

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

Council members present were Gary Williams, Jerid Lindenmuth, Bob Decusky, Jewel Tuberty, Tracy Laudeman, Bruce Hart, Pastor Michelle, Laura Rusinko, Janice Wasser, and Wayne Mensinger. Also present were Clarissa Geary and Marion Chupasco. The meeting was opened with Tracy Laudeman 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, Ash Wednesday - 2 services, Ash Wed 2 Ashes drive through, 1 midweek Lenten soup and sandwich, Bible Study 1, Racial Justice Team meeting (2), (Began a long conversation), Recorded Sermon for Synod (February 20)), Meetings : (4) councils, food pantry, attended Kay Faust funeral, Lunch with the pastor, Visits - home, hospital, etc. 9, Note: I had a bad cold for a week and did not visit in person during that time.

Office report was reviewed.

Committee reports:

Sunday School- Easter Egg Hunt set for Palm Sunday.

Helping Hands- There was a \$1723 profit made from the soup sale. A cleaning is set for Thursday, March 5th. There will be a fellowship lunch following church on March 22nd. Sauerkraut tickets are available. The dishes in the kitchen were sorted through. They will be posted on the Synod newsletter. If no response, the congregation will be asked if they want them. After that they will sold at the yard sale.

Think Tank- Donut sale profit was \$436. It will benefit Readers on the Grow.

Town Social- Tickets were shown and approved by the council. Wayne is getting licenses and is looking into booking entertainment. Friday's entertainment is set already. It was decided to move the Town Social to August 14th and 15th.

Old Business:

Food pantry game plan was discussed for this upcoming weekend. Ascension Day speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Melber. Looking at getting estimates for the parsonage roof. The salt spreader has arrived. There is enough ice melt.

New Business:

The system is being set up to make calls for cancellations. Joseph requested vacation and the council approved it. The council needs to get a price for chicken for the chicken bbq in July. The coolers need to be looked at. Kitchen stove to be checked. Permission was granted to turn on the refrigerator in the parsonage for the food pantry. Bob Decusky is donating a food pantry sign. Pastor Michelle is looking at options for Confirmation Curriculum. The potholes on the road side of the church discussed. We will get a price for church demolition. Looking at getting a dumpster for a spring cleaning. Framing stained glass medallions discussed.

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

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MARCH 10, 2026**

Members in attendance: Pastor Michelle, Bob Fritz, Millie Krupilis, Ann Marie Layton, Pat Krupilis, Millie Krupilis, and Marion Chupasco Pastor Michelle read a devotion and led a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Was approved.

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

Pastor' Report: Available for review. Worship services – 4, Ash Wednesday - 2 services, Ash Wed 2 drive through ashes, 1 midweek Lenten soup and sandwich, Bible Study 1, Racial Justice Team meeting (2) (began Long Conversation training on how to gently discuss racial issues in order to create a safe place.), Recorded Sermon for Synod (February 20) Meetings : (4) councils, food pantry, Funeral-Kay Faust, Lunch with the pastor, Visits - home, hospital, etc. 9, Note: I had a bad cold for a week and did not visit in person during that time.

Office Report: Available for review.

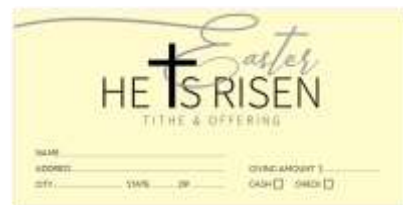
Old Business: Synod reports: were filed **Articles of Incorporation:** This continues to be a work in progress. **Altar Ware:** The cross and candle holders continue to be a work in progress. **Projector/Screen:** Pastor Michelle contacted her nephew and sent him pictures of the sanctuary to review the layout to make recommendations on setting up a projection system. He has 2 projectors that could work and will set up both for us to compare and choose one. **Wedding Policy:** This continues to be a work in progress. An information/discussion meeting is scheduled for WED, April 8th at 6:30pm. All members are asked to attend and share input before scheduling the vote for our church policy. **Bring a Friend to Church:** is scheduled for Palm Sunday, March 29th.

New Business: Emergency Protocol: A signup sheet is available for members to add their preferred contact number. **Catechism:** Classes have been scheduled. The digital Spark Collaborate curriculum has been ordered for the 2 year program. **Synod Assembly:** registration will begin soon. This year is a 3 day assembly to be held at Split Rock and will include the election of a Bishop. Delegates are needed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Marion Chupasco, acting 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



Remember your church for Easter



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.

ST JOHN'S, RNGTN

GOD'S GRACE FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS

SAT, APR 4, 9-11am

...for those who **do not qualify** for the local food pantry. Our food pantry is **to supplement, not provide a full monthly supply**. 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: toilet paper, feminine products, tissues, paper towels, complete pancake mix& syrup, pasta& sauce

CATECHISM CLASSES

SUN, 3-5pm - APR 12 at Rngtn
APR 19 at Brndvl, APR 26 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.

BIBLE STUDY

MON, APR 13, 20, 27-11am 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, APR 12 & 26

...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, APR 18, 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, APR 22, 12noon

at Rngtn Luna's Pizza

See Pastor Michelle for more information.

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 (special service)

Holy Communion 9am-B 10:30am-R

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

This year we are doing a new thing, and I hope you will come and join us! Instead of having the normal Easter fanfare service at Sunrise, we will have a short and simple, but hopefully powerful service then and the traditional Easter service will be held at 9am-B & 10:30am-R.

Please join me outside in the parking lot, where we will meet Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb. We will pray and hear her story and go inside to continue a celebration of the resurrection. There will be no bulletin, as this service is simple. We will have scripture, story, prayer and celebration. Please dress for the 6 am temperatures. I hope to see you there!

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.

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.



ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH SUN, APR 12

...following the service. Menu: chicken in gravy, mashed potatoes, filling, carrots and green beans, 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.

Next Fellowship lunch is MAY 17.

HELPING HANDS PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER SAT, APR 25, 4:30-6:30pm

pickup in the church basement

pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, dessert

Tickets: \$11 TAKEOUT ONLY **deadline: SUN, APR 19**

HELPING HANDS DATES

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

8-14 & 15 Town Social

9-16 Fall Hoagie Sale

10-10&11 Smokey Hollow Fall Festival

11-3 Election Day Food Sale

**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.

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 APRIL 2026

Brandonville

Altar: Hornbergers

Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Linda Shoup

Ushers: Tracy Laudeman, Janice Wasser

Communion Glasses: Jerid Lindenmuth

Greeters: Volunteers



ANNUAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE AT THE OLD WHITE CHURCH THR, MAY 14, 10am

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Kenneth Melber. A light luncheon will be held at the Ringtown Senior Citizen Center beside St. John's, Ringtown following the service.

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES SUN, MAY 17

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.

ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE TUE, MAY 19

...11am-sellout at St. John's, Brandonville, sponsored by the Brandonville Union Sunday School (pre-ordered pints & quarts of soup available)

...11am-2pm 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 luncheon items will be available.

YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET

APR 19, 2-5pm YSC Spring Fashion Show at Methodist Church

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 FRI of month, 3-6pm at Ringtown

3rd SAT of month, 9-11am, FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC at Nuremberg

4th FRI of month 1:30-4pm 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?

In 2025 we received \$1849 in Choice Dollars.

You can direct your Choice Dollars by going online to your account or calling 1-800-847-4836; press 1 and follow the directions.

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. 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.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

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.

