

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

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

Treasurer reports were reviewed and filed for audit. Several CD's were discussed.

Pastor's report: Pastor Smith and Marion continue to work together to keep up with Church business. Pastor Smith visited a member in Shenandoah Manor. Drive by Ashes on Ash Wednesday set for March 5th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Building & Maintenance – Joseph and Gail conducted snow removal and other basic work around the church. Bob Decusky ordered bags of salt.

Sunday School – Down to just one Sunday a month. Easter Egg hunt is to be scheduled.

Old Business:

Garbage issue resolved.

New Business:

A letter from Bob Llewellyn was read by Jerid Lindenmuth about Bob resigning from the Building Committee and his position as Financial Recorder. ROCK CD was discussed. We will hand out some of the newsletters in church instead of mailing them out to save on postage.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Jerid Lindenmuth, 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 FEBRUARY 4, 2025**

Members in attendance: Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Millie Krupilis, Donna Anthony, Ann Layton, Marion Chupasco

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Available for review and sent to audit.)

Pastor's Report: Marion continues to work with Pastor Phil. He visited a member at Shenandoah Manor when he led worship services there. Pastor Phil is working on his Lenten Midweek theme. We will once again offer "drive by" imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday at Brandonville and Ringtown.

Office Report: Available for review

Old Business: Handrail, door opening, and water problem around ramp still to be addressed.

New Business: We will try putting the newsletter out for pickup at church before mailing out to try and save on postage. Those receiving their newsletter by email will remain the same. Discussed sending out "missed you" cards.

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

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

**REMEMBER YOUR
CHURCH DURING LENT**



ASH WEDNESDAY – WED, MAR 5

Pastor Phil will provide drive by Imposition of Ashes at both churches.
 12:30pm at Rngtn by the pavilion
 1:30pm at Brndvl by the crossroad (Park Ave. & 4th Blvd)
 Have your car window open to receive ashes.
 Please consider offering a ride to someone who may want to attend.



LENTEN SELF DENIAL ENVELOPES

Write your name and “My Lenten World Hunger Offering” on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or on Easter Sunday.

2025 LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, 7pm
Mt. Zion, Zion Grove Emmanuel, Nuremberg
Sent Into Lent

- MAR 5 - Ash Wednesday - Emmanuel
- MAR 12 - Wednesday - Mt. Zion - Abram
- MAR 19 - Wednesday - Emmanuel - Joseph
- MAR 26 - Wednesday - Mt. Zion - Jonah
- APR 2 - Wednesday - Emmanuel - Ruth
- APR 9 - Wednesday - Mt. Zion - Isaiah

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- APR 13 - Passion/Palm Sunday w/Palm Procession
 9am-Brndvl 10:30am-Rngtn
- APR 17 - Maundy Thursday - Emmanuel - 7pm
- APR 18 - Good Friday Parish Worship - Mt. Zion - 7pm
- APR 20 - The Resurrection of Our Lord
 9am at Brndvl 10:30am at Rngtn

EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Please mail or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to place a donation in honor or memory of someone for Easter. Mail to: St. John’s Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Signup sheets are also available.

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: APR 13 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, APR 13, for a special benevolence appeal. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or mailed to the church office. Your donations will supplement our annual Synod Benevolence commitment. Envelopes are also available on the SS area table at Rngtn and in the entry way at Brndvl and by bulletins.

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.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS...

are by the bulletins and on the counter at Brndvl and on the SS area table and by the bulletins at Rngtn. Please note the early deadline of **MAR 23**. They were also mailed out in the February APOSTLE.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, MAR 9, APR 13, MAY 11, 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!**

RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY

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.

KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE

MAR 2 order pickup

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

RINGTOWN FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

SUN, MAR 16

...following worship. Menu: Chicken Noodle Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, and build your own sandwich. Dessert is a brownie Sundae. Donations for the food pantry are requested. We will have a short presentation on the Food Pantry and some games. A signup sheet is available, but no one will be turned away.

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.

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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR MARCH 2025

Brandonville

Ringtown

Altar: Janene Ferrara, Deb Shoup

Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams

Communion Glass Usher: Volunteer

HELPING HANDS

PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

SAT, APR 26, pickup 4:30-6:30pm
\$11 Takeout only

pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, dessert
Funds raised to benefit the kitchen in the new building. Tickets available from any Helping Hands member or the church office beginning MAR 23. **Ticket deadline: APR 20**

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.

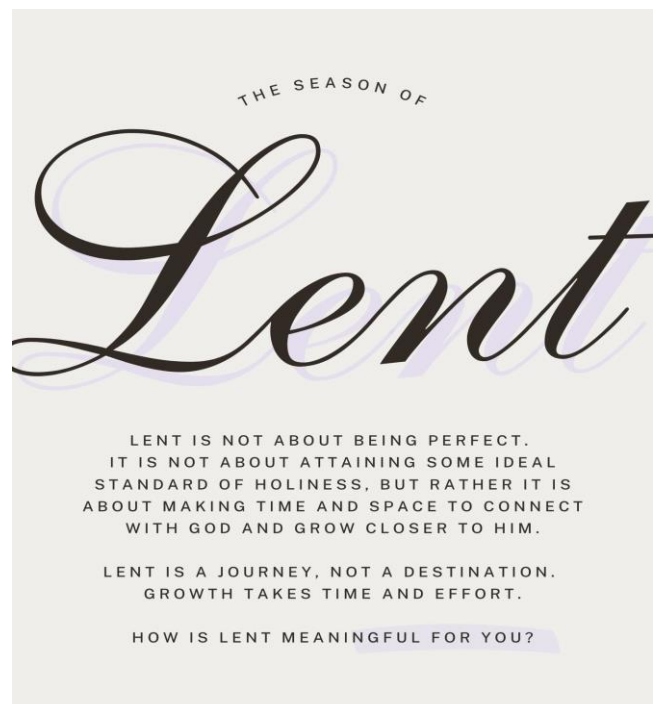
Bulletin prices: regular Sundays \$5.00-B \$10.00-R

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!



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

3-2 Think Tank Krispy Kreme donut order pickup
3-2 1pm Boy Scout Banquet
3-6 2-7pm Rotary blood drive at AMUMC
4-2 St. Mary's Shoo-fly pie \$9 or crust \$3 order deadline for 4-8 pickup, 10am-12noon Call 570-889-3850 to order.
4-5 10am-noon St. Paul's Chili pickup
4-6 BUSS Seder
4-10 3-6pm Rotary Kauffman's chicken bbq drive thru pickup
4-26 4:30-6:30pm Helping Hands Pork & Sauerkraut dinner
5-1 2-7pm Rotary blood drive at AMUMC
5-18 5-7pm St Paul's Ice Cream Social
5-20 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales
5-29 10am Annual Ascension Day Service at the Old White Church
6-4 Mr. Sticky sticky bun sale
6-7 BUSS Knoebels day
7-13 4-7pm AMUMC Strawberry Social
7-18,19,20 Library Book Sale 7-19 Yard Sale Day
8-3 AMUMC 155th Anniversary
8-10 4-7pm AMUMC Peach Social
8-15&16 4-9pm 26th Annual Town Social
8-24 Rotary Pig Roast at twp bldg.
9-3 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Dinner
9-4 2-7pm Rotary blood drive at AMUMC
Fire Company Breakfast-3rd SUN, OCT-APR
Pizza Sales-3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

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.

SPREAD
kindness
*** WHEREVER**
you go
