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

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.

YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET

The YSC shop is open TUE & THR from 11am to 5pm, and SAT from 10am to 2pm.

"Your Sister's Closet" is available to help women in need with clothes and a lot more. Volunteer help is always needed. Call Donna or Peggy. The office cell phone is 570-487-9977. Like their Facebook page for events, news and YSC updates!

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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-7 9am God's Work, Our Hands cleanup around the church and parsonage

10-7 11:30am-sellout AMUMC Soup Sale

10-14 11am-4pm 10th Annual Fall Festival w/ Pet Blessing at 1:30pm

10-18 3-5:30pm Ringtown Library Pot Pie Sale pickup at Sr. Citizens
\$11/quart w/2 bread & 2 desserts order deadline 10-4

10-29 12-2pm St. John's Chicken BBQ pickup \$13 each

10-29 4pm BUSS Halloween Party

10-31 6-8pm Trick or Treat night & R-SS hot chocolate stand

11-5 All Saints Sunday candlelighting ceremony & First Communion

11-5 St. Paul's Chili order deadline for 11-11 2-4pm pickup

11-7 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

B-11am-sellout R-11am-2pm

11-22 7pm Community Thanksgiving Eve service at AMU Methodist

12-3 4pm BUSS Christmas Program

12-6 3:30-5:30pm Helping Hands Pasta Dinner pickup

12-9 3pm Schuylkill Chorale Society Christmas Concert at St. John's

Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR

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

