

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 9, 2024**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Joan Mensinger, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, and Sandy Hart. Also present were Pastor Smith, Bob Llewellyn, Judy Rudolph, Bill Rudolph, and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Gary Williams reading the devotions. Bob Llewellyn spoke on the future of the church and what he learned from the meeting with the Bishop and synod.

**Minutes from last month** were read and approved.

**Treasurer reports** were reviewed and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Smith thanked everyone for attending the Lenten services. Mandated reporter class was a success. Catechism classes are all finished up. Logan Brouse, Ralen Ferrara, and Cassandra Laudeman will be confirmed. Pastor Smith is going to give assistance on Ascension Day. An invite was given by Pastor Smith for the Emmanuel spaghetti dinner.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Helping Hands** – Refrigerator is available for free. Jerid, Gary, and Cory are setting a date to pick it up. It was donated by Jean DaQuisto. Lovell Kahley and Louise Tomtishen covered the cost of the dish rack and cover. Pork Dinner tickets are available. Jewel passed the Safe Foods Course and is fully certified. There are many containers downstairs in the fellowship hall for pick up if anyone owns them. Old Sunday school room downstairs was cleaned up. Thank you for all that helped.

**Sunday School** – Easter Egg hunt was a big success. Thank you to all who helped.

**Capital Campaign** – Pledge monies received to date \$232,441 of the \$300,060 goal. We finished 75% of the campaign and have \$67,619 left to achieve our goal.

**Building Committee** – John Anczarski donated all the parts we need for hot water connection. Thank you to John for the donation. Gary Williams fixed the sink. Thank you to Gary Williams. Gary looked at the parsonage and it seems to be just fine as of now, no issues. Discussed speaker issues in the church. Gary Williams will take a look.

**Worship & Music** – Worship booklets were made and being reviewed by the council. Everyone agreed they look good.

**Old Business:**

In reference to offering, we discussed using the Doxology during the offering portion of church service. Offering envelopes were discussed. Wayne is still working on the AED application. Mandated Reporter class had 11 people attend. Everyone passed and are now certified. Nothing new on garbage disposal.

**New Business:**

Organ was serviced. Reduced fees on liturgy and copyright licenses by \$100, \$135.

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

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

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Philip Smith, Marie Clark, Donna Anthony, Joe Cocco, Billie Jo Grohol, Larry Grohol, Millie Krupilis, Debbie Kapusnick, Bob Fritz, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary's Report:** Was approved as read.

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

**Pastor's Report:** The Lenten services were well attended. Pastor Phil attended the mandatory reporter training session on 03/23/2024. On 04/27/2024 there will be a spaghetti dinner in Nuremberg 4:00 -7:00 p.m. at the fire company. The catechism classes are going well and are on schedule. We do have a supply pastor for 05/19/2024 for confirmation. Brandonville has one catechetical youth, Harrison Swank. Billie Jo Grohol will be filling in for Pastor Phil on 07/14/2024 at Mt. Zion at 09:00 and Emmanuel at 10:30. The Ascension Day service at the Old White Church is 05/09/2024 at 10:00am.

**Office Report:** Available for review.

**Old Business: Elevator:** Discussed heating for the hydraulics.

**Parking Lot:** We have received two bids for the parking lot paving project. **Outside Foyer for the Elevator:** We have received two bids for the construction. One from the company that installed the elevator and a second one. We are still waiting on a third bid. **Worship Booklets:** The worship booklets are available, and they look good. **Altar Linens:** The new altar linens were dedicated on Palm Sunday in memory of Dotsy Fritz.

**New Business:** Billie Jo Grohol has been accepted for the lay ministry program. The program consists of retreats and online learning. Linda Catizone is at home recovering from a recent medical issue.

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





**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**MAY 5 & 19, 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!**

**RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY**  
**MAY 19, 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.

**BRANDONVILLE UNION**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**KNOEBEL'S TRIP**  
**SAT, JUN 1, 10am Meet at pavilion 3**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JUN 17-21, 6:30-8pm**

Mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to attend. Teachers and helpers are needed. Please contact the church office if you can help. Won't you consider sharing your faith with our youth? **Registration deadline is JUN 2.** Forms are on the kitchen counter at Brndvl and by the bulletins at Rngtn.

**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 MAY 2024**  
**Brandonville**

**Ringtown**

Altar: Clarissa Geary  
 Ushers: Bob & Judy Llewellyn  
 Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer  
 Greeters: Bob & Judy Llewellyn

**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.

**MR. STICKY STICKY BUN SALE**  
**pickup JUN 5, 3:30-5:30pm**  
**in the pavilion**

...sponsored by St. John's, Rngtn Think Tank Readers on the Grow program. Signup sheets are on the SS area table.  
 Cost: \$4/single \$22/half doz **Deadline: May 26**

**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.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY**  
**SAT, JUN 8, Atonement, Wyomissing**

1 male and 1 female delegate are needed to represent each congregation. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office for information. This is a great opportunity to experience the work of our church at large----beyond the Ringtown Valley. Attend in person or online.

**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 CEMETERY WORKDAY**  
**SAT, MAY 18, 9am**

Help is needed. Meet at the cemetery and bring your sprayers.

**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.

**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 Ringtown 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.



**RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!**

**Great News! We received a pledge to reach our \$300,060 goal! Pledge monies received to date: \$232,441 toward the \$300,060 goal. We have finished 75% of the campaign, and have \$67,619 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.

**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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 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
- 5-19 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.

**NOTE: REDNERS TAPES OLDER THAN 3 YEARS ARE REJECTED.**

## 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.

