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

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Janice Wasser, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, and Tracy Laudeman. Also present were Pastor Smith and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Jerid Lindenmuth reading the devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Pastor Smith will be going on vacation a few times in the upcoming months. He is going to have Craig Zimmerman fill in for him during those times. Confirmation was completed May 19th. Everyone is invited to the Strawberry festival at Mt. Zion Church on June 15th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Worship & Music – Picked hymns up to July.

Property – Water heater elements are fine. Shrubs were trimmed but may need further trimming. Wayne priced shutters for the parsonage. Boiler inspection is coming up.

Think Tank – Rain caused the garden workday to be cancelled. A new date will be announced in the future. Think Tank provided a float in the parade.

Clearance Committee – Clearances are nearly finished.

Building Committee – They are having a meeting soon.

Available finances were discussed. Wayne is going to see about getting multiple estimates on the new building. He will also see about getting a finance meeting together.

Old Business:

The church qualified for a grant for purchasing an AED. Based off of research and testimonial from the Firehouse it was decided we should get a semi-automatic AED. Money for AED will come from the General Account. There are plans to do a temple talk to teach how to use it. There are two baptisms for June. Trash price was discussed. Town Social meeting will be held Thursday June 6th at 6pm.

New Business:

Chicken BBQ discussed. Possible change will be to sell just the chicken in addition to the whole dinner. There will be a different price for just the chicken or chicken & whole meal. Ringtown/Brandonville holding a congregational picnic on August 24th, 6pm. Possible outside services June 23 and July 28. Discussed shaking hands for those comfortable in doing so for the Peace. Also, kneeling when called for. Yard Sale policy was given to the Library. Garden work day on June 29 weather permitting.

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



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JUNE 4, 2024

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

Secretary' Report: Approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: An audit will be done for the first half of 2024. Marie Clark will take the lead on the audit.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Phil enjoyed participating in the Old White Church Ascension Day service. June 8th from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Nuremberg will have a community yard sale, and Emmanuel will have a food/bake sale. The Synod Assembly will take place on June 8th 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Individuals can participate via zoom or in person. June 15th is Mt. Zion's strawberry festival. Pastor Phil will be away the 15th-22nd. Pastor Craig Zimmerman will be covering.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Recognition of graduates was held on May 12th. The letters have been mailed to those members who have not contributed in the past year. Harrison Swank was confirmed on May 19th. The parking lot was paved. The contractor, recommended a seal coating in two years. There was discussion regarding the enclosure for the elevator project. The enclosure is needed in order to maintain an adequate temperature for the hydraulics to work and as cover from the weather while waiting for the elevator.

New Business: The annual covered dish picnic/service will be held on July 28th at 4:00 p.m. at Sekula's pavilion weather permitting. The annual congregational picnic is scheduled for August 24th in Ringtown at the parking lot. There was discussion to have the baptismal font up front available for those members who would like to bless themselves during communion. Shaking hands during the sharing of the peace is optional if you would like to do so. During confession it is acceptable to stand, sit, or kneel. The annual joint congregational service will be held at the Old White Church on Sunday August 11th at 10:30am.

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



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 1, 2024

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Janice Wasser, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, Joan Mensinger, Sandy Hart, Jewel Tuberty, Cory Houser, and Tracy Laudeman. Also present were Pastor Smith and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Jim Hart reading the devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit. **Pastor's report:** Pastor Smith is preparing for some upcoming baptisms. He attended the Synod Assembly. His quarterly report was turned in.

Office report was reviewed. Some special events were added in for the scouts.

Committee reports:

Helping Hands – Meeting August 1st, at 6:30pm for the upcoming Town Social.

Town Social Committee – Hiring Nick Chikotas for Friday night. Food prices discussed. Letters went out today for donations and ads.

Property – Our new insurance policy this years has gone up in price. Sump pump has to be checked.

Sunday School – Town Social bounce house for kids was proposed.

Building Committee – Still getting estimates and prices for new church. We must get a dumpster and clean out the church at some point. Trees in front of the parsonage plan to be cut on July 10th at 5:30pm.

Chicken BBQ – Tickets must be turned in by July 14th to Joan Mensinger. Cookies are needed for the meals.

Old Business:

Sound system discussed. Marion contacted the Synod for supply pastors. There were two baptisms in June. It was approved that it is ok to shake hands for the Peace if people would like to. Baptismal Font will be open for people to bless themselves when coming forward for communion. A finance committee will look at combining cds to generate money for the new building if needed in the spring.

Everything is set with the new AED. It will be arriving in the next couple weeks. A display case was ordered. The total cost out of pocket after the grant was applied came to \$2,109.21.

New Business:

Publicity was sent out for the Town Social by Marion. Helping Hands will be making something for the Covered Dish picnic on August 24th. Cd's were discussed.

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



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

Members In Attendance: Pastor Philip Smith, Marie Clark, Larry Grohol, Millie Krupillis, Debbie Kapusnick, Bob Fritz, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Was approved as read.
Treasurer's Report: Available for review. Bob Fritz and Marie Clark will do a mid year audit of the treasurer's books once the bank statement is available.
Treasurer's reports were sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Phil attended the Synod Assembly on June 8th. Billie Jo Grohol will supply for Pastor Phil on July 14th. Pastor Phil did two baptismal meetings. Pastor Craig Zimmerman will be covering for Pastor Phil during his scheduled vacation.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: There was discussion regarding the baptismal front being available on communion Sundays for those individuals who would want to bless themselves. We need to consider the positioning of the font in order to maintain the flow for those communing. Shaking hands during the peace is optional.

New Business: A letter of resignation was received from Billie Jo Grohol. She is resigning from the church council and the assistant general treasurer. We will need to seek a new general fund treasurer assistant. A notice will be placed in the bulletin. We will need to address the doors and hand railing leading up the stairs into the sanctuary. Bob Fritz has been following up with the elevator company.

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 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.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 5, 2024

Council members present were Clarissa Geary, Janice Wasser, Gary Schell, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, Joan Mensinger, Jewel Tuberty, and Tracy Laudeman. Also present were Pastor Smith, Judy Rudolph, and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Wayne Mensinger reading the devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit. Finance committee was established to review available funds for the building project.

Pastor's report: First Communion will be held Sept. 15th at 1pm. Catechism meeting with parents will be held at 1:30pm.

Office report was reviewed. Some new events were added. Moving next council meeting to Wednesday, September 4th.

Committee reports:

Helping Hands – Holding a hoagie sale on September 18th. Still need baked good donations for the Town Social. Soups for Town Social will also be donated by Helping Hands. Proposing a new event. A monthly Sunday Lunch may be another social event provided for the congregation. This will be a way to generate more interest in the new building. Possibility of later opening it up to the public once we are in the new building. It would be held September to May with the possibility of skipping some months.

Town Social Committee – Nick Chikotas will be playing Saturday night not Friday night. Talked about fryer rental company going out of business so next year we will have to find fryers to rent.

Property – AED installed by Gary Williams. Discussed having a temple talk about the new AED. Trees were cut in front of the parsonage. Need to cut big shrubs in front of the church. Gary adjusted the hot water in the parsonage. Gary Williams got the sump pump in the furnace room working. Gary Williams also changed the switch in the nursery room. He changed the bulbs and fixtures as well. Gary also tested the ovens for the upcoming chicken bbq.

Sunday School – Survey will be sent home to parents to see who might be attending Sunday School classes.

Worship & Music – Picked some hymns but need to meet again to finish up.

Social Ministry – There is concern about the future of this group due to low committee membership.

Old Business:

Most of old business was covered in committee reports.

New Business:

Water meter being replaced in the church and parsonage. Covered Dish picnic to be held August 24th at 6pm. Upgrading internet service from 25 to 50 megabytes. A letter was received from Gary Schell about his resignation from Council Treasurer. Everyone thanked him for his many years of service to our church. Will start looking for a replacement.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR AUGUST 6, 2024

Members In Attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupillis, Deb Kapusnick, Joe Cocco, Donna Anthony, Marion Chupasco

Secretary' Report: Approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Available for review. An audit of the treasurer's report was completed by Marie Clark. Both Marie Clark and Bob Fritz reviewed the audit prior to the council meeting. The reports were reconciled to the bank statements (January through June). The findings were also reviewed with Barb Kawa, general treasurer. Copies of the audit were provided for the council members and the treasurer. The treasurer's report was sent for audit.

Pastor' Report: Billie Jo Grohol filled in for Pastor Phil on 07/14/2024. On 09/15/2024 there will be two separate meetings for potential students for First Holy Communion at 1:00 p.m. and catechism classes at 1:30 p.m.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Elevator: The company was on site to make necessary adjustments. Pastor Dave Lutcher has donated his supply fee back to the church. A thank-you letter will be sent to him. **Wooden Doors:** Repair of the wooden doors leading up to the sanctuary continue to be a work in progress. **Treasurer Position:** Billie Jo Grohol resigned from both the

Treasurer Position: Billie Jo Grohol resigned from both the co-treasurer's position and church council as of July. We will run an ad in the bulletin seeking volunteers for the co-treasurer's position.

New Business: Larry Grohol submitted a letter of resignation from both the church and church council as of 07/11/2024. On 07/25/2024 an e-mail was received from Linda Catazone. She is resigning from the organist position due to personal reasons. Pastor Schoffstall will be doing the joint service at the Old White Church August 10th at 10:30. We received a proposal from Penn Tele Data for an upgrade at a 2.00\$ increase/month

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 Brandonville

Altar- Joe Cocco & Donna Anthony, Grace Trutt

Ringtown

Altar: Nicole & Lindsay Brouse, Judy Llewellyn Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams Communion Glass Usher: Jim Hart Greeters: Gary Williams, Volunteer



Thank You...

...to those who participated in the Brandonville Union Sunday School day at Knoebels and shared delicious food, goodies, fun, and fellowship.

...to everyone who attended the Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish Picnic and shared worship, fellowship, fun, & plenty of food! Special thanks to those who provided the covered dishes and those who helped coordinate this event.

....to everyone who came out for the Rngtn Cemetery work day. Your time was appreciated!

...to everyone who participated in the God's Work, Our Hands Garden Party to help clean up the parsonage garden and do yard cleanup around the church grounds. Your time was appreciated!

...to everyone who donated items for the Personal Care Kits.

...to everyone who helped in any way with the Town Social. Your donations of items needed; time preparing, setting up, and working in stands; cleaning up; and your purchases and participation were appreciated.

...to St. John's, Brandonville & Ringtown

The Old White Church Preservation Committee would like to thank both congregations for the donation of plate offering from the Joint Communion Service on AUG 11 and the annual AUG appeal donations.

...to our many volunteers who give so generously of their time doing all the volunteer opportunities on the Time & Talent forms and the many other tasks no one knows are being done. A special thank you to all of our volunteers who have helped out in many ways during the pastoral vacancy-- from our church council members, worship volunteers (worship leaders, choir, ushers, communion assistants, readers, organists, acolytes, service recorders), Sunday School, dinner and event volunteers, cooks & bakers, office help, treasurers & financial recorders, janitors & cleaners, lawn & yardwork volunteers, repairs; your countless hours given. Each one of you who has stepped up and helped to keep things running smoothly. Too many to name! Please know that your time is greatly appreciated!

We are truly blessed. YOU make our ministry happen!

...to these Thrivent members who designated Choice Dollars to St. John's:

Brndvl: \$26 Wendy Everett, Kenneth Adam Estes

Rngtn: \$9 Marion Chupasco

...to all of our Thrivent members who have applied for Action Team cards to provide seed money to help fund all of our events.



TIME & TALENTS

Time & Talent forms for the upcoming 2024-2025 church year are enclosed in your APOSTLE. Please be sure to fill out a new form so we know what your current interests are. Each opportunity or committee you sign up for is given your name to be contacted or scheduled when help is needed. **By filling out a new form annually** you can omit any volunteer items you no longer want to do and sign up for new ones you would like to try. Please don't forget! Place your completed form in the offering plate, email or mail it to the church, office so that your name is included to be contacted.

YOU MAKE OUR MINISTRY HAPPEN! HELP KEEP IT GOING & GROWING!



You are invited to wear your "work" clothes and bring a "tool" of your vocation to be placed on the altar.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & FALL ACTIVITIES SUN, SEP 8

All students are invited to bring their backpacks to be blessed during our morning worship and all are invited to bring items related to their favorite Fall activities to be blessed.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUN, SEP 8 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!**

A nursery class for 3-5yr olds may be offered during worship once or twice a month at Rngtn if there is enough interest.

HARVEST HOME SUN, SEP 15

If you would like to provide fresh produce, canned goods, etc. to help decorate the altar area for Harvest Home, please bring these items to the church on SAT, SEP 14, by 12noon. Please write your name and "Harvest Home" on an envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office: PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967

OLD WHITE CHURCH APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE SUN, SEP 15, 2-4pm at the Old White Church

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION SUN, SEP 15, 1pm at Rngtn

All members in 1st grade or those who have not yet received prior instruction are required to complete these classes in order to receive communion. Parents are also asked to attend this meeting. If you are aware of any member who should attend, please contact the church office with their name or bring them to this meeting.

CATECHISM INSTRUCTION SUN, SEP 15, 1:30pm at Rngtn

All 8th & 9th grade members and those eligible who have not been confirmed yet and their parents are asked to attend this meeting. Information about this year's program will be shared. If you are aware of any member who should attend, please contact the church office with their name or bring them to this meeting.

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 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!

Pledge monies received to date: \$247,517 received as of July 31, 2024 toward the \$300,060 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!

RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY SEP 29, OCT 13&27, NOV 10&24, DEC 8&22

...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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEATLOAF DINNER WED, SEP 4 pickup 3:30-5:30pm...in the pavilion

Menu: meatloaf, potato, veg, coleslaw, dessert Funds to benefit Carl Stauffer's medical expenses.

COST: \$12.00 TAKEOUTS ONLY

Signup sheets to provide help and desserts are on the SS area

table.

HELPING HANDS ITALIAN HOAGIE SALE WED, SEP 18...pickup 3:30-6pm \$8 each

Order sheet is on the SS table.

Chips, 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: SEP 11**

BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" EVENT TUE, OCT 22

...sponsored by St. John's. For a \$5 donation you receive a 25% off shopping pass (**in store & online**) and you can register to win prizes. The entire \$5 donation benefits St. John's.

ST. JOHN'S, RNGTN CHICKEN BBQ SUN, OCT 20, 11:30am-1:30pm

...in the pavilion – takeout only

\$14-each meal \$8-1/2 chicken only

meal includes: 1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert See church council for tickets.

Signup sheet to provide cookies for dessert will be on the SS area table.

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

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.

ELECTION DAY LUNCHEONS & BAKE SALES TUE, NOV 5

at St. John's, Brandonville....11am-sellout sponsored by Brandonville Union Sunday School (pre-order quarts of soup)

at St. John's, Ringtown....11am-6pm sponsored by Helping Hands 4-6pm dinner available: Mac & Cheese or Ham, Mac & Cheese,& green bean platter available till sellout

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

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, 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. Rentschlers is also taking orders.

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!

YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET

The YSC shop is open TUE & THR from 11am to 5pm, and SAT from 10am to 2pm.

"Your Sister's Closet" is available to help women in need with clothes and a lot more. Volunteer help is always needed. Call Donna or Peggy. The office cell phone is 570-487-9977. Like their Facebook page for events, news and YSC updates!

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.

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 to purchase cards for \$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

9-4 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner

9-15 2-4pm Old White Church Appreciation open house

9-18 3:30-6pm Helping Hands Italian Hoagie sale pickup

9-29 2-4pm Your Sister's Closet Fall Fashion Show at AMUMC

10-5 11:30am-1:30pm AMUMC Soup Sale

10-20 St. John's Chicken BBQ

10-27 4pm BUSS Halloween Party

10-(25-27) Boy Scout's Haunted Barn

10-31 Ringtown Trick or Treat night

11-5 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

B-11am-5pm R-11am-6pm

11-27 7pm Community Thanksgiving Eve worship at St. Mary's RC