

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 13, 2026**

Council members present were Gary Williams, Jerid Lindenmuth, Bob Decusky, Jewel Tuberty, Bruce Hart, Laura Rusinko, Janice Wasser, Joan Mensinger, Sandy Hart, Jim Hart, and Wayne Mensinger. Also present were Clarissa Geary and Marion Chupasco. Nancy Terry was present to ask permission for updated Wedding Policy for the Old White Church. The meeting was opened with Gary Williams reading the devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

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

Office report was reviewed.

Pastor's report: Regular Sunday Worship services - 5, 4 midweek Lenten soup and sandwich, Bible Study 4, Maundy Thurs Services -2-, Good Friday Service - 1, Easter Sunrise Service -1, Recorded Sermon for Synod, Meetings : (4) councils, food pantry, Funerals 2 - Ralph Shoup, Paul Deebel, Confirmation class (2), Meetings 2 Council, 1 Old White Church, 1 Helping Hands, Visits - home, hospital, 13

Committee reports:

Sunday School - Easter Egg hunt was a big success. There were about 10 kids who showed up. Clarissa and Tracy did a fabulous job setting it up.

Helping Hands - 2 funeral dinners were served. Fellowship Dinner was cancelled due to lack of sign ups. Sunday School will give a short speech at the next one to try and get more participation. Wayne might also present a short update on the New Church as well. Pork and Sauerkraut dinner is April 26. Hoagie sale will take place early May. Election Day food sale- baked goods needed.

Building Committee - Estimates for the new building and demolition were discussed. The council discussed building specifics in building plans.

Town Social - Tickets are done. Jerid Lindenmuth will order new posters. Entertainment needs to be booked for Friday. Saturday's entertainment is booked.

Food Pantry -It was discussed if we should expand to clothing. It was also discussed whether there should be a fundraiser for extra support. The number of people who showed was lower than expected but it is picking up as word is spreading.

Property - Discussed the estimate to repair walk in cooler.

Old Business:

Potholes on the road aside of the church will be fixed. Waivers for parking lot use were discussed. Signup sheet still available for message system call process. Gary Williams cemented spots on steps.

New Business:

Jim Hart volunteered to represent St. John's on the Ringtown Medical Board. Pam Scully and her son will be transferring to Good Shepherd church.

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

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2026**

No quorum for business meeting.

RINGTOWN BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

After many years of researching and planning for a new building. The building committee presented church council with final drawings and pricing. Church council approved the drawings and pricing so we are now ready to present them to the congregation.

As most members are aware we had a lot of problems last year getting insurance on the building. Finally we were able to get insurance for one more year at triple the cost.

We have finances in place to cover approximately 95% of the cost of the new building and are looking at a potential loan to cover the rest of the project.

Please plan to attend the special congregational meeting on May 17 to get all the info and answer any questions you may have and participate in the vote to move our congregation forward.

This is a very exciting time in the life of our congregation so please plan to attend.

Sincerely,
Building Committee and Church Council

Following the special congregational meeting on May 17, please join in a Fellowship luncheon. There is a sign up sheet on the Sunday School area table or call the church office so we know you plan to attend. 570-889-5203

**RINGTOWN
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MAY 17**

The Ringtown Church Council has called a special congregational meeting on SUN, MAY 17 for the expressed purpose of the proposed Church building.

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 this month...



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

Brndvl last day before summer break-May 31

Rngtn last weekly SS- May 17

Rngtn Summer SS 1st,3rd,5th SUN in JUN, JUL,AUG

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, MAY 2, 1-3pm

...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: paper towels, Clorox wipes, all purpose cleaner, toilet cleaner, dish soap, single serving foods, larger size diapers (4-5-6), cat & dog food (small bags)

CATECHISM CLASSES SUN, MAY 17, 3-5pm

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.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will take a summer break. Watch for startup in the Fall.



CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY!

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

5-8 Marie Trexler
224 Arch St.
Ringtown, PA 17967

"Seamless" BIBLE STUDY

We will take a summer break. Watch for startup in the Fall.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR WED, MAY 13, 12noon at Rngtn Luna's Pizza

See Pastor Michelle for more information.

We will take a summer break. Watch for startup in the fall.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE SAT, May 16, 9am at the Dutch Kitchen in Frackville.

Bring your bible. See Pastor Michelle for more information.

We will take a summer break. Watch for startup in the fall.

ST. JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH SUN, MAY 17

...following the service. 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 October 18.

HELPING HANDS DATES

5-17, 10-18, 11-15 Fellowship Lunch
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 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 MAY 2026

Brandonville

Altar: Barb Prosick, Cathy Layton

Ringtown

Altar: Clarissa Geary, Tracy Laudeman

Ushers: Joan Mensinger, Roseanne Howard

Communion Glass Usher: Wayne Mensinger

Greeters: Volunteers

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

Guest speaker will be the Rev. Kenneth Melber, assistant to the Bishop of NEPA Synod, Hazleton-Lehigh & Schuylkill Mission Districts. A light luncheon will be held at the Rngtn Senior Citizen Center beside St. John's, Rngtn 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 luncheons items will be available.

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 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 MEMORIALS

DEADLINE: MAY 17

If you would like to remember someone for Memorial Day, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at Brndvl and the SS table at Rngtn. Funds go toward upkeep of the cemetery and will be in the May 24th bulletin.

BRANDONVILLE UNION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

KNOEBELS TRIP

SAT, JUN 6, 10am Meet at pavilion 3

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUN 22-26, 6:30-8pm

Mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to attend. Teachers and helpers are needed. Please contact the church office if you can help. Won't you consider sharing your faith with our youth? **Registration deadline is JUN 7.** Forms are on the kitchen counter at Brndvl and by the bulletins at Rngtn.

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

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
6-6 Boy Scout take out Spaghetti dinner in St. John's pavilion
6-18 5-7pm Ringtown Area Library 50th Birthday celebration
"Picnic in the Park" at Rngtn Rec Center
6-20 4pm-? Mt. Zion Strawberry Festival
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.

