

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 4, 2023**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Laura Faust, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Deb Shoup, and Tracy Laudeman. Also present were Pastor Smith, Cassandra Laudeman, Jim Hart, Sandy Hart and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Jewel reading devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved. Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** Catechism classes are continuing. Pastor Smith also attended the worship and music committee meeting and the Synod meeting in Hazleton.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Worship & Music** – Picked music up to the Lenten Season.

**Helping Hands** – Election Day bake sale went very well. 140 tickets were sold for the pasta fundraiser on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** The Synod meeting is being held on Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at Zion in Frackville. Bob Decusky, Judy and Bob Llewellyn and Marion will be attending from the congregation. The furnace was cleaned in the parsonage but needs a few parts. The piano was tuned on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. The snow blowers are both up and running.

**New Business:** The Christmas trees are being donated by Wes Williams, Gary Williams, and the Ringtown Tree Farm. Church decorating is scheduled for Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. The pew candles will be placed Dec 17<sup>th</sup> after church. The next council meeting will be held Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> because of the holiday. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am a Bible Study organizational meeting will be held.

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

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES &  
2023 CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENTS**

...on the front pew at Brndvl  
...in the SS area at Rngtn  
Pick yours up today. See Bob Llewellyn for Rngtn statements. Capital Campaign envelopes are also available for pickup at Ringtown if you haven't picked yours up yet.



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 5, 2023**

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

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read

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

**Pastor's Report:** The catechism classes are proceeding well. Pastor Phil attended the worship & music committee meeting. He is looking forward to this weekend's Christmas concert. This coming Monday 12/11/2023 at 6:00 p.m. is the Synod congregational meeting. The meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Frackville. Pastor Phil's meeting is scheduled from 2-4 p.m.

**Office Report:** Available for review. The Sunday school Christmas program will be held on 12/03/2023 at 4:00 p.m.

**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\$. **Synod Congregational Meeting:** The representatives from Brandonville who will be attending the meeting are Bob Fritz (Vice President of church council), Marie Clark (secretary), and Marion Chupasco will also attend. The representatives from Ringtown are Bob Decusky (President of church council), Bob Llewelyn, and Judy Llewelyn. The joint budget meeting is scheduled for 11/29/2023. Gary Schell will put together a proposed budget for the shared expenses. The altar linens need to be replaced. There are a total of three pieces (2 table linens/1 is a spare and 1 veil for the communion). Marion will order them. The elevator door seals have been installed by Larry Grohol.

**New Business:** Membership communing/contributing numbers were discussed.

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

**PRAYER FOR OUR PASTORAL VACANCY**

Gracious God, as we prepare to call a new pastor, may we count on the support and prayers of our members just as we trust your Spirit to guide us. During this time of pastoral vacancy, we pray for patience through the call process, that when your time is right, you will lead us to our new pastoral leadership. We pray that you would keep us strong in our faith and worship life; and we thank you for blessing us with supply pastors, and worship leaders. As pastoral candidates review our ministry profile, we pray for them and their families. We ask that you would be with them as they prayerfully consider their decision to accept our call. We ask that you work through our Call Committee and guide them in their duties; give them wisdom in choosing a pastor to lead us into the future and an exciting new chapter in our life of faith and ministry. All this we ask in your Holy name. Amen

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 3, 2024**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Cory Houser, Jerid Lindenmuth, Joan Mensinger, Jim Hart, Sandy Hart. Also present were Pastor Smith, Laura Faust, Judy Rudolph, Bill Rudolph, and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Clarissa Geary reading the devotions.

Judy Rudolph gave her report for December. It was read and approved. Laura Faust gave an update on the Rock Youth Group checking account.

Minutes from last month were read and approved.

**Treasurers' reports** reviewed and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** They are moving on with baptism preparation. Catechism classes are continuing. Council discussed Synod meeting that was held in Zion, Frackville, which was attended by several members of the church and council.

**Office report** was reviewed. Set the date for audit for Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Committee reports:**

**Helping Hands** – Expressed yearly profit last meeting and decided to donate \$3,000 to the Capital Campaign. Jewel is taking Serve Safe course and exam at the end of February.

**Old Business:**

Clarissa discussed Mandated Reporter clearance requirements. Schuylkill Choral society was here on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and was well received. Offering covered the fee. Positive feedback on the Christmas Eve services. Ashley Teter leading the service along with the new candles was a success. New member received- Tori Hornberger. Discussed treasurers of the various funds making sure to give office all memorials.

**New Business:**

Annual congregation meeting will be January 28<sup>th</sup>. Un-decorating taking place this Sunday weather pending. Discussed Lenten services for this year. Pastor Smith invited our congregation to Mt. Zion and Emmanuel again this year. Election of new officers.

President - Wayne Mensinger  
Vice President - Jewel Tuberty  
Secretary - Jerid Lindenmuth  
Treasurer - Gary Schell

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Jerid Lindenmuth, secretary



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 2, 2024**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Georgette Herring, Millie Krupilis, Billie Jo Grohol, Larry Grohol, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read

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

**Pastor's Report:** The catechism classes are making good progress. Pastor Phil enjoyed the Christmas concert. He did nursing home visits over the Christmas holiday.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business:** The Synod congregational meeting was held. Ashley Teter did the services for the 4th Sunday in Advent and the Christmas Eve service. Marion will be ordering the altar linens. The parking lot continues to be a work in progress. We are continuing with the fund raiser selling the La Casita de Familia coupons. We are waiting on Barb Kawa to submit the 2024 proposed budget to church council.

**New Business:** The audit committee will be Marie Clark and Shawn Clark. We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on 01/07/2024. Marion needs the annual reports sent to her. For the upcoming Lenten services, we will join with Pastor Phil's churches. The Ash Wednesday (02/14/2024) service will be at Mt. Zion church at 7:00 p.m. The election of church officers:

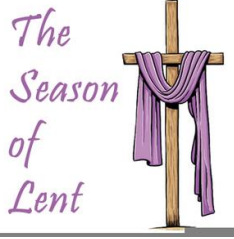
Bob Fritz - vice President  
Marie Clark – secretary  
Barb Kawa & Billie Jo Grohol -treasurers

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.





## LENTEN SELF DENIAL ENVELOPES

Write your name and "My Lenten World Hunger Offering" on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or on Easter Sunday.

## 2024 LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Wednesdays, 7pm

- Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday - at Mt Zion (Zion Grove)
- Feb 21 - at Emmanuel (Nuremberg)
- Feb 28 - at Mt Zion
- Mar 6 - at Emmanuel
- Mar 13 - at Mt Zion
- Mar 20 - at Emmanuel
- Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday - at Mt Zion
- Mar 29 - Good Friday - at Emmanuel

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- MAR 24 Passion/Palm Sunday w/Palm Procession  
9am-Brndvl 10:30am-Rngtn
- MAR 28 7pm Maundy Thursday at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- MAR 29 Good Friday  
12noon Community Worship, Bethany UMC, Nuremberg  
7pm Parish Worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- MAR 31 The Resurrection of Our Lord  
9am at Brndvl 10:30am at Rngtn

## EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Please mail or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to place a donation in honor or memory of someone for Easter. Mail to: St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Signup sheets are also available.

### 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: MAR 24 to be included in the Easter bulletin.**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**FEB 11 & 25, 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!**

## CATECHISM CLASSES

**SUN, 2pm at Rngtn  
FEB 4,11,18,25**

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

All 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY

**FEB 4 & 18, 9:15am**

...in the nursery room. We will meet twice a month and will start with "Seamless", a 7 session book, beginning with the Old Testament. See Laura Faust for more information. High School to Adults welcome.

## 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.

**“SOUPER BOWL”  
FOR WORLD HUNGER  
SUN, FEB 11**

If you would like to make a donation to World Hunger for “Souper Bowl”, write your name and “Souper Bowl World Hunger Offering” on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

**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.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR FEBRUARY 2024**

**Brandonville**

Altar: Carol Austra

**Ringtown**

Altar: Laura Faust, Tracy Laudeman

Ushers: Smokey & Linda Shoup

Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

**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, RNGTN CEMETERY  
ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER**

5inch Family Tree 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. Rentschlrs is also taking orders

**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 NEWS!**

**Great News! We received a pledge to reach our \$300,000 goal! Pledge monies received to date: \$221,791 toward the \$300,000 goal. We have finished 2/3 of the campaign, and have received 76% of the pledged amount. We have \$78,209 to achieve the goal of \$300,000.**

“Capital Campaign” envelopes are available in the pew if you would like to make a contribution toward this building project. We continue to ask you to prayerfully consider how you might help contribute financially to our Capital Campaign as we move forward in our new church building project. Help make our ministry happen!

**HELPING HANDS SOUP SALE  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER  
SAT, FEB 24, pickup 12-2pm**

...in the fellowship hall. \$9/quart Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef, Ham & Bean, Italian Wedding Order form is available on the SS area table or see any Helping Hands member to order. **order deadline: FEB 18**

**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?**

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.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2-5 Mt. Zion Hoagie deadline for 2-11 pickup 2-3pm at Mt. Zion reg or turkey \$5  
2-14 7pm Ash Wednesday worship at Mt. Zion  
2-18 11am-2pm St. Mary's Spaghetti Dinner \$12 each  
FEB Your Sister's Closet chocolate sale  
2-24 Helping Hands Soup Sale pickup 12-2pm in fellowship hall  
3-2 6pm setup & 3-3 1pm Blue & Gold Boy Scout banquet  
4-20 Helping Hands Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner  
4-23 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales  
B-11am-5pm R-11am-2pm  
4-27 Your Sister's Closet Fashion Show  
5-4 Your Sister's Closet Vendor show  
5-18 AMUMC Rough Cut meal sale pickup  
7-14 AMUMC Strawberry Social  
7-(16-20) ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans  
7-19,20,21 Library Book Sale 7-20 Yard Sale Day  
8-11AMUMC Peach Social  
8-16&17 4-9pm 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Social  
9-4 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner  
10-5 AMUMC Soup Sale  
Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR  
Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

## FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS

2<sup>nd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11am at Ringtown

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

