

## St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

**Date:** July, 2025  
**Pastor:** The Rev. Larry Hagerty  
**Address:** 215 St. Thomas Church Rd.  
Chapin, SC 29036  
**Office:** 803-345-2993  
**Web:** [www.stthomaschapin.com](http://www.stthomaschapin.com)  
**E-mail (church office):** [sttom215@yahoo.com](mailto:sttom215@yahoo.com)  
**E-mail (Pastor):** [vichagerty@yahoo.com](mailto:vichagerty@yahoo.com)



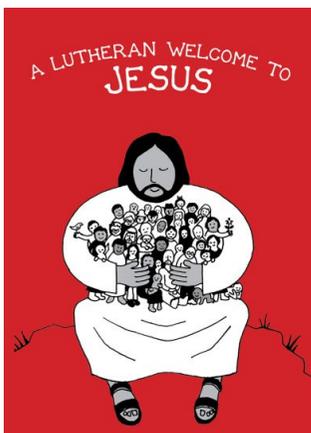
### *Pastor Hagerty writes...*

My family and I had a great time at the Dutch Fork Cluster beach retreat at the Coastal Retreat Center at the Isle of Palms on June 19-22. We had five Lutheran congregations represented within our Dutch Fork Cluster and 27 people. We strengthened our cluster relationships by having meals together as well as devotions and worship. We added a sunrise worship option this year. Truth be told, not all of us rose at the crack of dawn on the longest day of the year!

Our daily devotions were enriched by the Dan Erlander resource entitled: "A Lutheran Welcome to Jesus." We had a Friday evening Holy Communion service on the upper porch of the retreat center. Michael and Christopher Lindler had their First Communion. They had received Holy Communion training from me on the beach earlier in the day. It all happened on their last day of being ten years old. Happy Eleventh Birthday Michael and Christopher!!

See you at church!

*Pastor*



**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President**  
Don Hill

**Vice President**  
Christy Brasington

**Secretary**  
Debbie Morell

**Youth and Children's  
Ministry**  
Sandi Martini

**Christian Education**  
Beth Bedenbaugh

**Worship and Music**  
Fred Falls

**Property**  
Lacy Derrick

**Evangelism and  
Outreach Ministry**  
Gale Smith

**Stewardship and  
Finance**  
Don Hill

**Cemetery**  
Christy Brasington

**STAFF**

**Pastor**  
The Rev. Larry Hagerty

**Director of Music**  
Ginny Lindler

**Administrative  
Assistant**  
Sharon Dickert

**Sexton**  
Tina Dyches of  
Genie in a Bucket

**LEADERS**  
**Treasurer**  
Jennifer Wicker

**Memorial Recording  
Clerk**  
Sharon Dickert



**ELCA**

**Church Council Minutes**

**June 15, 2025**

Called to order in the Parish Hall by President Don Hill at 11:18 am.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Hagerty

Check Roll: Pastor Hagerty, Fred Falls, Don Hill, Gale Smith, Beth Bedenbaugh, Lacy Derrick, Deb Morell, and Christy Brasington

Absent: Sandi Martini

**Pastor's Report**

We continue to provide weekly worship resources to the congregation. They include:

1. In-person worship services are held at 10:00 am on Sundays.
2. YouTube worship videos are filmed and edited by Emory Bedenbaugh. Through June 15<sup>th</sup>, we have done 243 videos.
3. On-line bulletins and sermon transcripts in pdf format are emailed to the church family and hand-delivered to 22 household locations.

Worship video links are being emailed to our church family and posted on our website of: [www.stthomaschapin.com](http://www.stthomaschapin.com). They are also posted to our St. Thomas Facebook page and boosted to the Chapin area.

We offered Holy Communion by intinction on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We cancelled worship due to a power outage on June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Day of Pentecost. We had Holy Communion at the altar rail on the festival Sunday of The Holy Trinity on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Our in-person worship attendance for May was 60. We averaged 48 views per week on YouTube for our pre-recorded Sunday worship videos.

Other activities include:



**St. Thomas**  
Lutheran Church

1. Confirmation class and Sunday School classes are taking a ten (10) week break for the summer after May 25<sup>th</sup>. We will resume classes on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, Pastor is offering a Tuesday Bible Study:” How Lutherans Interpret the Bible.”

2. Our Young at Heart (YAH) seniors’ group will meet this Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> for good food and fellowship. A meal will be provided along with BINGO.

3. Pastor and Tracey Hagerty attended the SC Synod Assembly in North Charleston on June 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Andrew Boozer was elected Vice President of the SC Synod for a six-year term. He will chair Synod Council meetings. More information will follow in the next Pastor’s Report.

4. The 2025 Dutch Fork Cluster Beach Retreat at the Isle of Palms Coastal Retreat Center will take place June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We currently have twelve (12) rooms reserved and twenty-seven (27) people are planning to attend. This includes twenty (20) adults and seven (7) children We are partnering with churches in the Dutch Fork Cluster and will have attendees from five (5) different Lutheran churches. Our devotional theme will focus on the resource: “A Lutheran Welcome to Jesus” by Daniel Erlander.

5. We are working with Bethel Lutheran Church to provide a Vacation Bible School from July 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> at St Thomas using the “Road Trip” curriculum. Each day will start with a meal at 5:30 pm and the program will be from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. We have secured the Rev. Dr. Bobby Morris to be our speaker for our VBS adult class on the first two evenings. More information to follow. We are planning to have a youth class.

6. Pastor and Elizabeth Hill began using the Church Fuel resource on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our first priority with Church Fuel is to get their assistance with purpose and mission statements using their two-page plan and coaching. Our second priority may be learning how to use Google Ads, which can be free to non-profits and could help our VBS advertising.

### **Church Fuel – Two Page Plan**

Elizabeth presented the Two Page Plan resource from Church Fuel. We have all heard the phrase: “We want to all be on the same page.” Similarly, our Church Fuel consultants have a two-page plan resource. It helps churches get organized and come up with vision and mission statements. We certainly want to be focused and headed in the right direction.

We have recently been talking about purpose and mission. The purpose is the “why” - Why do we exist as a church? It is rooted in scripture, which already exists and inspires us. So, we do not have to come up with a purpose from scratch. It should be simple and what we can all agree on. The mission is the “what.” What are we doing to keep us moving in the right direction? What is the goal? It should be able to be measured. Example: “We will have three pancake suppers in the next three months.” What is our current audience? What should our target audience be? When you agree on your target audience, it can help you develop your mission and goals, which is then pointing toward your purpose. We will get more and more people involved from our council and ministry leaders. More to come.

## Treasurer's Reports

The Consolidated Fund Activity Report shows that we ended the month of May with a current operating fund balance of **\$82,368.57**. Our current operating fund expenses during the month of May were **\$16,653.35**. Our May receipts were **\$26,879.32**. We are still off to a very good start after the first five (5) months of 2025.

The May 2025 consolidated activity report includes the following designated fund totals:

Capital improvement fund: **\$37,359.39**  
(contains **\$30,485 of the roof replacement funds**)

Sanctuary enhancements fund: **\$20,584.58**

Cemetery fund: **\$322.07**

Social Ministry / Outreach Fund: **\$656.37**

STLC Youth Fund: **\$3,442.28**

JLB Endowment Principal Balance: **\$83,674.39**

JLB Endowment Interest Balance: **\$27,553.94**

JLB Loan Balance: **\$24,910.63**

Discussion took place to distinguish between designated funds and budget line items.

Our treasurer's reports show how we are doing with each budgeted line item, and compare the pro-rated budgeted amounts with actual expense totals. This is done on a monthly basis.

### Stewardship and Finance Committee

A Stewardship and Finance meeting was held on 5 June. Topics discussed include the following:

1. Clean up of dormant Church Windows line items – On-going discussion. We will follow-up with Jennifer regarding

her thoughts on consolidation and/or removal of line items (note – similar clean-up was conducted several years ago)

2. WELCA Account – decision made to proceed with WELCA account consolidation within Church Windows; specific line items for WELCA needs and be-reavement expenses will be maintained... budgeting for both lines will be based on annual needs against line-item balance
3. Supervisory chain of command for salaried employees – will formalize direct line reporting to the chairman of the associated committee (unless specified otherwise), with dotted line reporting to the Executive Committee; allows for employees to discuss their job function, expectations and roles and responsibilities with associated committee chair, with Executive Committee supporting chair and employee as needed; example reporting chains include: Pastor would report to Executive Committee; Ginny would report to chair of Worship and Music Committee; Sharon would report to Pastor; Jennifer would report to the chair of Stewardship and Finance Committee
4. Follow-up with Capital Campaign – given success of roof campaign, no plans to continue a capital campaign at this time.

### Cemetery

Christy reported that the cemetery constitution was passed and council all got the updated version. The plaque for the back of the memorial wall has arrived and will be installed. It has the names of people whose memorial contributions were used to fund

the columbarium. A meeting is scheduled with Anne Shealy, Christy, Susan Waites, Janet Tapp, and Ricky Waites to discuss next steps in creating a scatter garden.

### **Christian Education**

Beth gave an oral report. Pastor already covered VBS, A meeting will be scheduled for mid-July to plan our fall Christian Ed offerings. Beth said that early August is when school starts, so she would like to plan a get-together of Sunday School people before they go off to their first class.

### **Property Committee**

1. Premiere Roofing has scheduled the new roof install for 6/23-6-27/25. The Property Committee recommends Cobblestone Gray as the shingle color.
2. Replaced the batteries in the smoke detectors in Fellowship Hall. Seeking Bids for the soft wash of the Church and Fellowship Hall.
3. We are in contact with Duffie Driveway Solutions (this is the company that did the concrete work for the Columbarium and sidewalk last year) for a quote to re-point the mortar between the steps of the Church. More to follow.
4. Plan a meeting in August- September to discuss next major project.

### **Outreach and Evangelism**

Our committee met June 12<sup>th</sup>. Those present were Susan Waites, Christy Brasington, and Gale Smith. Elizabeth Hill joined us for a presentation on "Building Dynamic Ministries." She will present it at council on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Christy updated our visitation list. Judy could not make the meeting but submitted some info. More to come regarding the

AED that we will purchase. A reminder of the Self Defense class will be July 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. More to come on the Yoga class. More to come for obtaining a board to be used in the in the narthex for sign-up lists. Movie night will move to fall. Next meeting to be announced.

### **Children's and Youth Ministry**

Don reported that our youth did a great job as crucifer and acolyte today. The youth continue to support our worship services. Upcoming opportunities for youth are GraceWorks on July 13-18 and Vacation Bible School on July 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Worship and Music**

Pastor will be at the Beach Retreat on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson will be our supply preacher. The adult choir will be off for the month of July. Our last anthem will be sung on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Our next choir practice will be on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

1. WELCA met and is planning Home coming. Seminarian Zachary Lindler will preach. The theme will be college football tailgating. Our mission is to collect food and supplies for We Care and invite members who have been infrequently at worship. WELCA will organize the fellowship lunch and the worship will be organized by the Worship and Music Committee.
2. Christy suggested that copies of the updated and approved cemetery constitution be made available in the narthex. All agreed. Pastor concluded the meeting with prayer, including the Lord's Prayer at 12:10 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Pastor Larry Hagerty and Deb Morell**

# St Thomas and Bethel **VBS**

**JULY 20 - 24**

215 ST THOMAS CHURCH ROAD  
CHAPIN, SC 29036

FREE DINNER AT 5:30PM

FUN BEGINS AT 6:00PM

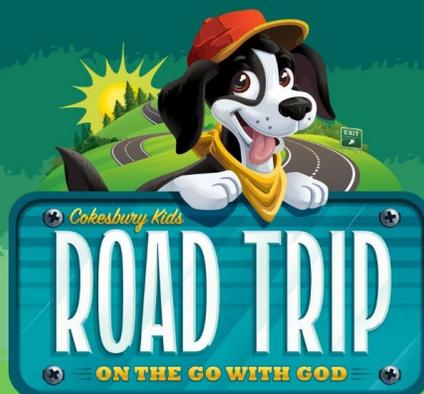
ADULT CLASS WITH GUEST SPEAKERS

KIDS CRAFTS, GAMES AND SCIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US :  
[WWW.STTHOMASCHAPIN.COM](http://WWW.STTHOMASCHAPIN.COM)

JOSHUA 1:9

"THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."



*St. Thomas*  
**HOMECOMING**

*Sunday, September 28, 2025*

10AM Worship ~ Guest Preacher Seminarian Zachary Lindler

**Please join us for a  
College Football Tailgating  
themed meal in the  
Fellowship Hall  
following worship**



**Food Drive for Chapin We Care Competition**

Sun, Aug 31 to Sun, Sept 21

**Clemson VS Carolina**

- +Place your donations in the box for your team
- +Donations will be weighed with weekly reports
- +Winning team will have their school colors decorating the food table at the homecoming meal

## In Christian Service in July

### Lay Readers:

6 Beth Bedenbaugh  
13 Rolf Baghdady  
20 Debbie Rennhack  
27 Don Hill

**Greeter:** Lacy Derrick

**Ushers:** Ron & Lacy Derrick

### Keeper of the keys:

Lacy Derrick

### Altar Flowers:

6 Carl & Janice Lindler  
13 Open  
20 Open  
27 Open

## MEMORIALS

*Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:*

**Donnie Slice** by Brenda Slice

**Marge Gray** by John P. Gray

**Shirley Tapp** by Mike Mizeur & Kelly Long

**Edith Wessinger** by Janet Tapp

**Martin & Katherine Derick** by J Hollis Derrick

**Mariam Williams** by Howard Smith

**The Derrick Family, Wilbur & Orelia Derrick** by Deb Morell

**George & Annie Mae Wessinger Derrick Family** by Janice & James Meeks

**Lee Wessinger** by Holly & Michael Wessinger, Roger & Trish Edwards, Janet Tapp, Bill & Melverta Sandel, Bill & Christy Brasington

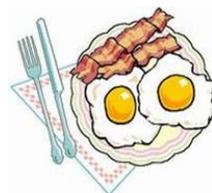


*Given to the glory of God and in honor of:*

**John Swygert** by Donna L. Briquet

## FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on *July 10th and July 24th at 8:30 am.* All are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of good food and fellowship.



## WELCA NEWS:

**PAINT WITH A TWIST:** On July 31 we will be having a social event. We will be going to Paint With a Twist in Harbison. We can't wait to create our "masterpieces"! Pictures to come!

**Homecoming:** We are in the process of planning Homecoming on September 28. We look forward to sharing the details with you soon which will involve a way to help our immediate community through a WE CARE FOOD DRIVE. This will begin on August 31, so start saving your cans and other items now. Hint: Go Gamecocks! Go Tigers!

We continue to make and deliver prayer blankets. If you would like to learn how to make a prayer blanket and help us with this outreach program, please contact Beth Ervin. We promise it is easy to learn!!

Don't forget that we continue to gather donations for We Care. Donations can be placed on the designated cart in the Narthex. A list of donation suggestions can be found in the bulletin each week. Thank you to Roger Edwards for delivering these to We Care.

Next meeting: August 13, 7pm, at Beth Bedenbaugh's house.

Save the date: WELCA ornament party December 11. Put it on your calendars!



### July Pantry Needs

Corn muffin mix, Vienna sausages, Soup (all sizes and flavors), Instant potatoes, Spaghetti sauce, Beans (baked, pork & beans, pinto), Ramen noodles, Canned fruit, Syrup, Jam / Jelly and always need toiletries, dish soap, laundry detergent & cleaning supplies!

Thank you so very much for your generous support!

The Third Quarter Word in Season Devotional Booklets are available in the narthex in large print and small print.

THE WORD  
IN SEASON

### WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

If you have a name which you would like to have listed, please indicate by filling out a pew card or by calling the church office. Names will then remain on the prayer list for four weeks, unless we are notified to extend the time. Thank you.

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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STLC, Staff, Pastor &amp; their families</li> <li>• SC Synod, Bishop, Staff &amp; their families</li> <li>• Zachary Lindler (prayers for his internship)</li> <li>• Mary Nichols (dementia / Laurel Crest Community, West Columbia)</li> <li>• Bobby Kinard (issues with kidney and dialysis / cousin of Holly Wessinger)</li> <li>• Joe Epting (continued kidney dialysis treatments)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Janet Roberts-Crump (recovery from foot surgery)</li> <li>• Betty Koon (recovery from fall / Encompass Rehab / Harbison Shores 990 Columbia Ave, Room 105, Irmo, SC 29063 / visitors welcome)</li> <li>• Melverta Sandel (rehab at Wellmore in Lexington)</li> <li>• Greg Rennhack (pancreatic cancer / brother of Andy Rennhack)</li> <li>• O'Neal Bickley (kidney and eye issues)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosemary Niehe (Recovery from hospitalization / health issues / pain management / mother of Richard Niehe / grandmother of Brad Niehe)</li> <li>• John Swygert (liver cancer / undergoing treatments)</li> <li>• The family of Lee Wessinger (who died on June 21st / the memorial service was held on Wednesday July 2nd at 2 pm)</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|

Dear St. Thomas Church Family,  
 Thank you all so much for the church cookbook!  
 I am very excited to start using some recipes from the book to start cooking! Thank you all for being such a great church family and for always being there for me!  
 I am very excited to start college at Lander University starting in the fall! Thank you all so much again!  
 Love, Sara Wessinger



## **Outreach and Evangelism Update:**

**Mission:** Promoting a feeling of community and show kindness and caring.

We are looking into purchasing an **AED** for our church. We applied for a grant from LLR and received \$750. We will continue to update you.

**CPR/AED/First Aid training** is scheduled for August 9 at 9 -11:15am. We have 8 people who have signed up. We can accommodate more people but need to know ASAP. Contact Beth Ervin if interested. The cost is \$119 after the first 8 people. If cost is an issue we will try to help. There is an online portion of the class that must be completed prior to the class. Beth Ervin will be emailing to the class participants by 7/8/25. If you have not received it by then, please reach out to Pastor or Beth Ervin.

Our **Women's Self Defense Class** is scheduled for July 26 at 9 am in the fellowship hall. Anyone 17-18 years old needs a parent to accompany them. Please invite your friends. We will advertise on Facebook too. Sign up in narthex please so we know about how many are coming.



Save the Date: **Advent Brunch** - Sunday, December 14th

- 1 Judy Swygert
- 2 Cliff Bickley  
Bill Brasington  
Ronnie Lindler
- 3 Rudy Gardner
- 5 Mary Mac Richardson
- 7 Debbie Rennhack
- 9 Jimmy Lindler  
Tim White
- 12 Ginny Lindler
- 13 Beth Bedenbaugh
- 15 Harrison Bedenbaugh



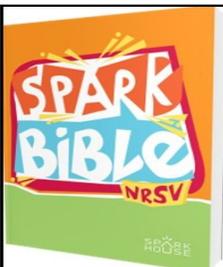
- 18 Lib Derrick
- 20 Sonya Beale  
William Harvey
- 21 Lynn Rennebaum
- 22 Jennifer Hart
- 23 Betty Koon  
Susan Waites  
Holly Wessinger
- 25 Allie Marie Bickley
- 28 Deb Morell
- 31 Elizabeth Jean Lindler

- 06/1968 Carl David & Janice Lindler
- 17/1993 Ronnie & Ginny Lindler
- 23/2005 Don & Elizabeth Hill
- 21/2013 Donall & Natasha Stoudemire



Sunday School and Confirmation classes are taking a ten week break and will resume on August 10th. Classes run from 9:00 am to 9:45 am for:

- 1) Adults, using the Scripture Readings of the day;
- 2) High school (9th—12th), using "ELCA Faith Lens"
- 3) Confirmation (5th—8th), using Here We Stand; and
- 4) Kids 4th grade and younger, using Spark curriculum.



**ELCA  
FAITH LENS**

**A Record of Our Faithfulness  
Through 6/30/2025**

2025 Budgeted income	\$ 227,024
2025 Monthly need	\$ 18,919
2025 Actual income	\$ 127,604
Monthly avg income	\$ 21,267

+++++

**Worship Attendance**

<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Person Attendance</b>	<b># of On-line Views</b>
June 1	58	140
June 8	N/A	99
June 15	57	121
June 22	45	97
June 29	56	131

**June Worship Service Averages**

In-Person Attendance	=	54
On-line YouTube views	=	118
<b>Combined total</b>	=	<b>172</b>

**Giving is a basic  
spiritual practice.**

It's important for us all to engage in it according to our ability, because giving is one of the ways that God comes down to us. Giving is included in a list of basic spiritual practices that also includes prayer, corporate worship, Scripture study, silence, and service.

We give thanks for your generous giving in support of our ministry of Word and Sacrament here at Saint Thomas. Please continue to give generously in proportion to how God has blessed you.

Thanks!!!

**God's peace,  
Pastor**



**Young at Heart**



We invite you to join us on **Tuesday, July 15th** for our Fellowship Lunch beginning at 11:30 am. We will enjoy hamburgers / cheeseburgers, sides and dessert - which will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**2025 Flower Chart** is posted on the Cry Room door and has several open dates. If you would like to put flowers in the church in honor or memory of someone, ***please sign up*** and **indicate one or two flower arrangements beside your name.** Thank you!



**St. Thomas**  
Lutheran Church

215 St. Thomas Church Road  
Chapin, SC 29036

**STLC Newsletter**  
**July 2025**

**Forwarding Service Requested**

**Pastor**

The Rev. Larry Hagerty

**Director of Music**

Ginny Lindler

**Administrative Assistant**

Sharon Dickert

**Council President**

Don Hill

**Council Vice President**

Christy Brasington

**Council Secretary**

Debbie Morell

**Treasurer**

Jennifer Wicker

**Memorial Recording Clerk**

Sharon Dickert

**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Friday:  
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Pastor's Availability**

Tuesday through Sunday 8 AM to 9 PM

Feel free to call Pastor's cell: 803-673-6507  
to talk or to make an appointment

Church Phone: (803) 345-2993

Office email: [sttom215@yahoo.com](mailto:sttom215@yahoo.com)

Pastor's email: [vichagerty@yahoo.com](mailto:vichagerty@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.stthomaschapin.com](http://www.stthomaschapin.com)

**In Case of Emergency, Call Any Time:**

Pastor Hagerty  
Cell 803-673-6507

Council President  
Don Hill  
703-744-5341