

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

Council Members present were Bruce Hart, Gary Williams, Joan Mensinger, Wayne Mensinger, Jerid Lindenmuth, Bob Decusky, Jewel Tuberty, Pastor Michelle, and Laura Rusinko. Also present were Marion Chupasco and Clarissa Geary. The meeting opened with Wayne Mensinger reading the devotions.

Treasurer reports were reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Worship services - 3 Sunday Services, Bible Studies 2, Funeral services 2, Meetings: 6 Councils (2) Goals (2) Selling/renting parsonage (1) Helping Hands (1), Meetings with other pastors - 1 North of the Mountain Youth Group met 10/19, attended a viewing. Racial Justice Team 1, Breakfast with Bible, Lunch with pastor, Fellowship meal, Brandonville Union SS Halloween Party, Visits - home, hospital, etc. 16, Church Council goal meeting: Ringtown Identity Statement "We are St John's Church Ringtown and we are the hub of the community where everyone is welcome in God's love." 3 Goals: 1. To connect with and provide hospitality for at least one community group 2. To meet the needs of at least 3 groups of people who may not come to church otherwise. 3. To declutter once a year, so that everyone can find what they need.

Committee Reports:

Helping Hands- 27 people attended fellowship luncheon. The next one November 30th with Christmas theme.

Think Tank- Meeting this Thursday to discuss the blessing tree.

Building Committee- Wayne received revised prints. Discussed sprinkler system. Organ serviced on Oct. 29th. Discussed servicing parsonage furnace. Fire extinguishers checked.

Worship & Music- Starting rehearsals for Christmas.

Sunday School- attendance improving, 6 kids came last Sunday.

Town Social- Jerid got two quotes for the tickets.

Old Business:

The total profit for the Chicken BBQ was around \$2,000. Church council goal meeting went well. We will say the identity/mission statement at the end of every service. The goals are set to be met by December of 2026. Options were discussed about selling and not selling the parsonage. Gary Bob, and Wayne are going to another seminar dealing with cemeteries, parsonages, and other church property issues.

New Business

Elections were discussed. Joint budget meeting with Brandonville, will be Nov. 18th or Nov. 20th at 6:30pm. Discussed updating some church policies and job descriptions. Discussed ways to help those in need who do not qualify for the local Food Pantry. We are going to try and set up a church pantry in the nursery room. A 2-3 person committee will be formed to run it. Pastor Michelle will meet with the committee and discuss how to proceed and ways to distribute to families and individuals in need of food help. Bags will be distributed to congregational members by children who come forward for the children's sermon. A list of requested nonperishable food and personal care items will be announced each week. Joan and Laura will look into some potential donors and help set up the pantry. There may be other sources of food we can look into.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Members In Attendance: Pastor Michelle Beissel, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Ann Marie Layton, Donna Anthony, Georgette Herring, Pat Krupilis, Marion Chupasco

Devotional: Pastor Michelle offered a prayer and read from 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 6. She read a brief story about working as a team.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read.

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

Pastor's Report: Worship services 3, Bible studies 2, Funerals 2, Meetings 6 (councils 2, goals 2, selling/renting parsonage 1, Helping Hands 1, Meetings with other pastors 1, North of the Mountain Youth Group 10/19/2025, (unable to attend, she went to a viewing), Racial Justice meeting 1, Breakfast with Bible, Lunch with pastor, Fellowship meal, Brandonville Sunday School Halloween party, Visits (home, hospital, etc.) 16, Wedding 1

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Hospitality Walk: The walk was completed. The participants noticed different information at different places. People's first impressions are important. Seeing a lot of clutter could be impactful on their first impression. The walk through participants discussed the upstairs area.

Ideas were discussed to make our area more parent/child friendly. We want the Sunday School to be involved with any discussions. **Identification Statement:** The statement will be displayed in the bulletin and we will say it at the end of every service. **Brandonville Mission Statement:** We are St. John's Brandonville where God accepts you as you are and so do we.

Goals: 1. Project: Slides to be displayed during the service to make it easier to follow the service. Items needed screen/large print. **2. Hospitality:** By December 2026 everyone coming to our church will feel welcome within the first three minutes of arrival. Previously we had greeters at the front door. We will explore the possibility of motion lights at the corners of the church to illuminate the entrances. We want people to feel comfortable upon arrival to our church. **3. People's Needs:** We need to know and meet the needs of at least 60% of people. We need to try to meet the needs of children. Possibly a prayer ground. A space for children to be. We could have sensory toys available for them. **Articles of Incorporation:** still being worked on. **Altar Ware:** The altar vases were polished and look much better. We will address having the cross and candle holders polished as well.

New Business: Church Council Elections: Potential names were discussed to fill 2 vacancies. **Proposed Budget 2026:** to be prepared for December meeting. We will attend a joint meeting with Ringtown to discuss shared expenses on Tuesday 11/18, 6:30pm. **Policies:** We will need to review/update policies. Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) a job description will be needed.

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

Remember your church this month...



2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Term ending 2026	Term ending DEC 2026
Jim Hart	Vacancy
Sandi Hart	Georgette Herring
Jerid Lindenmuth	Vacancy
Wayne Mensinger	Term ending DEC 2027
Term ending 2027	Donna Anthony
Bob Decusky	Millie Krupilis
Laura Rusinko	Ann Layton
Bruce Hart	Term ending DEC 2028
Tracy Laudeman	Marie Clark
Term ending DEC 2028	Bob Fritz
Joan Mensinger	Pat Krupilis
Jewel Tuberty	
Janice Wasser	
Gary Williams	



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, 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!**

2025 OFFERING NOTE...All 2025 offering envelopes received after DEC 31 will be included on the 2026 contributor statements.

2025 COMMUNING & CONTRIBUTING

RECORDS... Don't forget to fill out a communion card of record for 2025. 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 2025 credit.

2025-2026 WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

The new communion assistant, communion breadbaker, greeter, and lay reader signup sheets are on the SS area table. If you signed up for any of these volunteer opportunities on the Time & Talent forms, please choose the day or month you would like to volunteer and add your name to the appropriate signup sheet. YOU MAKE OUR MINISTRY HAPPEN!

RINGTOWN ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every SUN, 9:45am We will be preparing for our upcoming Advent-Christmas worship and you are invited to join us and share your voice in this special choir.



BIBLE STUDY

**MON, DEC 1, 8, 15, 11am at Rngtn
JAN 5,12,19,26**

Bring your bible and a bag lunch or snack and join Pastor Michelle for a bible study about "the Bad Girls of the Bible". See Pastor Michelle for more information. All are welcome.

"Seamless"

**BIBLE STUDY
SUN, DEC 7 & 14**

...9am in the nursery room. We will meet twice a month and continue discussing "Seamless". See Laura Rusinko for more information. High School to Adults welcome.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE

**SAT, DEC 6 & JAN 10, 9am
at the Dutch Kitchen in Frackville.**

Bring your bible. See Pastor Michelle for more information. Watch your bulletin for the next location.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

**WED, DEC 10 & JAN 14, 12noon
at Rngtn Luna's Pizza**

See Pastor Michelle for more information.

"NORTH OF THE MOUNTAIN" YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

The Lutheran Churches have formed a "North of the Mountain" youth group for kids 5th grade and up. The youth group will move meeting sites. 12-6, Pizza & movie at St. John's, Rngtn. Watch for upcoming activities.

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**

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS- SUN, JAN 25, 2026

All committee and organizational reports are due by **JAN 5, 2026** 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 2025 accomplishments achieved and your goals for 2026. 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



Brandonville Union Sunday School Christmas program Sun, Dec 7, 4pm

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

SCHUYLKILL CHORAL SOCIETY ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUN, 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 SUN, 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 RINGTOWN 2pm BRANDONVILLE 7pm RINGTOWN 10pm

Come and celebrate Christmas Eve with carols and candlelight.





CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

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

1-13 Robert Trexler
224 Arch St.
Ringtown, PA 17967

1-14 Lois Faust
523 W. Main St.
Ringtown, PA 17967

1-18 Creta Lindenmuth
284 W. Main St.
Ringtown, PA 17967

1-20 Joan Medlinsky
PO Box 141
39 Village Rd. Raven Run
Lost Creek, PA 17946

ST JOHN'S, RNGTN FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS

St. John's, Rngtn is in the process of setting up a food pantry for those who **do not qualify** for the local food pantry. Your help is needed to help stock our pantry by filling our reusable blue bag with the list of items requested. Bags will be handed out on Sunday to be returned next Sunday and then refilled for the next week. Your help is appreciated to provide this outreach ministry to others.

SOCIAL MINISTRY PERSONAL CARE PROJECT

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting travel size personal care products to be distributed by the Servants to All homeless shelter. Items requested: shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, small bar soap

**LA CASITA DE FAMILIA RESTAURANT
GIFT CERTIFICATE 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.

CAMPUS & SERVICE ADDRESS UPDATES

If you know of any member who is attending school away from home or in the service, please notify the church office with their address so they can be included on our mailing list. This is a way to keep our young adults up to date with news and happenings in their church family.



WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR DECEMBER 2025

Brandonville

Altar- Carters, Hornbergers

Ringtown

Altar: Linda Shoup, Judy Llewellyn
Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown
Communion Glasses: Volunteer
Greeters: Volunteers

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JANUARY 2025

Brandonville

Altar: Memorial Fund

Ringtown

Altar: Gail Becker, Marion Chupasco
Ushers: Bob & Judy Llewellyn
Communion Glasses: Jewel Tuberty
Greeters: Volunteers

HEATING FUND ENVELOPES

...are on the pews for your use. 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. Church Council thanks and appreciates your help to meet our heating expenses.

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.

YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET

The YSC shop is open TUE & THR from 11am to 4pm, and SAT from 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 570-497-9977. Like their Facebook page for events, news and YSC updates!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

12-6 5pm North of the Mountain Youth Group
pizza & movie at St. John's, Rg
12-7 4pm BUSS Christmas program
12-7 7pm St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens
12-14 3pm Schuylkill Choral Society Ensemble Christmas concert
at St. John's
12-14 Decorate Holiday Blessing tree following the concert
12-21 Ringtown Library Luminary Walk
1-17&18-26 Boy Scout Pinewood Derby SAT setup SUN derby
1-18-26 2pm Prayer for Christian Unity service at St. John's, Rngtn
3-7 & 8-26 Blue & Gold Boy Scout banquet
SAT setup SUN 1pm banquet
7-6-26 Boy Scouts Rain Gutter Regatta
8-(21,22)-26 27th Town Social
Fire Company Breakfast-3rd SUN, OCT-APR
Pizza Sales-3rd FRI,OCT-MAY

BOXTOPS, SOUP, & TYSON PROJECT A+ LABELS FOR EDUCATION...The Box Tops for

Education program is going digital with a new mobile app which will allow parents to scan their store receipt and earn money for their kiddo's school! To earn Box Tops, just purchase products with the new Box Tops label, scan your receipt with the new Box Tops app (for iTunes or Google Play) and earn 10¢ per participating product. After the receipt is scanned, money will automatically be added to your school's earnings online. Note that **your receipts must be scanned within 14 days of purchase** but you can scan 50 receipts per day, per registered account. The mobile app will also allow you to track your contributions as well as your school's running total...at Rngtn for North Schuylkill Elementary and at Brndvl for Valley Elementary.

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!



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.

2026 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2026, 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, 9-11 am at Ringtown

3rd SAT of month, 9-11 am, 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.

