

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

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

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

Pastor's report: Worship services – (4) 2 online 2 in person, Racial Justice Team meeting, Day of prayer, Bible Study 1, Recorded Sermon for Synod (January 23), Meetings : (4) councils, Helping Hands, worship and music, Breakfast with the Bible, Lunch with the pastor, Visits - home, hospital, etc. 7, 3 other meetings (family etc)

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Sunday School – When weather was good there was a good attendance. The kids are happy.

Worship & Music – Hymns picked until after Easter. Theme picked for midweek Lenten services with meal before.

Helping Hands – An \$875 profit was made off the Spaghetti meal. A meeting will be held Feb. 22.

Town Social – Jerid and Jenna Lindenmuth will donate Town Social tickets. Entertainment discussed.

Old Business:

Food pantry being set up in the parsonage. Several donations were received because of letters sent out. Audit is complete and went well. Annual meeting reviewed.

New Business:

We got an estimate for parsonage repairs. There was further discussion on selling the parsonage. It was now thought that it might be a good idea to keep it since we are using it for food pantry and storage purposes. Emergency protocol was established by Marion and Pastor Michelle. It was read during council and approved. An All Call system was discussed and is being looked into by Pastor Michelle who is familiar with this type of system. The annual meeting went well. Bob Decusky handled all rumors about the selling of the parsonage professionally and appropriately. A salt spreader was purchased.

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



**Remember your
church during Lent**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

Members in attendance: Pastor Michelle Beissel, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Ann Marie Layton, Georgette Herring, Pat Krupilis, Marion Chupasco **Devotional:** Pastor Michelle offered prayer and read a lectio Devina (Devine word) Psalm 23. As part of the reading, Pastor Michelle asked everyone to think about "what is God trying to tell you?"

Secretary' Report: Was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Available for review and filed for audit. There were two Sunday services cancelled in the month of January due to weather.

Pastor's Report: As a result of the inclement weather this past month Pastor Michelle has spent more time in the office. She was reaching out to members via the telephone in order to keep in touch. Worship services 4 (2 online and 2 in person), she participated in the Day of Prayer, Bible study 1, she recorded a sermon for the Synod (January 23rd), meetings (2 council meetings, 1 Helping Hands, 1 Worship & Music committee, she met with 3 smaller groups regarding church business, breakfast with the Bible, lunch with the pastor, visits (7 hospital etc.)

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Articles of Incorporation: This continues to be a work in progress. **Altar Ware:** The cross and candle holders continue to be a work in progress. **Projector/Screen:** This project was discussed at the annual Congregational meeting. We discussed the option of a portable screen/projector and the placement of the equipment for the Sunday services. We will consider looking into a computer as a potential option. **Elevator:** The elevator inspection was completed. **Wedding Policy:** This continues to be a work in progress. Pastor Michelle and council have scheduled April 8th (Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. as an informational session/discussion opportunity for the members.

New Business: Annual Congregational Meeting: The meeting went well. **Emergency Protocol:** In the event a service needs to be cancelled, we need a process/protocol to get the word out to the members. **Flowers:** We will have Floral Array do the Easter flowers this year. **Lenten Topic:** The topic this year for the weekly Lenten services will be Beneath the Cross of Jesus. **Bring a Friend to Church:** This was brought up during our annual congregational meeting. Palm Sunday (March 29th) has been scheduled for bring a friend to church Sunday (Friendship Sunday).

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

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



BRNDVL FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Palm Sunday, MAR 29

You are invited to bring friends or family with you to church that day.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

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

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.

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

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.

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.



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!**



BIBLE STUDY
MON, MAR 2, 9, 16, 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, MAR 8 & 15

...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, MAR 4, 12noon
at Rngtn Luna’s Pizza

See Pastor Michelle for more information.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE
SAT, MAR 14, 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, MAR 15, 6-7pm at Christ United, Gordon.

ST JOHN’S, RNgTN
GOD’S GRACE FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS
SAT, MAR 7, 9-11am

St. John’s, Rngtn is planning to open our food pantry on **SAT, MAR 7, 9-11am**, 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: Salt & Pepper, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, Salad dressings, Pancake mix, Syrup, Jelly**

The Kindness Wave™



Start a ripple... Create a wave.
It begins with YOU!

CATECHISM w/PARENTS
SUN, MAR 1, 2pm at Rngtn

All 8th & 9th grade members and those eligible who have not been confirmed are invited to attend these classes. If you are aware of any member who should attend, please contact the church office with their name or bring them to these classes.

ST. JOHN’S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
SUN, MAR 22nd

...following the service. Pasta bake with meat sauce, side salad, Italian bread/butter and assorted desserts. No one will be turned away but if you know you will attend PLEASE sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. While there is no cost for the Luncheon we do suggest donations to St John's God's Grace Food Pantry.

HELPING HANDS
PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER
SAT, APR 25

pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, dessert

HELPING HANDS DATES

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.

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.

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR MARCH 2026

Brandonville

Ringtown

Altar: Deb Shoup

Ushers: Nancy Stauffer, Gary Williams

Communion Glasses: Bruce Hart

Greeters: Volunteers

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.

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

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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Blue & Gold Boy Scout banquet

SAT setup, SUN 1pm banquet

3-8 Daylight Savings

3-22 10am BUSS Seder

3-28 11:30am-1:30pm AMUMC Soup order pickup

4-19 2-5pm YSC Spring Fashion Show at the Methodist Church

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

5-6 St. John's Hoagie Sale

5-14 10am Annual Ascension Day Service at the Old White Church

5-17 5-7pm St. Paul's Ice Cream Social

5-19 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

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

6-4&5 NEPA Gives Fundraiser Drive

6-6 BUSS Knoebels's picnic

7-6-Boy Scouts Rain Gutter Regatta

7-12 4-7pm AMUMC Annual Berry Social

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

7-18 Rngtn Library Yard Sale Day

7-26 St. John's Chicken BBQ

7-26 4pm Brndvl Worship & Covered Dish picnic at the
Sekula pavilion

8-9 4-6pm AMUMC Annual Peach Social

8-(21,22) 27th Town Social

9-2 Social Ministry Pork Chop dinner

9-16 St. John's Hoagie Sale

10-3 11:30am-1:30pm AMUMC Annual Soup Sale pickup

11-3 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales

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

11-25 7pm Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John's

12-6 4pm BUSS Christmas program

7pm St. Paul's Hanging of the Greens

Fire Company Breakfast-3rd SUN, OCT-APR

Pizza Sales-3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

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