

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 5, 2023**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Jerid Lindenmuth, Tracy Laudeman, Jewel Tuberty, Janice Wasser. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, and Judy Rudolph.

The meeting was opened with Jewel reading devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved. Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Prepared 3 children for baptism. Participated in the Ascension Day Service May 18th at the Old White Church. Attended Synod Assembly in the beginning of June. Mt. Zion will hold their annual Strawberry Festival on June 17th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Think Tank – Mr. Sticky pickup is June 7th from 3 - 5:30. On Tuesday evenings at 6:30 a watch party is being held showing the series The Chosen. Snacks are served for guests.

Helping Hands – A re-organizational meeting is being held June 13th at 7:00.

Call Committee – A prayer petition for our pastoral vacancy is being put together.

Town Social – Entertainment for Saturday was booked. Still looking into ideas for Friday night.

Old Business: Gary Williams serviced the parsonage lawn mower. He also fixed the screen door on the parsonage that was broken.

New Business: The July council meeting will be held July 12th because of the holiday. Outside services will be held July 9th and 30th.

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.

Remember your church this month.....



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 6, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Dotsy Fritz (via phone), Bob Fritz (via phone), Marie Clark, Millie Krupillis, Larry Grohol, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Phil stopped in after the confirmation service at Ringtown May 28, 2023. The Strawberry Festival in Nuremberg is scheduled for June 17, 2023. There will be a service on Memorial Day at the Old White Church.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Elevator: The project has been completed. We are waiting on a date for the inspection. **Parking lot:** continues to be a work in progress, **Fund Raisers:** We are continuing to sell La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$. **Combining of the three financial funds:** This continues to be a work in progress.

New Business: A thank-you note was received from the Shepherd Hill Lutheran Church and United Lutheran Seminary for the donation in memory of Pastor Phyllis Pelletier. For the month of July there is only one supply pastor scheduled on the 23rd. July 9th the service will be held at the Sekula Pavilion. Our annual congregational picnic/church service is scheduled for July 30th at 4:00 p.m. The copyright policy for both churches needs to be updated to include live stream, videos, worship services, YouTube etc. The Sunday school picnic at Knoebel's went well. The meeting for July will be on the 11th due to the 4th of July holiday.

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 JULY 12, 2023**

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

The meeting was opened with Clarissa reading devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved. Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Mt. Zion's Strawberry festival had a large crowd, thank you to our members who supported them. He prepared one child for baptism.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Think Tank – The Chosen watch parties are still being done on Tuesday evenings at 6:30.

Helping Hands – A re-organizational meeting was held June 13th at 7:00 with 5 people attending. Jewel is now the president and looking into serving funeral dinners again in the future. July 31st at 6:30 is the next meeting if anyone wishes to attend.

Call Committee – The prayer petition for our pastoral vacancy is complete and is prayed before each service.

Old Business: Thank you to Mark Herbien and Jewel Tuberty for trimming the large tree in the yard so the congregation can enjoy sitting under it for the outdoor services. A joint council meeting will be held July 19th at 6:30pm to discuss the two estates St. John's is named in.

New Business: A motion was made to change the policy for yard sale parking lot usage to add the pavilion. A congratulations letter will be sent to St. Mary's for their 100 year anniversary. A transfer letter was read from Pastor Jay and Jamie which was granted. Council members thanked Jewel, Jerid, Ron, and Wayne for the great jobs they are doing leading the services. A motion was made to allow Smokey Hollow winery to sell wine at the town social with the church receiving a percentage of the sales.

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Brandonville

Altar: Barbie Cuff, Lorrie Deffley

Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Nancy Terry

Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams

Communion Glass Usher: Church Council

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2023**

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

Secretary' Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Phil attended the Ascension Day Service at The Old White Church. He served as a lector. There was a very good turnout for the Strawberry Festival.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Parking lot: continues to be a work in progress, **Fund Raisers:** We are continuing to sell La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$. **Combining of the three financial funds:** continues to be a work in progress. Marion Chupasco will contact the bank representative for direction on how to consolidate the three accounts into one. Marie Clark, Bob Fritz, and Marion Chupasco will meet to review the policies and update the verbiage. Both congregations have been using the Pastoral Vacancy Prayer before the services on Sunday, since the beginning of July. Prior to its usage Marion consulted Pastor Phil Smith and Pastor Carl Shankweiler for their review and input. We have placed an order for the plaque for the elevator. The size is 6x9. The inscription will read "In Loving Memory of Jean Keller". We will have a joint council meeting July 19th with an attorney at 6:30 p.m. in Ringtown to discuss an estate St. John's is named in.

New Business: Bob Fritz took a moment to thank everyone for their kindness, words of sympathy, and prayers following the recent death of his wife Dotsy Fritz. We have received copyright approval for the Chosen Watch events. St. Mary's is celebrating their 100th anniversary. We have sent a letter of acknowledgment to them. On July 30th our annual church picnic/service will be held at Sekula's Pavilion at 4:00 p.m. A letter was received from Pastor Jay and Jamie. They will be transferring their membership to a church that they are attending. Joe Cocco noted the open seat on council following Dotsy's death. We will be considering potential nominations for the November elections. A tentative date for the dedication of the elevator has been scheduled for September 10th. We are planning a reception for 2:00 p.m. with finger foods and desserts.

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



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 7, 2023**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Tracy Laudeman, Jewel Tuberty, Janice Wasser, Jerid Lindemuth, and Gary Williams. Also present were Pastor Smith, and Marion Chupasco.

The meeting was opened with Tracy 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 and attended the joint council meeting held with the lawyer on July 19th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Think Tank – Applications were sent out for the Fall Festival and are due back Aug 24th. Watch parties are still ongoing Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for the series The Chosen.

Helping Hands – Funeral Dinners will be offered to members only for now, a menu was given to council members of what is being offered.

Property Committee - Tony Gladski Tree service will put up the rain gutter with their bucket truck. They will also fix the rain gutter on other side of building and trim tree.

Old Business: The library added a note to the library yard sale policy. The July Chicken BBQ had a profit of \$2,902.82. We will change times on the tickets and flyers to serve from 12-2pm for the October dinner.

New Business: Next council meeting will be September 6th at 6:30 because of the holiday. Garbage collection prices were discussed.

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

**CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Cemetery Association offering envelopes are now available in the pew pockets and on the SS area table for your use if you would like to help with cemetery maintenance, upkeep, and finances.

**VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 1, 2023**

Members in Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Georgette Herring, Deb Kapusnick, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as amended.

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Phil met with a family regarding a baptism. Pastor Craig Zimmerman covered for Pastor Phil while he was away.

Office Report: Available for review. The Worship and Music Committee will be meeting on August 9th.

Old Business: Elevator: The dedication is scheduled for September 10th at 2:00 p.m.. We have requested a draft of the plaque. The size would be 6x9. **Combining of the Treasurer's Funds:** Meeting was held on July 25th to review and revise the current treasurer policies. The members in attendance were Billie Jo Grohol, Marie Clark, Barb Kawa, Bob Fritz, and Marion Chupasco. A copy of the updated/revised guidelines/policies was presented this evening to council. A motion was made to accept the changes. A meeting is planned for Thursday August 3rd with the bank representative to discuss the process that needs to be followed to combine the accounts into one. We are unsure if the accounts can be merged into one account or if we need to create a new account.

New Business: On August 13th we will have our joint service at the Old White Church. The time is 10:30. We received a communication from the Synod concerning supply pastor scheduling. Request forms need to be submitted 6 weeks ahead. So far for September we have one supply pastor. We will continue to submit our requests. The council members whose terms are ending 2023 are Georgette Herring and Joe Cocco. We will need to fill the open position following the death of Dotsy Fritz.

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



Thank You...

...to those who participated in the Brandonville Union Sunday School day at Knoebels and shared delicious food, goodies, fun, and fellowship.

...to everyone who supported the Mr. Sticky sticky bun sale to raise funds for the Think Tank Readers on the Grow program.

...to Glenn & Grace Trutt for providing and installing the new window shades for the Brandonville Union Sunday School.

...to everyone who attended the Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish Picnic and shared worship, fellowship, fun, & plenty of food! Special thanks to those who provided the covered dishes and those who helped coordinate this event.

...to everyone who helped in any way with the Chicken BBQ dinner. Your time preparing, cooking, and baking cookies and your ticket purchases were appreciated. \$2,902.82 was raised for the Rngtn General Fund.

...to everyone who helped in any way with the Town Social. Your donations of items needed; time preparing, setting up, and working in stands; cleaning up; and your purchases and participation were appreciated.

...to St. John's, Brandonville & Ringtown

The Old White Church Preservation Committee would like to thank both congregations for the donation of plate offering from the Joint Communion Service on AUG 13 and the annual AUG appeal donations.

...to these Thrivent members who designated Choice Dollars to St. John's: Rngtn: \$188 Ron Brown, Ann Brown

...to all of our Thrivent members who have applied for Action Team cards to provide seed money to help fund all of our events.

...to our many volunteers who give so generously of their time doing all the volunteer opportunities on the Time & Talent forms and the many other tasks no one knows are being done. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped out in many ways during this year of pastoral vacancy. From our church council members, worship volunteers (worship leaders, choir, ushers, communion assistants, readers, organists, acolytes, service recorders), Sunday School, dinner and event volunteers, cooks & bakers, office help, treasurers & financial recorders, janitors & cleaners, lawn & yardwork volunteers, repairs; your countless hours given. Each one of you who has stepped up and helped to keep things running smoothly. Too many to name! Please know that your time is greatly appreciated!

We are truly blessed. YOU make our ministry happen!



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

TIME & TALENTS

Time & Talent forms for the upcoming 2023-2024 church year are enclosed in your APOSTLE. Please be sure to fill out a new form so we know what your current interests are. Each opportunity or committee you sign up for is given your name to be contacted or scheduled when help is needed. **By filling out a new form annually** you can omit any volunteer items you no longer want to do and sign up for new ones you would like to try. Please don't forget! Place your completed form in the offering plate, email or mail it to the church, office so that your name is included to be contacted.

**YOU MAKE OUR MINISTRY HAPPEN!
HELP KEEP IT GOING & GROWING!**



LABOR SUNDAY SUN, SEP 3

You are invited to wear your "work" clothes and bring a "tool" of your vocation to be placed on the altar.

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & FALL ACTIVITIES SUN, SEP 10

All students are invited to bring their backpacks to be blessed during our morning worship and all are invited to bring items related to their favorite Fall activities to be blessed.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUN, SEP 10 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 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!**

**ST. JOHN'S, BRANDONVILLE
BRANDONVILLE UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL
ELEVATOR DEDICATION
SUN, SEP 10, 2pm**

You are invited to join us as we dedicate our new elevator and celebrate with a reception. Public welcome.



**SOCIAL MINISTRY MEATLOAF DINNER
WED, SEP 6
pickup 3:30-5:30pm in St. John's, Rngtn pavilion**

Menu: meatloaf, red skin mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, bread & butter, dessert **COST: \$12 TAKEOUTS ONLY**
Signup sheets for dessert cakes and help are on the SS area table.

**HARVEST HOME
SUN, SEP 17**

If you would like to provide fresh produce, canned goods, etc. to help decorate the altar area for Harvest Home, please bring these items to the church on SAT, SEP 16, by 12noon. Please write your name and "Harvest Home" on an envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office: PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967

**OLD WHITE CHURCH
APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE
SUN, SEP 17, 2-4pm
at the Old White Church**

**FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION
SUN, SEP 17, 12:30pm at Rngtn**

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. Parents are also asked to attend this meeting. If you are aware of any member who should attend, please contact the church office with their name or bring them to this meeting.

**CATECHISM INSTRUCTION
SUN, SEP 17, 1pm at Rngtn**

All 8th & 9th grade members and those eligible who have not been confirmed yet and their parents are asked to attend this meeting. Information about this year's program will be shared. If you are aware of any member who should attend, please contact the church office with their name or bring them to this meeting.

**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

"The Chosen" video series is being shown with Not-For-Profit copyright permission by The Chosen Distribution TUE, 6:30pm...sponsored by St. John's, Rngtn Think Tank in the SS area. Join us to watch this popular video series.

Light refreshments provided. All are welcome.

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

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.

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Pledge monies received to date \$200,305
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 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

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

9-6 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner pickup

9-6 6:30-7pm Boy Scout registration

9-10 2pm St. John's, Brndvl & BUSS Elevator dedication & reception

9-10 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

9-17 12:30pm First Communion w/parents

9-17 1pm Catechism meeting w/parents

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

\$8/quart to order by 9-30 call Cindy 570-889-3615

10-14 11am-4pm 10th Annual Fall Festival

10-18 Ringtown Library Pot Pie Sale

10-29 12-2pm 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?*