

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 2, 2023**

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Bob Decusky, Laura Faust, Jewel Tuberty, Jerid Lindenmuth, Janice Wasser, Gary Williams, Cory Houser, and Tracy Laudesman. Also present were Pastor Smith, and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Smith. Minutes from last month were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: He attended the Worship and Music meeting. Classes for First Holy Communion and Catechism will begin October 8th. There are 2 youth for First Holy Communion and 4 for Catechism. Mt. Zion is having a ham and chicken dinner on November 11th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Capital Campaign – To date total contributions are \$206,277. A meeting is being held Oct 15th for next steps of the campaign.

Think Tank – Fall festival Oct 14th. Watch parties are still ongoing Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for the series The Chosen.

Helping Hands – A pasta fundraiser is being held Dec 6th to benefit the Capital Campaign. A kitchen cleaning day was held Sept 28th with 6 people attending. They are hosting a funeral dinner on Sunday Oct 8th.

Property Committee - Work day is scheduled for the parsonage Oct 7th at 9:00. A thank you to Jewel Tuberty, Lovell Kahley, and Gary Williams for donating mulch for around the parsonage.

Old Business: A thank you note was read from Betty Marcoux. The Schuylkill Choral Society is scheduled to do a concert on Dec 9th at 3:00pm.

New Business: The Boy Scouts asked to use the parking lot for Trunk or Treat on October 31st. The piano is scheduled to be tuned in November before the concert. The catechism guidelines were changed to one-year instead of two. Council elections will be held Nov 26th, there are 3 people that their terms are ending this year, Bob Decusky, Deb Shoup, and Laura Faust.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Laura Faust, 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, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 3, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz (via telephone), Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Billie Jo Grohol, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as read

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

Pastor's Report: The elevator dedication went well. Catechism classes are ready to begin. There is a total of four students. The Catechism Expectations have been modified/updated. Copy of the expectations were available for review. Number two was changed from 60% to 50% worship attendance. Number three (expected Sunday school attendance) was changed from 12 classes between September and the end of May or Pentecost Sunday to 6 classes. Number four the expectation to perform community/church service activities changed from 25 hours to 12 hours for one year. Service opportunities may include help with the Halloween party, volunteer assistance at the ham/chicken dinner November 11th, serve as acolyte, read the lessons during Sunday service. The overall program will be one year instead of two years. The catechism worship sign-in sheet will be located in the choir room at Brandonville. The students will be provided with a catechism worship sheet to complete regarding the Sunday service. Next year Easter is early (March 31, 2024). Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. The catechetical students will be confirmed on May 19, 2024. The Synod will be visiting our region. A host church will be chosen for multiple churches in the area. The visits are expected to begin in October and carry through to March 2024. The Synod representatives will meet with the pastors in the afternoon and the member representatives (3-4 people) in the evening. The Synod is expected to visit nineteen centralized locations.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Parking Lot: Continues to be a work in progress. **New Back Door:** The door has been purchased and is being stored. It just needs to be installed. Larry Grohol volunteered to take the lead on this project. This continues to be a work in progress. **Elevator Dedication:** Bishop deForest wrote an article about the dedication for the Synod blog. We have not yet received an invoice for the plaque. The Schuylkill Choral Society has confirmed for December 9th at 3:00 p.m. **Consolidation of the Treasurers' Funds:** A copy of the amended General Fund policy (amended to include the Maintenance & Improvement and Memorial Funds 08/01/2023) was made available.

New Business: The cleaning and maintenance of the oil furnace is coming up. A 2024 budget meeting needs to be decided on. Church council elections will be held on November 26th. Billie Jo Grohol has been chosen to replace Dotsy Fritz's position. The terms of Joe Cocco and Georgette Herring are ending. We will have supply pastors for All Saints Sunday (November 5th) and the 19th. Bob Fritz will do November 12th, and Grace Trutt will do the 26th. The Chosen series has been tabled until next year when the next series becomes available.

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

Thank You...

...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! Thrivent Financial provided seed money for this event.

...to everyone who helped with the BUSS Halloween party and those who supplied delicious goodies.

...to everyone who donated hot chocolate and monetary donations for milk or helped in any way with the Rngtn SS Halloween hot chocolate stand. Thrivent Financial provided seed money for this event.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS SUN, NOV 26

...called by the church councils at Brandonville and Ringtown for the expressed purpose of electing church council members whose term would begin JAN 2024.

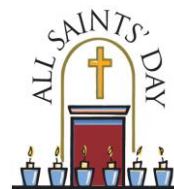
CAMPUS & SERVICE ADDRESS UPDATES

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!**



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.

CATECHISM CLASSES SUN, 2pm at Rngtn NOV 5, 12, 19

...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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE SUN, NOV 12 Forms are available on the bulletin stands.



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

**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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY ENVELOPES

Write your name and "St. John's Local Social Ministry" on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Your donations in this envelope will be used for our local Social Ministry programs here at St. John's to provide gifts for our shut in members at Christmas and Easter, and for our other Social Ministry projects.



**THANKSGIVING EVE
COMMUNITY WORSHIP
WED, NOV 22, 7pm
at AMU Methodist Church**

**HELPING HANDS PASTA DINNER
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER
WED, DEC 6, 4-6pm PICKUP
in the church basement**

Pasta with plain or meat sauce, salad, bread, and dessert
Tickets \$10 TAKE OUT ONLY

Signup sheet for food items and supply donations is on the SS area table. Tickets available from Helping Hands members or the church office.

**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.

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Pledge monies received to date \$210,205. 71.48% to the pledged goal, and 61.11% 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.

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!

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!

THINK TANK FALL FESTIVAL NOTE

After ten years of sponsorship, the Think Tank Committee will no longer sponsor the Fall Festival. If any church group would like to pick up the sponsorship, the Think Tank will offer its vendor list and vendor location map to help the group get started, but the Committee will not physically assist with planning the Fall Festival. One of the founding ideas of the Committee was to initiate congregational and community based events and we did that with a pizza making class, a bread baking class, a wellness program, painting programs, movie nights, the Readers On the Grow Program, etc. so that folks had opportunities to enjoy, learn from, and fellowship with others, and we will still continue to sponsor these types of activities, but the Fall Festival will not be one of them.

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.

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.



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

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.

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

- 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
- 11-11 4-7pm Mt. Zion Ham & Chicken dinner \$13 12yr & under \$6
Ham, Chicken, Potato filling, gravy, green beans, cole slaw, bread, dessert
- 11-12 Poinsettia order deadline
- 11-22 7pm Community Thanksgiving Eve service at AMU Methodist
- 12-3 4pm BUSS Christmas Program
- 12-3 7pm St. Paul's Bell Choir concert
- 12-6 3:30-5:30pm Helping Hands Pasta Dinner pickup
- 12-9 3pm Schuylkill Chorale Society Christmas Concert at St. John's
- 12-10 7pm St. Paul's UCC Hanging of the Greens
- Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR
- Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

