

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

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



Pastor Hagerty writes...

What is faith? Why is it important to us? And what do we do with this faith? Faith is having complete trust or confidence in someone or something. For us as Christians, that someone or something is Jesus Christ.

As I was reading the assigned scriptures for Sunday, August 10th, this faith appears to be the main thing in all three lessons. Faith is important to us because of the assurance of who Christ is and the belief, trust, and hope we have because of what the Bible tells us about God's gracious and loving character. The Bible brings us to the object of that faith: to God and all God's promises.

Faith gives us purpose and direction in life. Our faith in Christ allows us to cease doubting about walking with Christ and eliminates the idea that we are doomed to fail. We move closer to the true source of our faith when it is put into action. By having great faith, we have the encouragement to move outward and try new things. We develop confidence knowing that our trust is in Christ, who promises to always be with us.

In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus is sharing a message with the disciples about not being afraid, selling their possessions, giving to the poor, and storing up treasures in heaven. As we are called to step out and follow Christ, we may be focused on family, financial concerns, retirement, and more, but Christ says to us, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32) With these words of encouragement, why would we grow weary in our faith?

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

SextonTina Dyches of
Genie in a Bucket**LEADERS*****Treasurer***

Jennifer Wicker

***Memorial Recording
Clerk***

Sharon Dickert

**ELCA****St. Thomas**
Lutheran Church**Church Council Minutes****July 13, 2025**

Called to order in the Parish Hall by President Don Hill at 10:58 am.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Hagerty

Check Roll: Pastor Hagerty, Don Hill, Gale Smith, Sandi Martini, Lacy Derrick, Christy Brasington, and Jennifer Wicker

Absent: Beth Bedenbaugh, Fred Falls, and Deb Morell

Treasurer's Reports

The Consolidated Fund Activity Report shows that we ended the month of June with a current operating fund balance of **\$86,021.41**. Our current operating fund expenses during the month of June were **\$17,744.92**. Our June receipts were **\$23,459.41**. We are still off to a very good start after the first six (6) months of 2025.

The June 2025 consolidated activity report includes the following designated fund totals: Capital improvement fund: **\$37,409.39** (contains \$30,485 of the roof replacement funds)

Sanctuary enhancements fund: **\$20,684.58**

Cemetery fund: **\$53.32**

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**

Don asked Jennifer about our current fund balance and how giving compares to last year. We have received \$127,613.00 year-to-

date. Last year's year-to-date total was \$99,100.62. We are \$14,099 ahead of our budget as of the end of June.

Christy asked where the reports show the activity of the cemetery fund during the month of June. It is listed in our chart of accounts under account #3400. We took out \$268.75, leaving a cemetery fund balance of only \$53.32.

We discussed adjusting next year's church budget for the grounds account #5307. We will ask the Stewardship and Finance Committee to stop taking \$300 per month out of the cemetery fund, since it has been depleted. We suggest increasing our budgeted amount for grounds in 2026 by \$3,600. For the remainder of the year 2025, we need to continue paying our grounds crew our contracted amount. We will charge the entire amount to account #5307. We now anticipate going over budget in account #5307 by \$300 per month for the remaining six (6) months of 2025.

Jennifer brought up the payroll clearing account #2999. This is listed under liabilities in the treasurer's reports. She has been following the advice of Alicia on how we handle this. Don requested that Jennifer provide council with further explanation.

Lacy asked about the line items that have asterisks. Jennifer will clarify whether the asterisks indicate accounts that are over budget. For example, our current fund income as of the end of June is \$14,099 higher than our budgeted current fund income.

Pastor requested that we set up a VBS designated fund in order to have a place to receive funds for VBS unexpected expenses. We will ask the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

In the meantime, we can receive funds for VBS expenses via undesignated memorial donations. Funds can then be transferred to the new VBS designated fund after it is set up.

Don will notify the Stewardship and Finance Committee via email of our request to set up a VBS designated account. We will seek their feedback and approval.

Jennifer Wicker was dismissed at 11:20 am

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 July 13th, 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.
4. Worship video links are being emailed to our church family and posted on our website of: www.stthomaschapin.com. They are also posted to our St. Thomas Facebook page and boosted to the Chapin area.
5. We had Holy Communion at the altar rail on the festival Sunday of The Holy Trinity on June 15th. We had Holy Communion by intinction on July 6th. Our in-person worship attendance for June was 54. We averaged 118 views per week on YouTube for our pre-recorded Sunday worship videos.

Other activities include:

1. Confirmation class and Sunday School classes are taking a ten (10) week break for

the summer. We will resume classes on Sunday, August 10th. In the meantime, Pastor offered a Tuesday Bible Study: "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible."

2. Our Young at Heart (YAH) seniors' group will meet this Tuesday, July 15th for hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and fellowship.

3. Pastor and Tracey Hagerty attended the SC Synod Assembly in North Charleston on June 12th to the 14th. Andrew Boozer was elected Vice President of the SC Synod for a six-year term. He will chair Synod Council meetings. Three resolutions were passed and will be forwarded to council.

4. The 2025 Dutch Fork Cluster Beach Retreat at the Isle of Palms Coastal Retreat Center took place June 19th to June 22nd. We filled twelve (12) rooms and had twenty-seven (27) people who attended. This included twenty (20) adults and seven (7) children. We had attendees from five (5) different Lutheran churches. Our devotional theme focused 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 20th through the 24th 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. A volunteer meeting will take place today, July 13th at 3:00 pm. We are planning to have a youth class.

6. Pastor officiated at the memorial service for Colonel Raymund Rennebaum at Fort Jackson Memorial Cemetery on June 27th.

7. Pastor officiated at the memorial service for Lee Howard Wessinger on July 2nd.

8. Pastor will pursue Church Fuel coaching with Elizabeth Hill once VBS is over. We will work on purpose and mission statements using their two-page plan.

Stewardship and Finance

2026 Budget – Committee Budget inputs for Calendar year 2026 are due at the end of August; recommend Committee leads use 2025 budget input as a starting place.

Cemetery

Christy provided a written report. The memorial wall plaque for the columbarium donations has been installed thanks to Ron Derrick and Rick Rennebaum. Lee Wessinger's ashes were interred on July 2, 2025 and a veteran's marker and flag were placed.

The initial meeting with Ricky Waites, Susan Waites, Janet Tapp, and Anne Shealy looked at several possible locations for the scatter garden. The location has not yet been determined. Research is being conducted to gather some inspiration for the site once the location has been set.

Christian Education

Beth Bedenbaugh submitted a written report. The next Christian Ed committee meeting will be on Sunday, July 27th following worship. New year for Sunday School starts 10 August. We hope to have a small get-together / kick-off before going to class or maybe after class and before church.

Property

1. Roof Replacement installation is complete and invoice paid.
2. We have signed the contract with Duffie Driveway Solutions as approved by the council via email for \$2,080.00 to re-

point the mortar between the steps of the Church. Waiting on a date for the work to be done.

3. After the work on the steps is complete, we will engage Trinity Window and Home Washing to soft wash the Church and Fellowship Hall at a cost of \$1,470.00 as approved by the council via email.
4. The Property Committee would like to thank Ricky for his work on improving the landscape to the right of the church. It looks nice.
5. Columbarium Memorial Plaque was installed on the Memorial Wall.
6. Weed control- spraying around the shed area.
7. Plan a meeting in August- September to discuss next major project.

Christy mentioned that she picked up several nails in the cemetery driveway following the roof replacement. Other nails on the grass might be kicked back onto the driveway when the grass is mowed. Just wanted folks to be aware.

We discussed the memorial marker for the Rev. Dr. Ken Webb. It was associated with a sycamore tree that had to be cut down because its roots blocked our sewer line. There is a need to find a new location where another sycamore tree could be planted and have the marker relocated. We will approach Ricky Waites and get his opinion on a good location for planting the tree.

Outreach and Evangelism

Council liaison Gale Smith submitted a written report. Our mission is to “Promote a feeling of community and show kindness and caring.”

The committee has not met since our last council meeting.

CPR / AED / First Aid training is scheduled for August 9th from 9 am to 11:15 am. We have 8 people signed up. More can be accommodated, but we need to know asap. Money has been secured for the first 8. If cost is a problem for any others, help may be available. There is an online portion of the training that must be completed prior to the class. Beth Ervin will be emailing this to the participants. Training will be in the fellowship hall.

Reminders: Women’s self-defense class will be held on July 26th at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall. Anyone 17-18 years old will need a parent to attend with them.

Outdoor movie night has been postponed until fall when the weather cools off.

The Advent brunch will be held on Sunday December 14th.

Children’s and Youth Ministry

There will be a class for children as well as youth at our Road Trip VBS.. If Outreach and Evangelism have a game night, we hope the youth can participate.

Worship and Music

Ginny will attend the celebration of son Zachary’s internship at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Winston Salem, NC on Sunday,

July 27th. Laura Langston will be our guest musician at Saint Thomas.

Looking ahead to Homecoming: Zach Lindler will preach on September 28th 2025 and Rev. Robert Miles will preach on September 27th 2026 for our 150th anniversary. The adult choir will resume on Monday, July 28th at 6:30 pm.

New Business

1) It was suggested by Beth Bedenbaugh that we rename the adult Sunday School room in memory of Mr. Lee Wessinger. More to follow on that.

2) We discussed having some sort of recognition of members of Saint Thomas who have served the church with distinction. It may involve having family

members nominate their loved ones for this recognition. More to follow on this.

3) Don has been receiving information periodically from the ELCA and will forward it to our church council for their information.

4) Pastor will forward the three (3) resolutions that passed at our recent SC Synod Assembly along with a link to the SC Synod website and a video recording of the assembly.

Pastor concluded the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 11:59 am..

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Larry Hagerty and Deb Morell

Upcoming Gospel Lessons in August

<i>Date</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Topic</i>
3rd	Luke 12:13-21	The Parable of the Rich Fool
10th	Luke 12:32-40	Do Not Worry / Watchful Slaves
17th	Luke 12:49-56	Jesus the Cause of Division
24th	Luke 13:10-17	Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman
31st	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Humility and Hospitality

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

Scenes from the Road Trip VBS on July 20th-24th by St Thomas and Bethel Lutheran Churches





Dutch Fork Cluster Beach Retreat

By Dan Koon of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Irmo

The Dutch Fork Cluster of Lutheran Churches consisting of 7 Lutheran Churches in the Chapin-Irmo area have been meeting for over 10 years to enjoy picnics, worship services and to work on service projects together. However, June 19-22, 2025, was the cluster's first cluster retreat held at the Coastal Retreat Center on the Isle of Palms SC Lutheran Conference and Retreat Centers offers two great places to visit (Coastal and Camp Kinard) and provides great accommodations for those seeking renewal and fellowship. Individuals from five of the Cluster Lutheran Churches (Bethel, Bethlehem, Mt. Hermon, Mt. Olivet, and St. Thomas) took advantage of the opportunity to experience the beauty of the SC coast and to enjoy worshipping and growing together through the friendship of fellow believers in Christ.

Led by Pastor Larry Hagerty of St. Thomas, Chapin and Pastor Megan Lineberger of Bethel, White Rock, the four-day retreat included an outside Holy Communion Service Friday night on the porch of the Retreat Center with a theme that involved Jesus, the sea and water. Twin boys from St Thomas Lutheran, Christopher and Michael Lindler, had their First Communion at the service after receiving some Holy Communion training on the beach that afternoon. Another highlight in the service was singing the Hymn of the Day written by the Rev. Ron Brown entitled "Help and Hope for the Sinking Sailors" to a very special tune!

On Friday morning and Saturday mornings after wonderful southern breakfasts, multi-generational retreat participants ranging from a year old to a 90-year-old worshipped Jesus with songs and also through devotions by reading "A Lutheran Welcome to Jesus" by Daniel Erlander. This was such a good way to start our days, which later included more gathering time on the beach in the late mornings, early afternoons and evenings. Most meals

were cooked by participants from the various Cluster churches, but our community also enjoyed seafood and other deliciously cooked evening meals from local restaurants

Getting to know others in a retreat setting was a great way to experience our understanding of being a part of the body of Christ. Several of us rose before breakfast on Sunday morning to enjoy a worship at sunrise on the beach at 6:15 AM. Hearing the words of Jesus while His creation is starting a new day at the sea is an awesome experience to behold. This and our time together during the four-day retreat gave everyone the time to reflect on Jesus's goodness and love. We realize that outside that retreat setting there is an unkind world, but through our faith, we rely on Jesus and know that He is with us. We read in our devotion on Saturday morning: "Life doesn't have to be the way we've always expected it to be – scary, oppressive, lonely. With God, everything is different." Thanks be to God!

Sunrise Service on the Beach



In Christian Service in August

Lay Readers:

3 Beth Ervin
 10 Deb Morell
 17 Bill Sandel
 24 Holly Wessinger
 31 Susan Waites

Greeter: Tom Vacula

Usher: Tom Vacula

Keeper of the keys:

Beth Bedenbaugh

Altar Flowers:

3 Open
 10 Open
 17 Open
 24 Open
 31 Open

MEMORIALS

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

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John P. Gray

Lee Wessinger by Pat & Dorothy Longshore, Daniel & Elaine Price, Donna Briquet, Charles & Elizabeth Tapp, John & Judy Swygert, Howard & Anita Lindler, Merri & Butch Swygert, Jerry & Debbie Faulkenberry, Joe & Margaret Epting

Donald Zuspan & Art Olson by Jeannine Olson

Memory of Our Ancestors by the Wilbur & Orelia Derrick Families



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on *August 14th and August 28th 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 had a social event at **Paint With a Twist** in Harbison. We had a great time and created “masterpieces”! Pictures to come!

Homecoming: We are in the process of planning Homecoming on September 28 . It 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: (CHANGE OF DATE!) Thursday, August 14, 7pm, at Beth Bedenbaugh's house

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

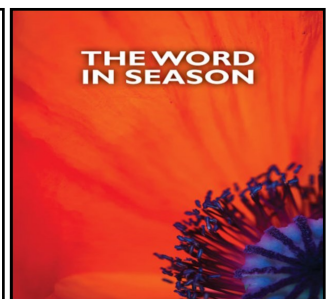


August Pantry Needs

Corn muffin mix, Vienna sausages, Soup (all sizes and flavors), Instant potatoes, Beans (baked, pork & beans, dry), Ramen noodles, Pancake mix / Syrup, Snack foods, Grits, Crackers 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.



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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STLC, Staff, Pastor & their families • SC Synod, Bishop, Staff & their families • Zachary Lindler (prayers for his internship) • Mary Nichols (dementia / Laurel Crest Community, West Columbia) • Bobby Kinard (issues with kidney and dialysis / cousin of Holly Wessinger) • Joe Epting (continued kidney dialysis treatments) • Dr. Janet Roberts-Crump (recovery from foot surgery) • Victims of the flash flooding in Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betty Koon (Harbison Shores 990 Columbia Ave, Room 105, Irmo, SC) • Melverta Sandel (rehab at Wellmore in Lexington) • Greg Rennhack (pancreatic cancer / brother of Andy Rennhack) • O'Neal Bickley (kidney and eye issues) • Rosemary Niehe (Recovery from hospitalization / health issues / pain management / mother of Richard Niehe / grandmother of Brad Niehe) • The family of Clayton Cook (who died on July 25th / brother-in-law of Sharon Dickert) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family of Lee Wessinger (who died on June 21st) • John Swygert (liver cancer / undergoing treatments) • Clay Falls (recovery at home from hospitalization) • Brian Izatt (large tumor near his heart / 32 years old / oncology tests / friend of Sandi Martini) • Ashley Rawl (ICU sepsis / 41-year-old cousin of Thane Martini) • Mary Joyce Shealy (Recovery from hospitalization)
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Evangelism and Outreach:

A **women's self defense class** was held on Saturday, July 26 at 9 am. Six ladies participated. We learned a lot of good information from Senior Investigator Cassie Radford - Special Victims Unit. We may have another class in January in the evening - let Beth Ervin know if you would be interested.

The **CPR/AED class** is scheduled for Saturday, August 9 at 9am - 11:15am. Please complete all the online required work PRIOR to this class. Dress comfortably. Please let Beth Ervin know if you have any problems.

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



2 Lacy Derrick
 5 Robin Harvey
 Ethan Lindler
 6 Ricky Derrick
 8 Sandi Martini
 13 Jim Williams
 17 Carl David Lindler
 21 Zachary Woodham



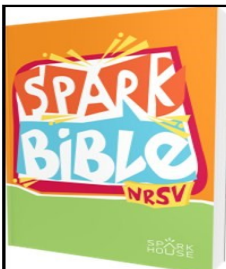
22 Abigail Bickley
 23 Todd Bedenbaugh
 24 Barbara McCaslin
 Connie Steele
 25 Josh Rennebaum
 26 Pastor Larry Hagerty
 29 George Lindler
 31 Betty Wessinger

03/2002 Bryan & Katherine Lindler
 18/1979 Fred & Annette Falls
 23/1975 Norman & Debbie Monts
 25/1979 Hal & Kay Bickley
 26/1967 Jimmy & Alice Lindler



Sunday School and Confirmation classes 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 7/31/2025

2025 Budgeted income	\$ 227,024
2025 Monthly need	\$ 18,919
2025 Actual income	\$ 148,683
Monthly avg income	\$ 21,240

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Worship Attendance

Date	In-Person Attendance	# of On-line Views
July 6	47	48
July 13	67	60
July 20	57	53
July 27	50	39

July Worship Service Averages

In-Person Attendance	=	55
On-line YouTube views	=	50
Combined total	=	105

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



Our YAH will be taking a trip on **MONDAY, August 18th** to Shealy's BBQ in Batesburg. If you would like to go please let Sharon know by Friday, **August 15th** to reserve your spot. (Also: Please let Sharon know, as soon as possible, if you would be willing to be a driver and how many you can seat in your vehicle.) More details on time and cost per person will come in the upcoming weekly bulletins. ❤️



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
August 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

Pastor's email: vichagerty@yahoo.com

Web: www.stthomaschapin.com

In Case of Emergency, Call Any Time:

Pastor Hagerty
Cell 803-673-6507

Council President
Don Hill
703-744-5341