

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 4, 2026**

Council members present were Wayne Mensinger, Laura Rusinko, Jewel Tuberty, Janice Wasser, Gary Williams, Tracy Laudeman, Joan Mensinger, Pastor Michelle, Jim Hart, and Sandy Hart by phone in. Also present were Marion Chupasco and Clarissa Geary. The meeting was opened with Wayne Mensinger reading devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved with a correction.

Treasurers' reports were reviewed, approved, and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Regular Sunday Worship services - 3 (Off one Sunday for Timmy's hospitalization. Thank you to Bob Fritz and Wayne Mensinger for covering); Baptism Makenna Hornberger; Bible Study 1 (stopped for summer); Funerals 1; Recorded Synod Sermon-1 Meetings : (5) Worship and Music, Old White Church Committee, Helping Hands, Think Tank, Building Committee); Confirmation (2) double sessions 1on zoom and 1 in person; Lunch with the Pastor; Breakfast with the Bible; Helped with part of food pantry; Visits - home, hospital, etc. 9

Office report was reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Sunday School: The last weekly Sunday School will be held on May 17th. Sunday School will be held on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays in June, July, and August as requested by the kids and will resume weekly again on September 13.

Helping Hands: reported a profit of \$1,836 for the sauerkraut dinner. Approximately 300 hoagies were sold. A fellowship luncheon will be held May 17th and there will be an Election Day luncheon and bake sale May 19th.

Town Social: Wayne will secure entertainment for Friday night.

Think Tank: Met and decided to keep the ROTG program going. Asked if the program could be put on the list for donations during the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

Building Committee: Discussion on building plans and kitchen stove to be checked for use in the new kitchen. May 17 is the vote on construction of the new building.

Worship and Music met and picked hymns and discussed having a piano for choir practice in new building.

Property committee: The heat will be turned off May 6. Gary serviced the mower. 2 insurance inspections are due, the boiler on May 21 and another on the building.

Old Business: A reminder to sign up for the list to be notified of emergencies such as church cancellations was given.

New Business: The Library book sale and yard sale is scheduled for July 17, 18, & 19. It was decided to hold off assigning any tables until the end of June so we have a better idea of the beginning construction date of the new building. Pastor Michelle asked for vacation from June 8-14. Thank you letters were received for the \$52 donation to Seminary and also for our contribution to Synod. No one has volunteered for Synod assembly. The deadline is May 12. Jim has devotions for June.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Joan Mensinger, Acting secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 5, 2026**

There was no meeting April 7, 2026 (Pastor Michelle had a family emergency/no quorum)

Members In Attendance: Pastor Michelle Beissel, Marie Clark, Millie Krupilis, Pat Krupilis, Donna Anthony, Ann Marie Layton, Bob Fritz, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco. Devotions were given by Pastor Michelle. A reading from the book of Mark chapter 10 verses 42-45. We can have Jesus for whatever we need, and even when things get messy he walks with us. A servant for many came not to be served but to serve many.

Secretary's Report: Approved as read

Treasurer's Report: Available for review. The reports for March and April were reviewed, approved, and sent to audit.

Pastor's Report: Available for review: March: regular Sunday services 5, midweek Lenten services/soup & sandwich 4, Bible study 4, Maundy Thursday services 2, Good Friday service 1, Easter sunrise service 1, recorded a sermon for the Synod, Meetings: councils/food pantry 4, funerals 2, confirmation 2, visits (home, hospital etc.) 13 April: regular Sunday services 3 (off 1 Sunday for Timmy's hospitalization) Thank you to Bob Fritz and Wayne Menninger for covering. Baptism 1, Bible study 1 (stopped for the summer), funerals 1, recorded a sermon for the Synod, Meetings: 5 (worship & music, Old White Church Committee, Helping Hands, Think Tank, Building Committee), confirmation 2 (double sessions (1 zoom & 1 in person), lunch with the pastor, breakfast with the Bible, helped with part of the food pantry, visits (home, hospital, etc.) 9

Office Report: Available for review.

Old Business: Articles of Incorporation: Pastor Michelle has some new information. She continues to work on this.

Altar Ware: Continues to be a work in progress. **Emergency Protocol/Contact Information:** Continues to be a work in progress. **Projector/Screen:** Continues to be a work in progress. Pastor Michelle and Bob Fritz are planning to arrange a meeting with her nephew for suggestions.

New Business: The Pennsylvania annual report needs to be completed. Pastor Michelle is working on this. The wedding policy needs to be reviewed. We have scheduled an informational meeting for the congregation on 05/14/2026 at 6:30 p.m. The Synod Assembly needs two representatives. Pastor Michelle had requested that the time needed while Timmy was hospitalized be granted as FMLA. Billie Jo Wetzel will cover Pastor Michelle for vacation on Sunday 06/14/2026. She also spoke to her about the LLM program.

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

Remember your church while on vacation...





CELEBRATING 90+ BIRTHDAY

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

6-28 Nellie Faust
1333 Shelbourne Dr.
Bethlehem, PA 18018

8-6 Elizabeth Widitz
40 Pattersonville Rd.
Ringtown, PA 17967



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUN, 9:30am at Rngtn Brndvl-no SS til SEP
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.

NEPA GIVES 24 hour event JUN 4-5, 7pm-7pm

St. John's, Rngtn is participating this year to raise funds toward the last 5% of our building cost. The link for our page is below. Please share it with family and friends who might want to make a donation.

Look for St. John's Lutheran Church, Ringtown.
<https://www.nepagives.org/organization/St-John-Lutheran-Church-163>

ST JOHN'S, RNGTN

GOD'S GRACE FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS
SAT, JUN 6, JUL 11, AUG 1, 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: 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)

BRANDONVILLE UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL
& CEMETRY ANNUAL MEETING
MON, JUN 1, 7:30pm

BRANDONVILLE UNION
SUNDAY SCHOOL
KNOEBELS TRIP
SAT, JUN 6, 10am Meet at pavilion 3

CATECHISM CLASSES

SUN, JUN 7, 3pm at Rngtn
SUN, JUL 12, 3-5pm at Brndvl
SAT, JUL 18, 3-5pm on Zoom
AUG break

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.

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.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

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

"Seamless" BIBLE STUDY

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

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR.

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

BREAKFAST WITH THE BIBLE

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JUNE 2026

Brandonville

Altar: Jean Sharkey

Ringtown

Altar: Ann Kehley, Melodee Tannler

Ushers: Bob & Judy Llewellyn

Communion Glass Usher: Jim Hart

Greeters: Volunteer

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR JULY 2026

Brandonville

Ringtown

Altar: Nancy Terry

Ushers: Wayne & Joan Mensinger

Communion Glass Usher: Joan Mensinger

Greeters: Volunteers

WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR AUGUST 2026

Brandonville

Ringtown

Altar: Ann & Ron Brown

Ushers: Ron & Ann Brown

Communion Glass Usher: Tracy Laudeman

Greeters: Volunteers

WORSHIP & COVERED DISH PICNIC SUN, JUL 26, 4pm, at the Sekula pavilion

Worship to be held outside (weather permitting). You are asked to bring a covered dish as suggested by the first letter of your last name:

A-L Salads & Vegetables M-S Desserts T-Z Casseroles

ST. JOHN'S, RINGTOWN CHICKEN BBQ SUN, JUL 26 11:30am-1:30pm

...in the pavilion – takeout only

1/2 BBQ chicken, baked potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll & butter, dessert

*Joint Worship
at the Old White Church
Sun, Aug 9, 10:30am*

Mark the date and come join in celebrating worship in this historical landmark.

Old White Church Special Offering Appeal

The church councils have designated the month of August for our annual appeal to raise funds for the Old White Church. Please write your name and "Old White Church" on an envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office: PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Your donations in this envelope will be presented to the Old White Church Preservation Fund on behalf of our congregations to help with the maintenance, upkeep, and finances of this historical landmark. Extra envelopes will be available on the table in the SS area.

27th ANNUAL TOWN SOCIAL FRI & SAT, AUG 14 & 15 DONATIONS REQUESTED...

It's time once again to prepare for our Town Social by asking for your help with donations:

soda-12 oz cans (Coke, Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Root Beer, Sprite, Ginger Ale) Also diet & caffeine free in each brand (Brand names only please)

Signup sheets are available on the table in the SS area for other donations needed for our Town Social. Donations of baked goods should be brought on FRI & SAT, AUG 14&15.

We will once again have the theme basket auction. If you would like to donate a completed theme basket, please contact the church office and let us know what type it would be. Suggested theme baskets: baby items, fishing, car care, baking, gardening, hair/body care, gift certificates, etc. Theme basket donations are accepted at the discretion of the committee.

**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.

HELPING HANDS DATES

7-14, 9-11am Organize for Yard Sale

7-18, 8am-5pm Ringtown Yard Sale

7-25 Hart Dinner

8-14 & 15 Town Social

9-16 Fall Hoagie Sale

10-10&11 Smokey Hollow Fall Festival

10-18, 11-15 Fellowship Lunch

11-3 Election Day Food Sale

YOUR SISTER'S CLOSET

The YSC shop is open TUE & THR from 11am to 4pm, FRI 5-7:30pm, 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.

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.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

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-(12,13) St. Mary's block party
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
6-(22-26) 6:30-8pm Vacation Bible School
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-(14&15) 27th Town Social
9-2 Social Ministry Pork Chop dinner
9-16 St. John's Hoagie Sale
9-19 Ringtown Sr. Citizens 50th Anniversary of their first meeting
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

50th Anniversary of Rngtn Senior Citizens first meeting

"The first meeting of the Ringtown Valley Area Senior Citizens was held in St. Paul's Church on September 19, 1976 as a joint effort by the Community's four pastors, Rev. Joseph Forgatch, St. Mary's, Rev. Richard Dettery, St. Paul's UCC Church, Rev. Ronald Orovitz, St. John's Lutheran Church, Rev. William Martin, United Methodist Church." -Ringtown Valley Area Senior Citizen's Center Dedication Program, November 25, 1979

Saturday, September 19, 2026, the Ringtown Valley Senior Citizens' organization will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their first meeting with an open house at their 104 W. Main Street location. The formation of the Senior group was initially a community effort by community members, clergy, and community organizations.

If any groups or community members have artifacts or memorabilia that they would allow us to display that day, please contact Diane Rumbel, RVSC Secretary, at 570-889-5114, or email dianerumbel@gmail.com. Any items would be promptly returned after the event. Thank you.

-Ringtown Valley Senior Citizens

(At one time, quilts were made in "the quilting" room by members and raffled or sold to raise funds for the group. Finding a few of those preserved quilts intact would be a treasure to share at our open house event.)

Also, please save the date and plan to attend. More details will be announced closer to the date.