

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 1, 2025**

Council Members present: Jewel Tuberty, Bob Decusky, Cory Houser, Laura Rusinko, Gary Williams, Bruce Hart. Tracy Laudeman, Also present were Pastor Michelle, Marion Chupasco, and Clarissa Geary. The meeting opened with Bob reading devotions. Minutes from last month's meeting were read and approved with one correction.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: (4) worship services, (1) Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Breakfast with Hazleton/Leighton Pastors, Recorded sermon for Synod for 4th Sunday of Advent, Assisted Christ's United with Goals for FLA, (3) Bible Studies, (2) Church council meetings, (1) Think Tank Meeting, (1) Food Pantry, North of the Mountain Youth Group Baking, (1) Racial Justice Team, (1) Breakfast with the Bible, (1) Lunch with the Pastor, (1) Fellowship meal, (14) Home/Institutional visits, (1) Wedding Julia and Autumn.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Food Pantry: Lots of donations are coming in. We also received a \$250.00 Thrivent Card to purchase items. It was decided the parsonage will be used to store the items and for distribution. The pantry will be open the 1st Saturday of the month from 9-11. Next meeting is scheduled for the week of December 8th.

Sunday School: There are currently 11 children enrolled. For the next 3 Sundays it will be open to the congregation as they are making luminaries.

Helping Hands: Fellowship luncheon was on November 30th and served 28 people. If people would like to come they really need to sign up prior to the dinner so enough food is available. Helping Hands is donating \$13,500 towards the Capital Campaign.

Worship and Music: They picked hymns until the middle of January.

Old Business:

Bob Decusky and Gary Williams attended a parsonage and cemetery meeting at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven.

New Business:

2026 budget was reviewed. Two identical Christmas trees were purchased for the sanctuary since finding trees has become increasingly difficult. The trees will be placed on the wish list for anyone looking to donate. We will finish decorating on Dec 13th at 9:00. Sponsored Kyle and Julianna Miller to attend winter Bear Creek Camp with funds from the Bear Creek Camp account. Pastor Michelle requested vacation the week between Christmas and New Year. Joseph Becker requested vacation from Dec 21st to Dec 28th. The parsonage furnace was serviced. The new building and parsonage were discussed. A list of expenses that must be done on the parsonage will be compiled. We thank Cory Houser for his years of service serving on council.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Laura Rusinko, acting Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2, 2025**

Cancelled due to snow and ice.



**2026 RINGTOWN 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!**

PASTOR MICHELLE'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours: MON 12-2:30pm THR 10am-12noon
She will also be in the office at other times and also by appointment. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Michelle 570-452-7866

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 5, 2026**

Council Members present: Bruce Hart, Jewel Tuberty, Bob Decusky, Gary Williams, Tracy Laudeman, Jim Hart, Sandi Hart. Also present were Pastor Michelle, Marion Chupasco, and Clarissa Geary. The meeting opened with Jewel reading devotions. First order of business was election of officers: President: Bob Decusky, Vice President: Wayne Mensinger, Secretary: Jerid Lindenmuth, Treasurer: Bruce Hart All nominees elected. Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed and filed for audit.

Pastor's report: Worship services - 4 (one online) 2 in person (1) Vacation, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Eve 2- 7 & 10pm, Bible Study (2), Recorded Sermon for Synod for January 12, Meetings : (3) Councils (2) Food Pantry, North of the Mountain Youth Group Pizza and movie, Breakfast with the Bible, Lunch with the pastor, Visits - home, hospital, etc. 28

Office report was reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Helping Hands: Will meet to pick a date for the Soup Sale and consider a possible signup sheet for food item donations to keep the cost of soup at \$9 a quart.

Sunday School: Due to the weather, did not have children attend.

Think Tank: Blessing Tree event went well having it after worship. Krispy Kreme donut sale will take place in February the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

Old Business:

The piano was tuned. Food Pantry preparations and donations are going well with great response from the congregation. They hope to be open in February. Jeff Ziolk is checking into donations from different food stores. Parsonage – Wayne talked to Dennison to check on a list of repair expenses to present at the Annual Meeting. A survey may be needed as an added expense.

New Business:

Treasurer deadline for reports and books to audit is Saturday, January 10. Audit is set for Monday, January 12 at 6pm. A request for auditors will be announced in the bulletin on Sunday. Robert Guigley, son of our former pastor, Walter H. Guigley, would like to look through the parsonage before moving out of the area. A winter weather policy was discussed. Discussed purchasing a salt spreader with rubber tires to use for sidewalks and icy spots in the parking lot. Mission Statement was discussed.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
Marion Chupasco, acting secretary



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 6, 2026**

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

Devotional: Pastor Michelle read from Ephesians.

Secretary' Report: Was approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: worship services: 4 (one online), one week vacation, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Eve services (Ringtown 2:00 p.m., Brandonville 7:00 p.m., and Ringtown 10:00 p.m.), attended the BUSS Christmas program, Bible studies 2, recorded a sermon for the Synod for January 12th, **meetings:** councils 3, food pantry, North of the Mountain youth group (pizza and a movie), breakfast with the Bible, lunch with the pastor, **visits:** home/hospital etc. 28

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: The Christmas Eve services went well. They were well attended. The articles of incorporation continue to be a work in progress. Pastor Michelle will be meeting with the individuals assisting with the process. Bob Fritz is working on getting the remaining altar pieces finished/polished.

New Business: Election of officers: The secretary cast a ballot to keep the officers as they are. The audit committee will be Marie Clark and Bob Fritz. Proposed Budget: Sunday school 7200.00\$ (600.00\$/month), NEPS 5800.00\$ (1450.00\$ quarterly), organist 850.00\$, shared expenses 21,000.00\$, miscellaneous 500.00\$

2025 budget 27,423.28\$ 2026 proposed budget 35,350.00\$ We need to vote on the wedding policy. Pastor Michelle will have meetings/informal discussions for the congregation. We will need to advertise this in the bulletin for two Sundays. Pastor Michelle will need to review the previous process. We have received an artificial Christmas tree. January 11, 2026 is the Sunday to celebrate Jesus' baptism. The midweek Lenten services are approaching. We will be doing soup & sandwich starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by the service at 7:00 p.m.

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



2026 COMMUNING & CONTRIBUTING

RECORDS... Don't forget to fill out a communion card of record for 2026. 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 2026 credit.



2026
ASH WEDNESDAY
HOLY COMMUNION
w/IMPOSITION OF ASHES
WED, FEB 18
 12noon at Rngtn 7pm at Brndvl

Pastor Michelle will also provide drive by Imposition of Ashes at both churches.

1:30pm at Rngtn by the pavilion
 2:30pm 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.



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Midweek worship following this schedule:
 6pm Soup & Sandwich
 7pm Worship
 FEB 25, MAR 11, & 25 at Rngtn
 MAR 4 & 18 at Brndvl

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUN, MAR 29 - Passion Palm Sunday Holy Communion
 & Procession with Palms 9am-B 10:30am-R
 THR, APR 2 - Maundy Thursday Communion
 12noon & 7pm at Rngtn
 FRI, APR 3 - 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae at Brndvl
 SUN, APR 5 - The Resurrection of Our Lord
 Holy Communion
 6 am-R 9am-B 10:30am-R

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.

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 1**. They were also mailed out in this February APOSTLE.

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: MAR 29 to be included in the Easter bulletin.

SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, MAR 29, 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 the 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, 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!**

“SOUPER BOWL” FOR WORLD HUNGER SUN, FEB 8

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.

BIBLE STUDY MON, FEB 2, 9, 23 11am at Rngtn

Bring your bible and a bag lunch or snack and join Pastor Michelle for a bible study. See Pastor Michelle for more information. All are welcome.

“Seamless” BIBLE STUDY SUN, FEB 8 & 22

...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.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR WED, FEB 4, 12noon at Rngtn Luna's Pizza

See Pastor Michelle for more information.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE SAT, FEB 7, 9am at the Dutch Kitchen in Frackville.

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

“NORTH OF THE MOUNTAIN” YOUTH GROUP

The Lutheran Churches have formed a “North of the Mountain” youth group for kids 5th grade and up. Watch for upcoming activities. **Next meeting is SUN, FEB 1, 6-7pm at Rngtn.**

KRISPY KREME DONUT SALE pickup FEB 15

...sponsored by St. John's, Rngtn Think Tank Readers on the Grow program. Signup sheets are on the SS area table.

Cost: \$12 doz glazed or 1/2 doz specialty Coffee \$10/bag
Order Deadline: FEB 10

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 this Sunday to be returned next Sunday and then refilled for the next week. Your help is appreciated to provide this outreach ministry to others.

Items requested this week: spaghetti sauce, pasta, ramen noodles, cup of soup, rice, individual applesauce & pudding

HELPING HANDS SOUP SALE SAT, FEB 28, pickup 12-2pm

The Helping Hands Annual Soup Sale is FEB 28th. **Order deadline is FEB 21st.** In an effort to keep the price affordable at last year's price, \$9 per quart, we are placing a donation wish list on the table in the back of the church. If you are able to help it would be greatly appreciated!

Helping Hands mtg: 2-22, 6pm

HELPING HANDS DATES

- 2-28 Annual Soup Sale
- 3-11, 9-11am Spring Cleaning
- 3-22, 4-12, 5-17, 10-18, 11-15 Fellowship Lunch
- 4-25 Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner
- 5-6 Spring Hoagie Sale
- 5-19 Primary Election Food Sale
- 7-14, 9-11am Organize for Yard Sale
- 7-18, 8am-5pm Ringtown Yard Sale
- 7-25 Hart Anniversary Dinner
- 8-21&22 Town Social
- 9-16 Fall Hoagie Sale
- 10-3&4 Smokey Hollow Fall Festival
- 11-3 Election Day Food Sale

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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Brandonville

Altar: Carol Austra

Ringtown

Altar: Donna Rakus, Laura Rusinko

Ushers: Smokey & Linda Shoup

Communion Glasses: Bob Decusky

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.

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.

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!

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.

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

2-1 Your Sister's Closet Sweet sale order deadline for pickup

2-8 after 10am worship at AMUMC 2-10&12, 11am-4pm at YSC

2-10 Krispy Kreme donut order deadline for 2-15 pickup

2-21 Helping Hands Soup order deadline for 2-28 pickup 12-2pm

3-1 St. Paul's Chilli order deadline for 3-28 pickup 10am-noon

\$11/quart 570-889-3494 570-590-9572

3-7 & 8-26 Blue & Gold Boy Scout banquet

SAT setup SUN 1pm banquet

4-25 St. John's Pork & Sauerkraut dinner

5-6 St. John's Hoagie Sale

5-19 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

11am-sellout at B 11am-2pm at R

7-6-Boy Scouts Rain Gutter Regatta

7-17,18,19 Rngtn Library Book Sale at Sr. Citizen bldg.

7-18 Rngtn Library Yard Sale Day

8-(21,22) 27th Town Social

9-16 St. John's Hoagie Sale

11-3 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

11am-sellout at B 11am-2pm at R

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!