

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2024**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Cory Houser, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, Tracy Laudeman, Janice Wasser, and Sandy Hart. Also present were Pastor Smith, Bob Llewellyn, Judy Rudolph, and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Gary Schell reading the devotions. Bob Llewellyn discussed the future of the church, issues churches are having in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and possibly updating our mission statement. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

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

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Smith conducted the imposition of ashes and Marion assisted. Lenten worship will be with Mt. Zion & Emmanuel Churches again this year. Mt. Zion Church hoagie sale was very successful. This Sunday is another hoagie sale on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. All are welcome. Catechism classes are continued as planned. Confirmation will be set for May 19<sup>th</sup> tentatively.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Helping Hands** – Soup sale was a big success. Discussed getting another refrigerator. Scheduled upcoming work days. Changed price on renting the hall area outside the kitchen to \$100 non-members and \$50 for members.

**Sunday School** – Taking kids to breakfast this Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Easter egg hunt will be Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30-10:15am. Marion sent out postcards with the details.

**Capital Campaign** – Total amount pledged is \$300,060. We are 2/3 complete. Received a total of \$230,233.

**Building Committee** – Mission statement discussed. Bob has been in contact with the Synod to get their thoughts. Congregational surveys were discussed as a possibility.

**Think Tank** – Discussed interest in being involved in writing a new mission statement.

**Old Business:**

Discussed garbage disposal update. Have the form for the AED grant. A rough estimate cost is around \$1200. Work was done on snowblower.

**New Business:**

Landon Ferrara resigned as janitor. Discussed Ascension Day at the Old White Church. St. John's is in charge this year. Need to double check on what we have done in the past and what the Old White Church committee does. Pastor Robert Reier will be the guest speaker. Boy Scouts need us to sign off on charter. Discussed holding Mandated Reporter class March 23<sup>rd</sup> here at St. John's. Need to update signatures on all accounts with the Church. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> not April 1<sup>st</sup>. Jerid discussed changes for the future

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

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 5, 2024**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Philip Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Millie Krupilis, 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. Confirmation is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Phil did the drive by ashes on Ash Wednesday. Marion was there to assist Pastor Phil. There has been a good turnout for the mid-week Lenten services. The schedule for the mid-week services and Holy week is posted in the bulletin. The Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>, in person or via zoom meeting. Two delegates are needed for both Brandonville and Ringtown. Pastor Phil attended the Boy Scout's Blue and Gold Banquet. The Nuremberg hoagie sale will be this Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business: Elevator:** Foyer and placement of heating for the hydraulics was discussed. **Parking Lot:** Continues to be a work in progress. Larry Grohol and Bob Fritz will follow up on this project. **Fund Raisers:** We are continuing to sell La Casita De Familia coupons for 15.00\$. **Deebel Estate:** Bob Fritz will follow up on the status of the estate payment. **Altar Linens:** They have been ordered.

**New Business:** The preprinted booklet of the service for visitors to follow was reviewed. Clarissa Geary will be doing a child abuse educational session on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. There is a link available for those individuals who need to update their clearances.

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

Thank You  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
GENEROUSLY

**YOUR TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**APR 14 & 28, 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**  
**APR 7, 14, 21, 28**

...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**  
**APR 7 & 21, 9:15am**

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

**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 greeter 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.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR APRIL 2024**  
**Brandonville**

**Ringtown**

Altar: Janene Ferrara, Deb Shoup  
 Ushers: Tracy Laudeman, Joan Mensinger  
 Communion Glass Usher: Volunteers  
 Greeters: Tracy Laudeman, Bill Rudolph

**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.

**HELPING HANDS**  
**PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER**  
**SAT, APR 20, pickup 4:30-6:30pm**

**\$11 Takeout only**

pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce  
 Funds raised to benefit the new building Capital Campaign Fund. Tickets available from any Helping Hands member or the church office. **Ticket deadline: APR 14**

**ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE**  
**TUE, APR 23**

...11am-5pm at St. John’s, Brandonville, sponsored by the Brandonville Union Sunday School (pre-ordered pints & quarts of soup available)

...11am-2pm at St. John’s, Ringtown, sponsored by St. John’s Helping Hands

Your donations of baked goods will be appreciated. In addition to baked goods, soup, hot dogs, BBQ, and other luncheons items will be available.

**ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE**  
**AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH**  
**THR, MAY 9, 10am**

**Guest speaker will be the Rev. Robert Reier.**  
**May 2, 10am- Old White Church cleaning day - bring supplies** **Volunteers are needed to help.**

**HELPING HANDS ITALIAN HOAGIE SALE**  
**WED, MAY 15 Pickup 4:30-6:30pm \$6 each**

Roll with provolone cheese, cooked ham, hard salami, & pepperoni

Lettuce, onion, & tomato packaged separately.

Includes mayo & Italian dressing packets.

Funds raised benefit the new building Capital Campaign.

**ORDER DEADLINE: MAY 10**



## RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

SUN, MAY 12

If you know any member who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or other schools during the year, please contact the church office with their name so they can be included in this year's recognition.

## HELEN ROULIN SCHOLARSHIP

All Ringtown Valley high school girls grades 9-12 are eligible and encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of community involvement rather than scholastic aptitude, academics, or athletics. Call the church office for an application 570-889-5203. **Deadline: before APR 28**

## 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 NEWS!

**Great News! We received a pledge to reach our \$300,060 goal! Pledge monies received to date: \$230,233 toward the \$300,060 goal. We have finished 2/3 of the campaign, and have \$69,827 to go to achieve our goal!**

"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!

## 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.

## ST. JOHN'S, RINGTOWN 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. Rentschlers 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

## 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.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

4-20 4:30-6:30pm 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  
4-27 10am-12pm St. Paul's UCC Chili pickup  
5-4 Your Sister's Closet Vendor show  
5-9 10am Ascension Day at the Old White Church  
OWC Cleaning 5-2 10am  
5-15 4:30-6:30pm Helping Hands Italian Hoagie sale pickup  
5-18 AMUMC Rough Cut BBQ meal pickup  
5-19 5-7pm St. Paul's Ice Cream Social  
5-26 Mr. Stickey order deadline for 6-5, 3:30-5:30pm pickup  
6-1 BUSS Knoebels's trip  
6-8 8:30am-4:30pm Synod Assembly at Atonement, Wyomissing  
6-17 to 21 6:30-8pm Vacation Bible School  
7-14 4-7pm AMUMC Strawberry Social  
7-(16-20) ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans  
7-19,20,21 Library Book Sale 7-20 Yard Sale Day  
7-21 St. John's Chicken BBQ  
8-11 4-7pm AMUMC 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  
10-20 St. John's Chicken BBQ  
11-5 Election Day Luncheons&Bake Sales  
B-11am-5pm R-11am-2pm  
Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR  
Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, OCT-MAY



## FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS & HELPING HARVEST

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

4<sup>th</sup> FRI of month 2-3:30pm Helping Harvest at Ringtown

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.

## 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.

