

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2024**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Tracy Laudeman, Gary Williams, Bob Decusky, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Schell, Laura Faust, Joan Mensinger, Wayne Mensinger (via Teams), Sandy Hart, Jim Hart, Janice Wasser. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, Judy Rudolph, Bill Rudolph. 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 hospital visit.

He is working with Marion to keep up with church business.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Helping Hands:** Filling sale was successful. Meeting Thursday night, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.

**Sunday School:** only 2 Lindenmuth children showed up for the NOV 17<sup>th</sup> class.

**Building & Maintenance:** Walk in cooler is ready to set up. Double cooler is in the garage. The freezer is down in the basement. Joseph asked for vacation and is approved to get 4 hours pay. Big tree- had a good group of guys to help cut it down. Thank you to everyone who helped. Gary Williams repaired the leak in the parsonage. Newer refrigerator is in the parsonage basement, looking into moving it to the garage. Looking into 2 trees for Christmas, Gary Williams will check on them.

**Think Tank:** looking forward to the blessing tree DEC 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Old Business:**

They didn't pick up the garbage in the last 2 weeks, reaching out to see if we can get it for \$42 a month. We need more worship leaders. Billie Jo Grohol was approved for \$500 toward her seminary courses.

**New Business:**

12/22 service will be done with Billie Jo Grohol leading worship. Meeting with churches about possible 6261 in our area. Anyone from church council and the congregation can go on 12/11, 6-7:30pm at Christ United, Gordon. Need to look for someone to do Redners tapes. Budget Proposal was reviewed and approved.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Tracy Laudeman, acting secretary

**2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES &  
2024 CONTRIBUTOR STATEMENTS**

...on the front pew at Brndvl

...in the SS area at Rngtn

Pick yours up today. See Bob Llewellyn for Rngtn statements.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8, 2024**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Phil, Bob Fritz, Millie Krupilis, Deb Kapusnick, Donna Anthony, Pat Krupilis, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary' Report:** Approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed and sent to audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Marion is continuing to keep Pastor Phil informed. Christmas tree lighting at Nuremberg Park today at 5:30pm. All are welcome to attend. Christmas Eve services are planned, 7pm at Brandonville with Bob Fritz leading worship and 10pm at Ringtown with Ron Brown leading worship.

**Office Report:** Available for review. The Schuylkill Choral Society Ensemble Christmas concert and Blessing Tree event are this Saturday, DEC 14 at 3pm. All are welcome.

**Old Business:** Two treasurers (a treasurer and an assistant) are still needed to fill the vacancies for the General Fund. Billie Jo Grohol needs to complete 3 seminary classes as part of the Licensed Lay Minister program. Brandonville will contribute toward the 3 seminary classes.

**New Business:** Larry Grohol will provide the Christmas tree again this year. The 6261 meeting was cancelled and postponed until further notice.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer  
Marion Chupasco, acting 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



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 6, 2025**

**Council members present** were Joan Mensinger, Bruce Hart, Gary Williams, Cory Houser, Jerid Lindenmuth, Laura Faust, Wayne Mensinger, Bob Decusky, Sandy Hart, Jim Hart. Also present were Pastor Smith, Marion Chupasco, and Clarissa Geary. 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 and Marion continue to work together to keep up with the Church business.

**Office report** was reviewed.

**Committee reports:**

**Worship & Music** – Working on hymns for next round. Christmas attendance was 87.

**Building & Maintenance** – Joseph submitted 13 hours for December. He is doing a great job with snow removal, boiler draining, etc. The Council paid him his four hours vacation time. Outside spigot on the parsonage has no dedicated shut off. Gary Williams insulated spigot & taped over it. Gary showed Gail and Joseph how to use the snow blowers. Put bulbs and fixtures in oil tank room so gauges can be seen and cleaned up. Gary Williams and Gary Schell had a meeting with Casella Waste.

**Old Business:**

There were many new faces at Christmas Eve service. It was refreshing to see.

**New Business:**

We need an audit date to audit the books. Jim Hart is going to take care of the refrigerator in the garage.

Election of new 2025 officers:

Wayne Mensinger President  
Bob Decusky- Vice President  
Jerid Lindenmuth- Secretary  
Bruce Hart- Treasurer

Church Council Appointed positions:

Clarissa Geary - Maintenance & Improvement-  
Building Fund treasurer  
Shirley Troy - Memorial Fund treasurer  
Ann Brown- Endowment Fund treasurer  
Bob Llewellyn- Financial Secretary

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

**“SOUPER BOWL”  
FOR WORLD HUNGER  
SUN, FEB 9**

If you would like to make a donation to World Hunger for “Souper Bowl”, write your name and “Souper Bowl World Hunger Offering” on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 7, 2025**

**Members in attendance:** Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Pat Krupilis, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

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

**Treasurer's Report:** A verbal report was given by Bob Fritz. Treasurer's reports were sent to audit.

**Pastor's Report:** The Christmas tree lighting went well. March 5th is Ash Wednesday. Pastor Phil thanked Marion for all her assistance.

**Office Report:** Available for review. The Seder meal will be held the Sunday prior to Palm Sunday on 04/06/2025.

**Old Business:** The Christmas Eve service went well. We are still in need of a General Fund treasurer and an assistant.

**New Business: Proposed Budget for 2025:** 27,423.28\$. Billie Jo Grohol will be conducting some services for both Brandonville and Ringtown. We have supply pastors scheduled for 01/19, 02/09, and 02/23. **Audit Committee:** The audit committee will be Marie Clark and Heather Fritz.

**Election of Officers:**

President office is vacant  
Vice President: Bob Fritz  
Secretary: Marie Clark  
The treasurer office remains vacant.

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 usher 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

**FEB 9, MAR 9, APR 13, MAY 11, 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 FEB 9 & 23, MAR 9 & 23, 9:15am

...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.

### HELPING HANDS MEETING SUN, FEB 16, 3pm

### HELPING HANDS SOUP SALE SAT, FEB 22, pickup 12-2pm

...in the fellowship hall. \$9/quart order deadline: FEB 16  
Chicken Noodle, Vegetable Beef,  
Ham & Bean, Italian Wedding  
Order form is available on the SS area table or see any Helping Hands member to order.



### WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

**Brandonville**  
Altar: Carol Austra

**Ringtown**  
Altar: Laura Faust, Nancy Stauffer  
Ushers: Smokey & Linda Shoup  
Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

### KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE MAR 2

...sponsored by St. John’s, Rngtn Think Tank Readers on the Grow program. Watch for more details.

**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.

### 2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

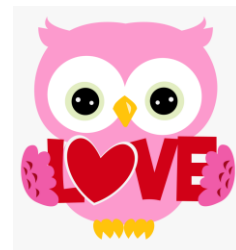
...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2025, please specify which one you are providing, flowers or bulletins.  
Bulletin prices: regular Sundays \$5.00-B \$10.00-R  
Christmas & Easter festivals \$10.00-B \$20.00-R

### RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!

**Pledge monies received to date: \$267,141 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!

### 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?

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.

## HEATING FUND ENVELOPES

Your donations in this envelope will be used to help defray the rising cost of heating the church building during the winter months. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2-16 order deadline for 2-22, 12-2pm Helping Hands soup sale pickup  
3-2 1pm Boy Scout Banquet Think Tank Krispy Kreme donut sale  
4-6 BUSS Seder  
5-20 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales  
6-4 Mr. Sticky sticky bun sale  
6-7 BUSS Knoebels day  
7-18,19,20 Library Book Sale 7-19 Yard Sale Day  
8-15&16 4-9pm 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Social  
9-9 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner  
Fire Company Breakfast-3rd SUN, OCT-APR  
Pizza Sales-3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

## FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS HELPING HARVEST

2<sup>nd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11 am at Ringtown  
3<sup>rd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11 am, 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 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.**

