

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

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

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

Pastor's report: One hospital visit. Three young people went thru First Holy Communion classes and received First Holy Communion on November 5th. Catechism classes are continuing.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Capital Campaign – To date total contributions are \$213,708 (72.28% of goal) A meeting was held on Oct 15th to review the Capital Campaign and moving forward.

Worship & Music – Picked music thru Christ the King Sunday.

Think Tank – The committee will no longer sponsor the Fall Festival. If anyone or any other committee would like to take it over they will share all information.

Helping Hands – Election Day luncheon is being held Nov 7th. There will be beef vegetable and chicken noodle soups along with meatball subs. Next meeting will be held Nov 14th. A Filling Sale is being held on November 22nd. Pickup 4-7pm. A pasta fundraiser is being held Dec 6th to benefit the Capital Campaign. See members for tickets.

Property Committee - The work day scheduled for the parsonage on Oct 7th at 9:00 was cancelled due to rain. This will now be postponed until the spring. The oven in the garage was fixed by Gary Williams. The furnace in the parsonage needs to be serviced. The battery on the church lawn mower was replaced. The leak in the garage roof was fixed and two switches were changed out in the church bathrooms by Gary Williams as well.

Old Business: The chicken BBQ made a profit of \$3,021 with 320 tickets sold. There was discussion to sell halves of chicken next year as well as the dinners. The kitchen oven will be checked.

New Business: The Boy Scouts thanked the church for allowing them to have the Trunk or Treat in the parking lot. The council accepted a letter of resignation from Mandy Campbell. Cub Scouts will be cleaning pews in the future for their community service project. Council still needs to fill two positions by November 26th.

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

Remember your church at Christmas...



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupillis, 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 First Holy Communion class was instructed and prepared. The catechism class has a total of four students. The classes will be completed by May 19, 2024. The students have opportunities to volunteer at the ham and chicken dinner and to help at the food pantry next Saturday. There have been no further updates on the Synod's visit to the area churches.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Elevator: We need to work on door seals for the elevator. The wind is blowing in under the door. **Parking lot:** continues to be a work in progress, **Fund Raisers:** We are continuing to sell La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$. **Back Door:** The new back door has been installed. **Furnace:** The furnace has been cleaned, and an air filter was installed in the fill line. The heat pump was evaluated. **2024 Budget:** We are waiting on dates for a joint meeting with Ringtown. **Council Elections:** Billie Jo Grohol, Joseph Cocco, and Georgette Herring will serve again. Their terms will begin January 1, 2024. **Elevator Plaque:** The bill has been received and paid. The next quarter pastoral time was submitted by Pastor Phil.

New Business: Ashley Teter will supply at the services for the fourth Sunday in Advent and the Christmas Eve, but she is not available for the Sunday after Christmas. The communion linens are very old and fragile. Almy sells easy care linens. Bob Fritz wants to purchase the linens in memory of his wife Dotsy Fritz. The mission support form needs to be completed for 2024. We will submit the figures we supplied for 2023. Larry and Billie Jo will purchase this year's Christmas tree.

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

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

Term ending DEC 2024	Term ending DEC 2024
Clarissa Geary	Donna Anthony
Tracy Laudeman	Deb Kapusnick
Gary Schell	Millie Krupillis
Janice Wasser	Term ending DEC 2025
Term ending DEC 2025	Marie Clark
Cory Houser	Bob Fritz
Joan Mensinger	Larry Grohol
Jewel Tuberty	Term ending DEC 2026
Gary Williams	Joe Cocco
Term ending DEC 2026	Billie Jo Grohol
Jim Hart	Georgette Herring
Sandi Hart	
Jerid Lindenmuth	
Wayne Mensinger	

2023 OFFERING NOTE...All 2023 offering envelopes received after DEC 31 will be included on the 2024 contributor statements.

2023 COMMUNING & CONTRIBUTING RECORDS...
Don't forget to fill out a communion card of record for 2023. Those who have not communed or contributed in a 2-year period will receive a letter of intent as to their active membership status. Cards will be available in the pew pocket for your convenience and for visitor use. Multi-fund envelopes are available in the pew pocket for use if you have not made a contribution of record. Please be sure to write your name on the envelope for 2023 credit.

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.

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
DEC 3 & 17, 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!**



WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR DECEMBER 2023

Brandonville

Altar: Carter

Ringtown

Altar: Joyce Anczarski, Judy Llewellyn

Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown

Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JANUARY 2024

Brandonville

Altar: Memorial Fund

Ringtown

Altar: Gail Becker, Marion Chupasco

Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams

Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

CATECHISM CLASSES

SUN, 2pm at Rngtn

DEC 3, 10, 17

...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.

HELPING HANDS PASTA DINNER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER WED, DEC 6, 4-7pm 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. **Ticket deadline: DEC 3**



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

Please send your birthday wishes to our members celebrating 90+ birthdays this month:

12-13 Allen Stauffer, Sr. 946 Green Mountain Rd. Zion Grove, PA 17985	1-16 Lois Faust 523 W. Main St. Ringtown, PA 17967
1-18 Creta Lindenmuth 284 W. Main St. Ringtown, PA 17967	1-25 Mildred Stauffer 946 Green Mountain Rd. Zion Grove, PA 17985
1-6 Alma Gearhart 332 Zion Grove Rd. Ringtown, PA 17967	1-13 Robert Trexler 224 Arch St. Ringtown, PA 17967

St. John's Helping Hands
"White Gifts"

St. John's Helping Hands is requesting donations of "White Gifts" wrapped in white paper and marked man or woman and contents marked on the tag (i.e. powder, slippers, socks, shirt, necklace, etc.). These gifts will be donated to the nursing homes. **Deadline: DEC 10**

RINGTOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATING
SAT, DEC 9, 9am

We will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
& MEMORIALS

Signup sheets for Christmas memorials and flowers not ordered through Cerebral Palsy are on the table in the SS area at Ringtown and in the narthex at Brandonville.

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: DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

LUMINARY MEMORIALS

The Ringtown Sunday School is once again making luminaries to light on Christmas Eve. A signup sheet is on the table in the SS area if you would like to sponsor a luminary in honor or memory of someone for Christmas. Donation is \$5.00 each for Lutheran World Relief.

Deadline is DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Sponsors are welcome to take the luminaries home following the Christmas Eve service.

ST. JOHN'S, RNgTN CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

5inch Family Tree Christmas Ornament \$10 (apprx 10 names)

12inch Family Tree Wall Hanger \$35 (apprx 20 names)

Order forms are on the SS area table at Rngtn along with sample pictures of each. All orders to be prepaid: No personal checks. Cash or Money Order made out to: CASH.

Christmas order deadline: DEC 10

Rentschlers is also taking orders



Brandonville Union Sunday School
Christmas program
Sun, Dec 3, 4pm

...light refreshments will follow. All are welcome to attend.

SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY
ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
SAT, DEC 9, 3pm at St. John's, Rngtn

Public welcome. Free Will offering

If you would like to help with refreshments, Christmas cookies and finger foods are requested.



CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP

DEC 24

BRANDONVILLE 7pm
RINGTOWN 10pm

Come and celebrate Christmas Eve
with carols and candlelight.

Communion opportunities
DEC 3 & DEC 17
9am-B 10:30am-R

ST. JOHN'S RINGTOWN WISH LIST

If you would like to make a special contribution to the church this year, the following items are requested, **please check with the church office before purchasing to avoid duplicates:**

Rngtn: double wall beverage dispenser
Rngtn: tin oval ice tub for bottled water
Rngtn: digital kitchen scale - purchased
Rngtn: electric knife sharpener
Rngtn: 6 foot heavy duty extension cord
See Jewel for approximate prices of each of these Helping Hands wish list items.

2024 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2024, 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 \$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!

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

12-3 4pm BUSS Christmas Program
12-3 7:30pm St. Paul's Bell Choir concert
12-6 4-7pm Helping Hands Pasta Dinner pickup
12-9 9am Rngtn Christmas decorating
12-9 3pm Schuylkill Choral Society Christmas Concert at St. John's
12-10 "White Gifts" deadline
12-10 7pm St. Paul's UCC Hanging of the Greens
12-15 Christmas memorial deadline
12-24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7pm-B 10pm-R
12-31 Service of Lessons and Carols
1-5-24 Annual Report deadline for committee & organization reports
1-10-24 deadline for treasurers' books for audit
1-28-24 Annual Congregational mtgs B & R
Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR
Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

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.

HEATING FUND ENVELOPES

Your donations in this envelope will be used to help defray the rising cost of heating the church building during the winter months. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

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.

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.

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.

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.

