

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

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

Treasurer report was reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Smith continues working with Marion on church business. Emmanuel Church will be holding a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday March 22nd and Mt. Zion a hoagie sale on March 30th.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School: There will be an Easter Egg hunt to be held on April 13th.

Building and Maintenance: Joseph worked 22 hours. Most of it was for snow removal. Discussed property concerns and new building project. Parsonage oil tank was checked. The organ will be serviced this week.

Helping Hands: Pork & Saurkraut dinner is set for April. There will also be an upcoming hoagie sale in May.

Old Business

Money Market was discussed. The Financial Recorder was discussed.

New Business

We have supply pastors for the upcoming months. The LLM program was discussed. The Synod reports were sent in. Gary Schell wants to know if the parsonage garden will be tilled. Jerid or Cory have volunteered to do the tilling.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2025

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

Secretary's Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: No report available.

Pastor's Report: Marion and Pastor Phil continue to work together. Midweek Lenten schedule was sent to Marion. It was included in the March newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins. Drive by Imposition of Ashes will be held on Ash Wednesday 12:30pm Ringtown and 1:30pm Brandonville. An evening service is also available at 7pm at Emmanuel, Nuremberg. Emmanuel is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner at the Nuremberg-Weston firehouse on March 22 and Mt. Zion has a Hoagie Sale on March 30th. Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 30-31.

Office Report: Available for review

Old Business: Handrail, door opening, and water problem around ramp still to be addressed. Newsletters were put out by the offering envelopes to pickup, and then the leftovers were mailed.

New Business: February 9th services were cancelled due to icy parking lots at Brandonville and Ringtown. The wooden Cross was put out for Lent. Questions were raised concerning the LLM program. A motion was made to approve Georgette Herring as the treasurer and to be supported by Heather Fritz as assistant. Bob Fritz would be the third signature on the account. They will make arrangements to go to the bank and add their names to the accounts.

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

Remember your church at Easter...



A yellow rectangular card with a black cross icon and the text "Easter HE IS RISEN" in a mix of fonts. Below the title, it says "TITHE & OFFERING". At the bottom, there are fields for "NAME", "ADDRESS", "CITY", "STATE", "ZIP", and "GIVING AMOUNT \$". There are also checkboxes for "CASH" and "CHECK".



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**

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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, 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

APR 6 & 27, MAY 11 9:15am

...in the nursery room. We will meet twice a month and will discuss “Seamless”, beginning with the Old Testament. See Laura Faust for more information. High School to Adults welcome.

**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**

**ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE
TUE, MAY 20**

...11am-5pm at St. John's, Brandonville, sponsored by the Brandonville Union Sunday School (pre-ordered pints & quarts of soup available)
...11am-5pm at St. John's, Ringtown, sponsored by St. John's Helping Hands
Your donations of baked goods will be appreciated. In addition to baked goods, soup, hot dogs, BBQ, and other luncheons items will be available.

**ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH
THR, MAY 29, 10am**

**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 APRIL 2025

Brandonville

Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Linda Shoup

Ushers: Joan Mensinger, Tracy Laudeman

Communion Glass Usher: Jim Hart

Greeters: Volunteers



**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES
SUN, MAY 11**

If you know any member who is graduating or has graduated from high school, college, or other schools during the year, please contact the church office with their name so they can be included in this year's recognition.

RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!

Pledge monies received to date: \$270, 272 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!

2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

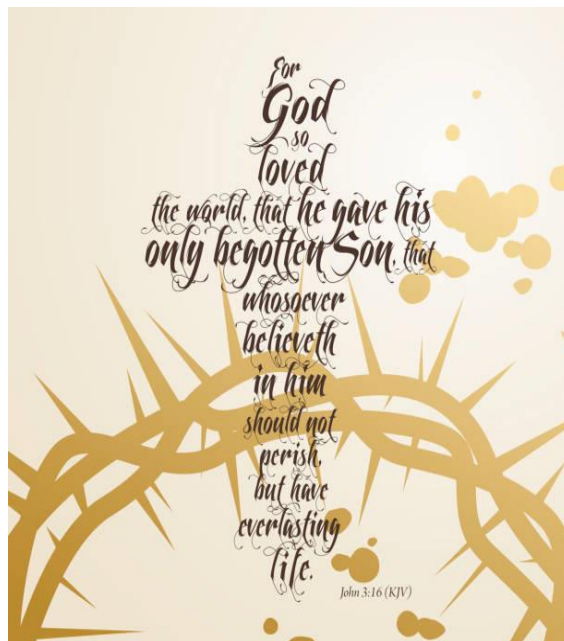
...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2025, please specify which one you are providing, flowers or bulletins.

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

Christmas & Easter festivals \$10.00-B \$20.00-R

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!



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

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
4-8 1pm FREE PROGRAM: "Kidney Health" at Sr. Citizens
4-10 3-6pm Rotary Kauffman's chicken bbq drive thru pickup
4-13 Easter Egg Hunt
4-26 4:30-6:30pm Helping Hands Pork & Sauerkraut dinner
5-1 2-7pm Rotary blood drive at AMUMC
5-7 Helping Hands Hoagie Sale
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
5-30-31 Synod Assembly at Christ Hamilton
Lutheran Church, Stroudsburg
6-4 Mr. Sticky sticky bun sale
6-7 BUSS Knoebels day
6-21 The Loop, Ringtown Library
7-13 4-7pm AMUMC Strawberry Social
7-18,19,20 Library Book Sale 7-19 Yard Sale Day
7-26: Ringtown Library Softball Tournament
7-27 St. John's Chicken BBQ
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
10-4 11:30am-2pm Annual Soup Sale
10-19 St. John's Chicken BBQ
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.

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.

