

ROUGH & READY RUMBLINGS
FEBRUARY 2023

Salem Church of Rough & Ready
11 Church Road
Klingerstown, PA 17941
Church/Children's Church: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School: 10:15 A.M.

Pastor Mark E. Mantz
Phone: 570-863-2061
Cell Phone: 570-863-8837
Email: markemantz@yahoo.com

Elaine Dietrich, Secretary
178 Vista Road
Klingerstown, PA 17941
Phone: 570-425-2398
Cell: 570-415-59961

Email: secretary@salemchurchrr.org

JANUARY 15, 2023

NO.98

INFORMATION FOR THE RUMBLINGS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SECRETARY BY THE 15TH

We would like to thank Pastor Mark and our Salem Church family for your expressions of sympathy as well as your thoughts and prayers during the recent passing of my brother, Ed Rothermel. Your love and kindness are deeply appreciated. God bless you all. - Steve and Sandy

Louise Rothermel is organizing a bus trip to Christian Life Assembly on March 25th to see their Easter Program "What Love is This?" Admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$10 for children 5-18 years old. Bus fare is an additional amount to be determined based on ridership. A sign-up sheet is available.

Janitor for February is Shannon Dietrich

Monday, February 6th – Sunday School Meeting at 6 PM.

Tuesday, February 7th – Consistory Meeting at 7 PM.

Sunday, February 12th – Holy Communion. Super Bowl of Caring Sunday & Scout Sunday. The congregation is encouraged to bring a canned good or monetary donation.

Wednesday, February 22nd – Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM.

Salem Church of Rough & Ready Consistory Meeting January 3, 2023

Present: Pastor Mantz, Dan Scheib, Randy Wehry, Louise Rothermel, Dean Dietrich, Arlin Weikel, Andy Kuczala, Matt Lucas, Dorothy Brown, Brock Klinger.

Opening Devotional: 1/3 of the godhead is in all of us. We're called upon every day of the week. Every day is as holy as Sunday in God's eyes. It's not enough to be Christians on Sunday. The minutes from the December meeting were read and approved.

Election of Officers:

- Mike agreed to continue as President and was voted into the position in absentia
- Brock agreed to replace Jim as Secretary
- Dan agreed to replace Randy as Vice President
- Though absent, Carol Snyder was the consensus choice for Treasurer

Treasurer's Report:

Current: \$295,228.03

Benevolence: \$2,667.16

Building: \$8,371.35

Noteworthy:

- We received an additional \$20,000 from the Violet Hoffman estate.
- A letter from the Pearl Shadel estate was received. The church stands to receive a percentage of the estate after outstanding debts are settled.
- It was noted by Pastor Mantz that it's significant we received an additional \$20,000 from the Violet Hoffman estate almost immediately following the congregation's \$18,000 tithe to the mission fund. To paraphrase the founder of China Outreach Ministries, "God's work, done God's way, will always have God's supply."

Old Business:

- Replacement of stolen items
 - The AED was ordered by Chris Morrison. The group was unsure if it had been delivered yet or when it might be.
- Church security
 - At the December meeting, a motion was passed to have Residential install motion-sensing exterior lights. As Mike was absent due to illness, the group was unsure if the quote was signed yet or when the work might proceed.
- Wifi
 - TDS installation was scheduled for December 27th. Upon arrival, the tech realized that the 50 Mbps speed we'd signed up for was unavailable at the church address. The 25 Mbps available at our location required different hardware meaning the installation needed to be rescheduled. Brock signed a new contract for 25 Mbps speed the day of the meeting. Despite the speed reduction, the price will be the same.
 - Dan noted that the phone contract was refreshed at the time the stolen device was replaced and suggested we may be locked into a monthly payment for the next 18-20 months.
 - Matt suggested it may make more sense to wait to install the wifi until the contract expired to save the 50/month cost. Brock offered that the wifi would be immediately useful and it may make sense to move ahead with both services simultaneously, especially if someone would be willing to fund it at least until the phone contract expires.
- Online Giving
 - It's possible to initiate a peer-to-peer funds transfer to the church via Zelle. Anyone whose bank is a member of the Zelle network (Linkbank, PNC, Mid Penn, PSECU, etc. are members) may make transfers as a cost-free digital donation option.
 - Facebook Giving requires proof of tax exemption and certified formation documents dated less than 50 years ago. As a church, we are automatically exempt from federal tax exemption, but we have no documentation to prove it. Brock will look into recording the original charter in the secretary of state records so certified copies can be generated. Also, he will look into requesting a formal letter from the IRS proving tax exemption. This may be a multi-month process, but the cost should be negligible.
- Tree
 - Arlin purchased an artificial, pre-lit tree which is now in the basement. The cost was \$1,143. He anticipates a sales tax refund of ~\$75.
- Church Finances
 - Dan suggested CD rates at Linkbank were 4%+ and would be a possible investment option for excess funds.
 - Matt suggested the cemetery committee banked through Mid Penn at one point and could be another option to consider if their rates are competitive.
 - No decision was made to invest the funds yet.

New Business:

- Ceremony w/ Unleavened Bread
- Dan volunteered to bake it
- Congregational Meeting
- Scheduled for January 22nd with a snow date on January 29th
- Love Offering (January 8th-February 5th)
- Alan Troutman
- Lenten Services
- Begin February 22nd starting at 7 pm

Pastor Mantz provided a detailed activity report for the month of December.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed with all present reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brock Klinger, Recording Secretary

Sunday School Meeting Minutes: January 10, 2023

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance \$4,078.61

Deposit \$227.00

Deposit \$367.00

Bible Depot (\$254.71)

Total Income: \$594.00

Total Expenses: (\$254.71)

Ending Balance: \$4,417.90

Old Business:

- The teen through college age study of Proverbs, led by Pastor Mantz, continues to go well. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to join.
- "Clever Cub" Sunday School materials are at Church and are ready to be utilized for the Pre-K class. We will continue to re-use teaching materials on hand for the elementary age students.
- Discussed Youth Group opportunities; including teaming up with the Church of God since they have a small number of youths.
- Discussed a women and men's bible study. Women's bible study materials are being reviewed and considered.
- The church basement cleanout will begin Sunday, January 15 at 11:15 a.m. (following the conclusion of Sunday School) through 12:00 p.m. Cleaning will take place at this time every Sunday until the basement is organized. Help would be greatly appreciated from anyone from the congregation.

New Business:

- Wifi is now set-up at church and available for Sunday School teachers to use. The wifi will not be open access as the bandwidth will not be strong enough to support mass use.
- The Lucas Family donated a flat screen TV for the church to utilize.
- It was discussed that a cart may be needed to transport the TV from various locations within the church.
- We need to dispose of old TV's/electronics in conjunction with the basement cleanout.
- It was noted that the TV could be used for Christian based movie nights.
- We received \$76 in offering income from the blanket fund in December. The Sunday School will be rounding this donation up to \$300 and sending it to the blanket fund at Church World Services.
- The Sunday School will begin to look for and collect packaged snacks and treats to be utilized at the Easter Egg hunt.
- The Sunday School is looking for Christian centered entertainment options for our various events throughout

the year. Anyone with an entertainment suggestion should speak to a member of the Sunday School committee.

Sunday School Calendar of Events (First Quarter):

- January 10, 2023: Sunday School Planning Meeting
- January 15 - February 5, 2023: Valentine’s Card Making (Anyone with a new address or an update to our current Valentine mailing list, please provide it to a member of the Sunday School Committee).
- January 22, 2023: Congregational Meeting (Service time flip - Sunday School at 9 a.m. followed by Church service at 10:15 a.m.) Ham & Chicken Pot Pie will be served. The congregation is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share.
- February 12, 2023: Super Bowl of Caring Sunday & Scout Sunday (The congregation is encouraged to bring a canned good or monetary donation.)
- February 6, 2023: Sunday School Meeting
- March 12, 2023: Breakfast at Church 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
- March 20, 2023: Sunday School Meeting 6:00 p.m. (Fill Easter Eggs & determine VBS Theme)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FROM DECEMBER

Current Fund Income: \$7,339.00
 Current Fund Expenses: \$10,285.91
 End of Month Balance: \$295,228.03

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Children’s Church Leader</u> | <u>Acolyte</u> |
|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| February 5th | Tina Novinger | Sarah Schaible |
| February 12th | Maddy Klinger | Tyler Heim |
| February 19th | Carol Kerstetter | Gavin Scheib |
| February 26th | Tricia Morrison | Ethan Lenker |

ALTAR FLOWERS

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| February 5 th | In Honor of Darrel & Wanda Kehler’s Wedding Anniversary |
| February 12 th | |
| February 19 th | In Memory of Farus Erdman presented by Family |
| February 26 th | |

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Stephen Rothermel | 13 Alicean Galloway | 5 Darrel & Wanda Kehler |
| Harold Lenker | Carl Schaible | 10 Derrick & Nicole Schwartz |
| Ryan Bixler | 20 Curt Lenker | 25 Jeff & Lori Masser |
| Lori Meredith | Lilley Weikel | Andy & Lori Kuczala |
| 3 Callan Wehry | 21 Darlene Roadcap | 28 Zack & Kera Spickler |
| 4 Rebecca Robert | Katie Shaffer | |
| 6 Wanda Kehler | 23 Dorothy Brown | |
| Adam Laudenslager | 24 Katrina Wiest | |
| 9 Courtney Weil | 28 Todd Strohecker | |
| Ethel Karterman | Robert Schwartz | |
| 10 Lori Klinger | 29 Teri Shaffer | |

Nuggets of Gold Along the Pathway of Life

"The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold, they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb" Psalm 19: 8, 10.

Many times, over the years since I've been born again, I have heard of verses of Scripture being referred to as "nuggets of gold". Reading the Bible is the source of finding these nuggets, but do we ever stop to "pick them up"? Imagine that you are walking along a path, and every day, as you go along your way, you see an actual gold nugget or two on the ground. Would you say to yourself how nice it is to see gold lying there, or would you pick them up as you walk along the way? I'm pretty sure that we would be picking them up and looking for more as we go our way.

I have had the good fortune of finding golden nuggets frequently as I go on my daily walk through life. Every morning, as Jeanne and I read the Bible, we walk through God's gold mine. There were many times that a verse or passage was very significant to me, and I wanted to remember it to think about it later, but I didn't do anything more than think about wanting to remember it. You can easily guess what happened. I forgot where the passage was or even what the passage was. Instead of picking up the golden nugget, I just admired it and passed on by! I want to share with you what I now do. I no longer pass by a verse or passage that impresses me. I now have a note sheet of paper in my Bible so that, when I come to a notable portion of Scripture, I write down the reference, as well as part of the verse, so that I can remember it, and look back on it many times in the future. What a difference it has made in the relevance of our morning Bible reading, because now, I capture that nugget and refer to it many times as the days go by.

Recently we were reading through Psalms. Strewn along our devotional way were numerous nuggets, a few of which I'd like to share with you, dear reader. In Psalm 139:23, it says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." That verse really met a need for me because, while I trust God, I still struggle with anxious thoughts. God reveals here that he is aware of these things, and he wants me to completely trust him with my concerns. He is truly faithful. Psalm 145:19 tells me that, "He fulfills the desires of those who fear him, he hears their cry and saves them." That verse assures me that he will take good care of Jeanne and me, as he has for many years now. The latter part of Psalm 146:6 promises that "the Lord remains faithful forever." Another Bible nugget of gold is found in Psalm 147:7, "He determines the number of stars, and calls them each by name." To gain an appreciation of this verse, some clear evening, go look at the stars, and see how many you can count! And after you do that, stop to think that you only saw a small portion of the stars in heaven. Truly, our God is a great God.

I'd like to encourage you, as you read the Bible, pick up and keep those golden nuggets you find. All you need is a pen and some paper, but you will eventually have a good piece of God's gold mine in ready reference.

God's Best to you, and Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Mark



SALEM CHURCH OF ROUGH & READY
1128 RIDGE ROAD
KLINGERSTOWN, PA 17941

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
SUNBURY, PA 17801
PERMIT NO. 26

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED