

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

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

Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Pastor Smith did a private communion. There were two pre baptismal classes this month. Seven children in the congregation successfully completed their First Communion.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Sunday School – Handed out information flyers at Trick or Treating night. Only two children showed up at the Halloween painting special event on Sunday Oct. 20th. Hoping to get more children to attend Sunday school.

Helping Hands – Lots of food for Election Day. Take and Bake filling pickup is Nov. 27th. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Building & Maintenance – Walk In Cooler is here. Council approved that we put it under the pavilion. Dale Lindenmuth cut the trees next to the church sign. Thank you to him. Still setting up a possible date to cut the big tree.

Boy Scouts – Thanked the council for letting them hold the Trunk or Treat.

Think Tank – Choral Day discussed with the joining of Sunday School and the Boy and Girl Scouts. Inviting the entire community to attend with food and goodies. Main event will be the Blessings Tree decoration.

Old Business:

Wayne came up with the idea of the dump trailer instead of renting a dumpster. Council agreed this was a good idea. The tour of the church in Oneida was discussed. Gave the council ideas for the new church. The Building committee will be meeting to discuss options soon. Miss You cards will be sent out. A contract was signed with the Schuylkill Choral Society for the December 14th Christmas Concert. The organ was serviced.

New Business:

We will contribute \$500 toward Billie Jo Grohol's LLM courses. She also agreed to lead worship at Ringtown when needed. Think Tank Hockey game in Wilkes Barre with the Boy Scouts was discussed. Council needed a resolution for Gary Schell to be signer for stock account until the end of 2024. Starting Jan. 1st 2025 Bruce Hart will then be taking over.

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

Remember your church at Christmas...



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

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

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report available.

Pastor's Report: There were six students for First Holy Communion classes. Pastor Phil is working with a family for a future baptism. He carried out home visits for some members. Marion has been doing a very good job at keeping Pastor Phil updated on the church business. There is an additional baptism in the works.

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Two treasurers (a treasurer and an assistant) are needed to fill vacancies for the General Fund. We now have a new guest book available.

New Business: We received a letter of resignation from Barbara Kawa as the General Fund treasurer. We also received a letter from Larry Grohol requesting to return to the church membership. The Schuylkill County Choral Society Ensemble will be performing on December 14th at 3:00 p.m. in Ringtown. Billie Jo Grohol needs to sign up for 3 seminary classes. She has asked if we would consider paying a portion of the expense. Ringtown will be giving 500.00\$. We will need the invoice from her and decide what we will contribute. The Mission support amount has been 5800.00\$. We will keep the support at that amount. There will be a ham and chicken dinner Saturday, November 9th 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion. Pastor Phil has noted there will be train trips starting for the holiday season in the Jim Thorpe and Tamaqua area. If anyone is interested, they can contact Pastor Phil for more information regarding tickets.

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

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Term ending DEC 2025	Term ending DEC 2025
Cory Houser	Marie Clark
Joan Mensinger	Bob Fritz
Jewel Tuberty	Pat Krupilis
Gary Williams	Term ending DEC 2026
Term ending 2026	Joe Cocco
Jim Hart	Georgette Herring
Sandi Hart	Vacancy
Jerid Lindenmuth	Term ending DEC 2027
Wayne Mensinger	Donna Anthony
Term ending 2027	Millie Krupilis
Bob Decusky	Ann Layton
Laura Faust	
Bruce Hart	
Tracy Laudeman	



2024 OFFERING NOTE...All 2024 offering envelopes received after DEC 31 will be included on the 2025 contributor statements.

2024 COMMUNING & CONTRIBUTING RECORDS...

Don't forget to fill out a communion card of record for 2024. Those who have not communed or contributed in a 2-year period will receive a letter of intent as to their active membership status. Cards will be available in the pew pocket for your convenience and for visitor use. Multi-fund envelopes are available in the pew pocket for use if you have not made a contribution of record. Please be sure to write your name on the envelope for 2024 credit.

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, DEC 8&22, JAN 10, 9:30am at Rngtn
Every SUN, 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!**

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR DECEMBER 2024

Brandonville

Altar- Carters

Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Linda Shoup

Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown

Communion Glass Usher: Tracy Laudeman

Greeters: Volunteers

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JANUARY 2025

Brandonville

Altar: Memorial Fund

Ringtown

Altar: Gail Becker, Marion Chupasco

Ushers: Laura Faust, Janice Wasser

Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

Greeters: Volunteers



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

Please send your birthday wishes to our members celebrating 90+ birthdays this month:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 12-13 Allen Stauffer, Sr.
946 Green Mountain Rd.
Zion Grove, PA 17985 | 1-16 Lois Faust
523 W. Main St.
Ringtown, PA 17967 |
| 1-18 Creta Lindenmuth
284 W. Main St.
Ringtown, PA 17967 | 1-25 Mildred Stauffer
946 Green Mountain Rd.
Zion Grove, PA 17985 |
| 1-6 Alma Gearhart
332 Zion Grove Rd.
Ringtown, PA 17967 | 1-13 Robert Trexler
224 Arch St.
Ringtown, PA 17967 |
| 1-20 Joan Medlinsky
PO Box 141
39 Village Rd. Raven Run
Lost Creek, PA 17946 | |

RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY

DEC 8&22, JAN 12&26

...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.

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND NEWS!

Pledge monies received to date: \$255,721 toward the \$300,060 goal. Please submit your pledges to help reach 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!**

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.

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 Helping Hands
"White Gifts"

St. John's Helping Hands is requesting donations of "White Gifts" wrapped in white paper and marked man or woman and contents marked on the tag (i.e. powder, slippers, socks, shirt, necklace, etc.). These gifts will be donated to the nursing homes. **Deadline: DEC 10**

RNGTN CHRISTMAS DECORATING
SAT, DEC 14, 9am

We will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.
Volunteers are needed to help decorate.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
& MEMORIALS

Signup sheets for Christmas memorials and flowers not ordered through Cerebral Palsy are on the table in the SS area at Ringtown and in the narthex at Brandonville.

Please note the use of different funds:

General: day to day operating expenses

Memorial: worship supplies (altarware, candles, paraments, linens, music, etc.)

Capital Campaign (Rngtn): toward new church building

Window Restoration (Rngtn): toward restoration of Garden of Gethsemane altar window

Endowment (Rngtn): savings for future needs

Cemetery: upkeep of cemetery

Deadline: DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

LUMINARY MEMORIALS

The Ringtown Sunday School is once again making luminaries to light on Christmas Eve. A signup sheet is on the table in the SS area if you would like to sponsor a luminary in honor or memory of someone for Christmas. Donation is \$5.00 each for Lutheran World Relief.

Deadline is DEC 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Sponsors are welcome to take the luminaries home following the Christmas Eve service.



What in the world is God doing?
How can I help?

Brandonville Union Sunday School
Christmas program
Sun, Dec 1, 4pm

...light refreshments will follow. All are welcome to attend.

SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY
ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
SAT, DEC 14, 3pm at St. John's, Rngtn

Public welcome. Free Will offering. If you would like to help with refreshments, Christmas cookies and finger foods are requested.



ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY
HOLIDAY BLESSING TREE
SAT, DEC 14...following the concert

Our Community Blessing Tree will be on the parsonage front porch and we are asking you to help fill it with blessings! We have all the supplies you will need to create an ornament to represent your blessings. Snacks, food, and hot chocolate free for all! Fun Family Event - Everyone is welcome!



CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP
DEC 24

BRANDONVILLE 7pm
RINGTOWN 10pm

Come and celebrate Christmas Eve
with carols and candlelight.

Communion opportunities
DEC 15 & JAN 19
9am-B 10:30am-R



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS SUN, JAN 26, 2025

All committee and organizational reports are due by **JAN 5, 2025** to be included in the Annual Meeting booklet. As your committee or organization is ending the year, it is a good time to think about the 2024 accomplishments achieved and your goals for 2025. Help keep our church family informed by sharing information about the purpose, activities, and accomplishments of your committee or organization. **Treasurers' books deadline for audit - JAN 10**

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.

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

So far this year we have received \$1,324 in Choice Dollars. 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, 11am-4pm and SAT, 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 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.



READERS ON THE GROW PROGRAM NOTE

Think Tank would like to remind families receiving books to please notify the church office of any address change to avoid paying a return postage fee and your child missing a book delivery.

2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2025, 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

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

12-1 4pm BUSS Christmas Program

12-8 7pm St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens

12-14 3pm Schuylkill Chorale Society Christmas concert at St. John's, Rngtn

12-14 Decorate Holiday Blessing tree following the concert

12-21 4-7pm Ringtown Library Winter Solstice Luminary Walk at the Union Township trail Luminary deadline is DEC 16 Luminary sponsorship is \$10 each

1-5-25 Annual Report committee & organization report deadline

1-10-25 Treasurers' books deadline for audit

1-12-25 Pinewood Derby

1-19-25 2pm Prayer for Christian Unity service at AMU Methodist Church

1-26-25 Annual Congregational mtgs

3-2-25 1pm Boy Scout Banquet

3-2-25 Think Tank Krispy Kreme donut sale

Fire Company Breakfast-2nd SUN, OCT-APR

Pizza Sales-3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

