

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 6, 2024**

The meeting opened with devotions led by Clarissa.

Council members in attendance were Wayne Mensinger, Joan Mensinger, Gary Schell, Gary Williams, Sandy Hart, Jim Hart, Jewel Tuberty, Clarissa Geary, Tracy Laudeman. Also in attendance were Marion Chupasco, Bill Rudolph, Judy Rudolph, and Cassandra Laudeman

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Catechetical classes have been completed. Met with parents at Ringtown to prepare for baptisms. Pastor Phil will assist at the Ascension Day Service. Pastor Phil also thanked Marion for her help in organizing.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Helping Hands: A new refrigerator was purchased. A \$3000 pledge was given to the New Building Fund. June 12 was set to have a luncheon and workday to organize the closet in the kitchen.

Worship and Music: The booklets that were printed containing the church service are working out well.

Think Tank: Amended the letter given to parents for the Readers on the Grow program asking parents to sign up to receive the books so books aren't sent to those who may not want them.

Sunday School: Last day of Sunday School May 19.

Town Social: Will look into dates to set up a planning meeting.

Property: Kitchen hot water was discussed. Gary Williams will check the hot water heater. The sound system speakers aren't working properly, a call is in to check them. New shutters are needed on the parsonage. Joseph Becker has been hired for the janitor position at the rate of \$13.00 an hour, not to exceed 28 hours per month.

Old Business:

A letter was sent out to those who haven't contributed in the last year. We started including the doxology during the offering. Everything is set for Ascension Day, confirmation, and recognition of graduates. Wayne received information on purchasing an AED for the church. He will apply for a grant. The AED being looked at is user friendly. Discussed estate money received.

New Business:

Two baptisms will be held in June. Joan Mensinger will attend Synod Assembly. Wayne attended a meeting of church council presidents where discussion was held on the 6,2,6,1 program. Another meeting is set for September that Wayne will attend. Supply pastors were discussed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Joan Mensinger, acting secretary



Remember your church while on vacation...

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 7, 2024**

Members in attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Millie Krupillis, 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 have been completed. There are 2 baptisms scheduled.. Ascension Day is on Thursday 05/09/2024.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Missed you letters have been mailed to those members who have not picked up their offering envelopes. We have been hearing positive feedback on the worship pamphlets for the service. Recognition of graduates will be held on 05/12/2024. Letters have been sent to the graduates. Elizabeth Rudy is graduating from college (Brandonville). Confirmation is set for 05/19/2024. Harrison Swank will be confirmed from Brandonville. Plaques have been ordered for the confirmands. Bids for the outside elevator enclosure were discussed. The parking lot paving is expected to begin sometime in May.

New Business: Letters will be sent to those members who have not contributed in the past year.

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

**BRANDONVILLE
ELEVATOR PROJECT UPDATE**

Upon recommendation of the elevator contractor, the Brandonville church council has accepted the lowest bid to construct an exterior enclosure to provide an insulated barrier from the elements for the elevator shaft and mechanical equipment room.

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



**BRANDONVILLE UNION
SUNDAY SCHOOL
KNOEBEL'S TRIP**

SAT, JUN 1, 10am Meet at pavilion 3

**BRANDONVILLE UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL
& CEMETRY ANNUAL MEETING
MON, JUN 3, 7:30pm**

**RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY
JUN 2 & 23, 6pm**

...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.

**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? Forms are on the kitchen counter at Brndvl and by the bulletins at Rngtn. **Registration deadline JUN 2.**

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.

**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. **Deadline: JUN 2**



**MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING
WED, JUN 5, 2pm**

St. John's, Ringtown will be holding a free training session for groups and individuals who wish to meet this legal requirement. Clarissa Geary, from the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC), who is authorized by the state to facilitate training to meet the requirements, will hold this session. This training is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in accordance with Act 31 of 2014 and by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with Act 126 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code. Individuals who attend will receive a certificate confirming participation in the training event and having met the new standards. In order to process these certificates we ask that you register all who plan to attend prior to the event if at all possible. The training session normally lasts two hours, but may be shorter or longer depending on how the session proceeds that day. Register today to meet the requirements or update your status. Call Clarissa at 570-640-8427 to pre register.

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

...sponsored by St. John's, Rngtn Think Tank Readers on the Grow program.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JUNE 2024
Brandonville**

Altar: Tani Oslar, Jean Sharkey

Ringtown

Altar: Joan Medlinsky, Ann Kehley, Shirley Aldrich
Ushers: Wayne & Joan Mensinger
Communion Glass Usher: Wayne Mensinger
Greeters: Gary Williams, Bill Rudolph

**WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JULY 2024
Brandonville**

Altar: Gail Pretko

Ringtown

Altar: Gail Becker, Marion Chupasco
Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown
Communion Glass Usher: Gary Williams
Greeters: Volunteers

**WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR AUGUST 2024
Brandonville**

Ringtown

Altar: Janice Wasser
Ushers: Laura Faust, Janice Wasser
Communion Glass Usher: Tracy Laudeman
Greeters: Volunteers

HELPING HANDS DATES

- 7-16, 12pm Workday to clean and organize the storage room.
Lunch will be provided.
- 8-1, 6:30pm Helping Hands meeting.

**ST. JOHN'S, BRANDONVILLE
WORSHIP & COVERED DISH PICNIC
SUN, JULY 28, 4pm, at the Sekula pavilion**

Worship to be held outside (weather permitting). You are asked to bring a covered dish as suggested by the first letter of your last name:

A-L Casseroles M-S Salads & Vegetables T-Z Desserts

**ST. JOHN'S, RINGTOWN CHICKEN BBQ
SUN, JUL 21, 11:30am-1:30pm
...in the pavilion – takeout only**

1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert

*Joint Worship
at the Old White Church
Sun, Aug 11, 10:30am*

Mark the date and come join in celebrating worship in this historical landmark.

Old White Church Special Offering Appeal

The church councils have designated the month of August for our annual appeal to raise funds for the Old White Church. Please write your name and "Old White Church" on an envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office: PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Your donations in this envelope will be presented to the Old White Church Preservation Fund on behalf of our congregations to help with the maintenance, upkeep, and finances of this historical landmark. Extra envelopes will be available on the table in the SS area.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
COVERED DISH PICNIC
SAT, AUGUST 24, 6pm
in St. John's, Ringtown lot**

You are asked to bring a covered dish as suggested by the first letter of your last name:

A-L Desserts M-S Salads & Vegetables T-Z Casseroles
Come and enjoy great food & fellowship!

**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.

JULY PRAYER LIST NOTE: If you are aware of anyone who should remain on our prayer list, please contact the church office. All other names will be removed in July.

**25th ANNUAL TOWN SOCIAL
FRI & SAT, AUG 16 & 17
DONATIONS REQUESTED...**

It's time once again to prepare for our Town Social by asking for your help with designated Sunday donations: soda-12 oz cans (Coke, Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Root Beer, Sprite, Ginger Ale) Also diet & caffeine free in each brand Signup sheets will be available on the table in the SS area for other donations needed for our Town Social. Donations of baked goods should be brought on FRI & SAT, AUG 16 & 17.

We will once again have the theme basket auction. If you would like to donate a completed theme basket, please contact the church office and let us know what type it would be. Suggested theme baskets: baby items, fishing, car care, baking, gardening, hair/body care, gift certificates, etc. Theme basket donations are accepted at the discretion of the committee.

**RINGTOWN CEMETERY WORKDAY
SAT, JUN 15, 9am**

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

**GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS
RINGTOWN GARDEN PARTY-SAT, JUN 29, 9am**

Bring your gardening tools to help clean up the parsonage garden and get our garden ready for planting and do yard cleanup around the church grounds. All are welcome!

**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: \$241,513 toward the \$300,060 goal. We have finished 75% of the campaign, and have \$58,547 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!

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

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.



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.

FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS & HELPING HARVEST

2nd SAT of month, 9-11am at Ringtown

3rd SAT of month, 9-11am, FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC
at Nuremberg

4th 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6-2 2-4pm Your Sister's Closet Fashion Show

6-5 2pm Mandated Reporter training at St. John's, Rngtn

6-7&8 St. Mary's block party

6-8 8:30am-4:30pm Synod Assembly at Atonement, Wyomissing

6-15 4pm-? Mt. Zion Strawberry Festival DJ: D Lights & Sounds

6-15, 10am St. Paul's UCC 2nd Annual Covered Dish Prayer Breakfast

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

7-27 Library Slow Pitch softball tournament

7-28 4pm Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish Picnic

8-11 4-7pm AMUMC Peach Social

8-16&17 4-9pm 25th Annual Town Social

8-18 Rotary pig roast

8-25 4:30-7:30pm St. Paul's picnic 6-7pm Catawissa Military band

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

Pizza Sales-3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

