

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

Date: October, 2025
Pastor: The Rev. Larry Hagerty
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Pastor Hagerty writes...

Recently, I was sitting in the new Wendy's in Ballentine, patiently waiting for my food. Then, all of a sudden, I noticed a rather tall man, who was about 6 feet 5 inches tall. He placed his order on the kiosk. After they shout "Larry!" I got my food and sat back down. A few minutes later I hear, "Micah!" and the guy got his food and sat back down. Immediately, I imagined that if this guy were just three (3) inches taller, he would represent my all-time favorite bible verse: Micah 6:8.

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Then I wonder, "Should I share this revelation with this guy?" At first I think: "Sure, why not?" Ahhhh, but then I chickened out. Sharing our Christian faith can involve some risk. And that day, I chose to keep my faith in God to myself. Sad.

Now that I have told you my all-time favorite Bible verse, let me share my second most favorite prayer (the Lord's Prayer being my most favorite). Coming in at number two is the Prayer of Saint Francis. By the way, the feast of Saint Francis is on October 4th this year. Here is his prayer:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Blessings,

Rev. Larry Hagerty

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



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

**Church Council Minutes
September 14, 2025**

Called to order in the Parish Hall by President Don Hill at 11:07 am.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Hagerty

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

Absent: Christy Brasington and Sandi Martini

Sandi submitted her resignation, as her travel has increased with her job.

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 have been filmed and edited by Emory Bedenbaugh. Through September 14th, we have done 243 videos. We are reposting videos from Year C, 2022.
3. On-line bulletins and sermon transcripts in pdf format are emailed to the church family and hand-delivered to 23 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 by intinction on September 7th. We will have Holy Communion at the altar rail on September

28th for our Homecoming service. Senior Seminarian Zachary Lindler will preach.

6. Our average in-person worship attendance for August was 61. We averaged 43 views per week on YouTube for our pre-recorded and re-posted Sunday worship videos.

Other activities include:

1. Confirmation class and Sunday School classes continued to be held today at 9:00 am.
2. Our Young at Heart (YAH) seniors' group will meet on Tuesday, September 16th for fellowship and a luncheon of lasagna and side dishes.
3. A children's birthday party took place at our picnic shelter on Saturday, August 23rd at 11:00 am. Our neighbor, Brett Auckland moved the time up from 2:00 pm in order to not interfere with the funeral for George Lindler.
4. Funeral and graveside committal services were held for Mr. George Lindler on Saturday, August 23rd. Full Military Honors were held at graveside.
5. Pastor Hagerty submitted his Retirement Announcement on August 26th, which was his 68th birthday. Pastor's last Sunday will be October 26th and his last day as Pastor of St Thomas will be October 31st.
6. Pastor is working with Elizabeth Hill using Church Fuel and will consult with Assistant to the Bishop Rick Carter to see how Church Fuel might help our congregation, given Pastor's retirement.

Treasurer's Reports

The Consolidated Fund Activity Report shows that we ended the month of August with a current operating fund balance of **\$73,002.17**. Our current operating fund expenses during the month of August exceeded our receipts by \$6,831.75. We are still off to a very good start after the first eight (8) months of 2025.

Our YTD giving to the current fund through the first eight months of 2025 is **\$162,820.94**. Our giving to the current fund in the first eight months of 2024 was **\$139,286.30**.

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

Capital improvement fund: **\$10,959.39**
 Sanctuary enhancements fund: **\$20,684.58**
 Social Ministry / Outreach Fund: **\$756.37**
 STLC Youth Fund: **\$3,442.28**
 Cemetery Fund: **(\$1,172.93)**
 JLB Endowment Principal: **\$83,674.39**
 JLB Endowment Interest: **\$27,553.94**
 JLB Loan Balance: **\$24,910.63**
 VBS: **75.00**

Stewardship and Finance

We had a committee meeting last Thursday, September 11th that was chaired by Ron Derrick. We discussed the audit and we will be bringing that forward. For this council meeting we want to focus on two items:

1. It is recommended that the Finance and Stewardship Committee have the authority to fund budget line items 5308 JLB Loan payment and 5309 Parking Lot Maintenance without council approval going forward since the congregation has approved this funding with the approval of the budget.

As information, the JLB loan was for \$20,000 over 5 years. 2. 2026 Budget Planning – DRAFT Budget complete for 2026 with 3 percent overall increase. See attached (copies of proposed budget are being made available to all Council members for review; we will approve during our October Council meeting). The DRAFT budget proposes that we reduce our church office hours to 8 AM to 1 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The office would be closed on Mondays and Fridays. This will allow us to increase Sharon's hourly rate from \$13.20 per hour to \$20 per hour. This will reduce our annual expenditure for the Administrative Assistant position by about \$5,000. This savings would be offset with a \$5,000 annual increase to our treasurer's position. There are other line-item reductions and increases that we will be discussed at our October council meeting after council has had a chance to review the draft budget. Cemetery No report. Christian Education Beth Bedenbaugh submitted a written report. 1. Current curriculum and teachers Brittney and Jennifer: Nursery Tracey: Sparks K-4 Pastor: Here We Stand 5-8 Beth: ELCA Faith Lens (based on the Gospel each week) / 8-12 Fred & Phil: first and second lessons of the day / Adults	2. Since our council meeting the following was decided: We will need to find a teacher for a Sunday School class for 4th – 6th graders for when Pastor and Tracey leave. Payton White and Mary Hill will be confirmed on Sunday, October 19th. The two of them will then move up to the youth class for 7th – 12th graders. 3. No Sunday School nor Confirmation Class on Homecoming Sunday on Sept 28th. 4. A plaque for Lee Wessinger will be blessed on Sunday, Sept 21st after being placed on the wall next to the Adult Sunday School Room. Family members of Lee will be notified and invited by Pastor to attend the dedication of the Adult Sunday School Room. 5. We obtained two more Study Bibles for the adult class. Property The Property Committee met on 8/28/25. 1. Updated guidelines and contract for the use of Facilities were approved by the committee and then by Council at the September meeting. 2. Cremation Scatter Garden Plan-Anne Shealy, Christy Brasington and Janet Tapp spearhead this project and have discussed with Ricky Waites about location and installation of the Garden. The area recommended is near the Boy Scout gazebo, which will likely include removing the gazebo. More to follow before presenting to Council for approval. The Garden cost will be funded by memorial gifts.
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3. The committee approved moving forward with getting quotes to re-key the doors to restore a key log which has been misplaced. As well, the hope will be to get the locks set to only one key for entrance to the church facilities. Going forward, the Property Committee Chair will control the keys and log. Council approved moving forward with the quotes. Lacy to get Quotes.

4. Discussion on planting a sycamore tree and moving Ken Webb's marker that was under the old sycamore tree that was removed by the road. Because of the size of the tree and the concerns it brings with the fruit balls and disease it was decided not to plant the tree. The marker will be moved to Ken Webb's grave site

5. Culligan Bottles-Culligan contract has been discontinued. They are coming to pick up the empty bottles in mid-September. The full bottles were moved downstairs with one placed in the water cooler and the others being stored in the closet with the tables and chairs.

6. Brett Rogers will restore the old Church sign, but with no timetable to complete.

2025 Focus for the remainder of the year:

a. Fence Line Maintenance - With the No Trespassing sign added, we will not encroach to trim bushes in the future. Any maintenance will be done from our property line. Ron will plan a day to spray vegetation.

b. Replace Tile in church basement - find

match. Still on Ron's list to go to Whitaker Floor Covering to check on a replacement that will match.

c. Drainage of church lines - some downspouts are still clogged. Mike Hufstetler checked the downspout drain on the Church on April 19th. He determined the drain leading from the church to the woods has been crushed and needs replacing. It is recommended that this drain be replaced and the fellowship hall drains need to be tied into one main drain leading to the woods. Ron will discuss with Alex Metts and get a quote.

d. Repair the caulking for the stained glass by entrance and back wall in Parish Hall. Rick will contact Shenandoah Restoration Inc for a quote.

e. Repaint wrought iron fence around the church. High on the outside priority list after fixing the downspout drainage issues.

f. Improve WIFI and possibly upgrade all church thermostats to WIFI compatible. Don to spearhead and determine best solution and provider.

Outreach and Evangelism

The committee last met on August 5th.

1. The AED has been purchased. We decided on the Zoll that is two years old, but has never been used. The cost was \$ 1700. It was delivered to the church on Sept 3rd. and was put in the cry room. On Sept 5th, the bracket was to be delivered. The O&E committee will suggest a

location for the bracket to the property committee. The Zoll rep was also to send videos to help in the use of our new AED. We will need to discuss a budget for the AED, as there will be some upkeep, including replacement batteries, etc.

1. Council supported the purchase of a Life-Vac unit for about \$100.
2. Update – Movie Night. This is scheduled for November 14th at 6:30 pm. Save the date.
3. Visitations. Nothing new to report.
4. Game Night – A sign-up sheet was put on the narthex table. Four people have expressed interest since our Sept 14th council meeting.
5. Our next O&E meeting will be held on October 15th at 6:00 pm

Children's and Youth Ministry

The next step is for the committee to have a planning meeting with parents and youth.

Worship and Music

The committee has not met.

1. 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.
2. Our Homecoming 2025 will feature the results of the Carolina vs Clemson

food donations for We Care. On four Sundays, from August 31st through September 21st. We will collect food in milk crates marked Carolina or Clemson. We will weigh the amounts every Monday and keep everyone posted on how the competition is going. The winning team will have the center table adorn their school colors.

Old Business

The subject of kitchen supplies was discussed. Currently Ron and Lacy have been restocking the supplies and paying for them and getting reimbursed. Contrary to previous statements, the Sam's credit card is still active. The property committee recommends that Stewardship and Finance address the plans for the use of that card at their next meeting due to the annual card fee.

New Business

1. Beth Bedenbaugh wanted to discuss a reception for Pastor. She waited until Pastor left the room to discuss the details.
2. Pastor had been paying the \$99 per month fee for our website from Tithe.ly, then getting reimbursed. He will work with Jennifer to get an automatic bank draft set up.
3. Don addressed the need for our congregation to get volunteers to be on the call committee, as well as to get volunteers to serve on church council. A person cannot serve on both. Our

updated constitution does allow some options for outgoing council members to stay on council for an additional year. Council will review those provisions in the constitution in order to clarify how many volunteers are needed for the 2026 council and how many volunteers are needed for the call committee.

4. Don distributed hard copies of the transition manual that has been provided by Pastor Rick Carter of the synod office. He wants council to start reviewing the information. Don stressed the

importance of keeping everyone in the loop regarding the process. We will need to get supply pastors during November and December. We hope to have an interim pastor by early next year. More information to follow.

Pastor left the meeting at 12:32 pm to allow council to plan a reception for Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Larry Hagerty and Deb Morell

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.

• STLC, Staff, Pastor & their families • SC Synod, Bishop, Staff & their families • Zachary Lindler (prayers for his senior year at seminary) • 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) • Betty Koon (Harbison Shores) • Melverta Sandel (rehab at Wellmore in Lexington) • Greg Rennhack (pancreatic cancer / brother of Andy Rennhack) • Clay Falls (health issues) • John Swygert (liver cancer / home healthcare)	• Francis Shealy (recovery at home following rehab) • Debbie Liebler and family (Debbie's son died in a car accident on September 6th) • Family of Lula Wessinger Fulmer (who died on September 16th / sister of Pam Meetze) • Judy Derrick (health issues)
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St. Thomas

HOMEcoming

September 28, 2025



St. Thomas's former pastor, Matt Moye, along with his wife Marcia and their son Tripp, joined us. We loved catching up with our special guests.



USC: 48 (week 1)
86 (week 2)
47 (week 3)
239 (week 4)
Total: 420
Clemson: 34 (week 1)
15 (week 2)
162 (week 3)
154 (week 4)
Total: 365
Grand total: 785

Who won the food drive competition? We Care!
Clemson came in strong week 3 and SPURRED on USC to bring
there best for week 4. The grand total of 785 pounds is
absolutely amazing! Thank you for all who donated to We Care.

*1 Tim 6:18: "do good. be rich in good deeds.
and be generous and willing to share"*

Please join us for a
Retirement Reception

Honoring

Pastor Larry Hagerty and Mrs. Tracey Hagerty

St. Thomas Lutheran Church fellowship hall

Sunday, October 26, 2025

from 11-1

(immediately following the service)



After 19 years of dedicated service,
we are celebrating their time with us
and wish them well in retirement.

WELCA NEWS:

Homecoming: What a great day! A great day for St. Thomas and a great day for our community! We did a wonderful job of contributing to We Care and to the needs of our community. Thank you to all who donated! Below is the summary of our giving in pounds:

Clemson

Week 1: 34
Week 2: 15
Week 3: 162
Week 4: 154
Total: 365

USC

Week 1: 48
Week 2: 86
Week 3: 47
Week 4: 239
Total: 420

GRAND TOTAL: 785 pounds!

Thank you to Elizabeth Hill for the vision and the leg work getting decorations etc.... Thank you to the ladies who came Saturday morning to decorate and help make Elizabeth's vision come to life! Thank you to all who helped set up and break down tables, and thank you to all who helped clean up on the day of Homecoming. We had 107 at the service and around 90 at the meal. Again, what a wonderful day!

Thanksgiving Pound Cakes: We will be providing pound cake slices again for the community Thanksgiving meal. Be on the look out for the sign up sheet in October / November.

Save the date: WELCA Christmas ornament party December 11. ALL women of the church are invited! Put it on your calendar.

Future meetings:

Monday 10/6/25 12pm (pantry organizing)

Wednesday 10/8/25 6pm (fellowship hall/regular meeting)

**Dedication of the Adult Sunday School Room
in Memory of Lee Wessinger
September 21st, 2025**

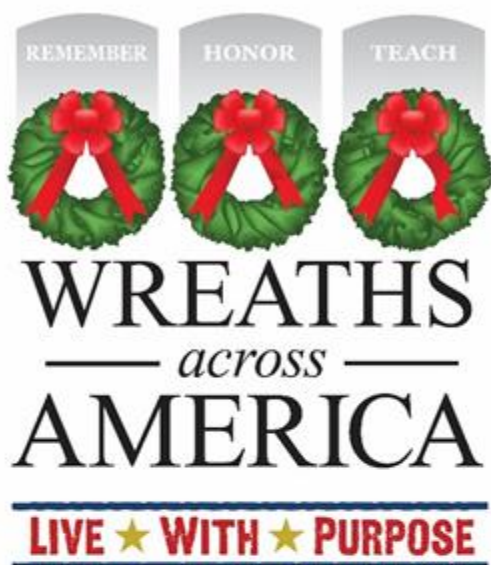


**This Adult Sunday School Room is
dedicated to the Glory of God and in
grateful remembrance of**

Lee Wessinger

**May this space continue his legacy of learning,
fellowship, and spiritual growth.**

***“Well done, good, and faithful servant”
Matthew 25:21***



Mark your calendar! The second annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony to honor our 65 STLC veterans will be held this year on Saturday 13 December at 1:30 p.m. @ the STLC cemetery. Wreaths will be available for sponsorship beginning in October. The wreaths cost \$17 each.

In Christian Service in October

Lay Readers:

5 Beth Bedenbaugh
12 Debbie Rennhack
19 Don Hill
26 Beth Ervin

Greeter: Christy Brasington

Ushers: Bill Brasington
Christy Brasington

Keeper of the keys:

Christy Brasington

Altar Flowers:

5 The Ervin's
12 Jason & Jennifer Wicker
19 Pastor & Tracey Hagerty
26 Francis Shealy

MEMORIALS

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

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John P. Gray

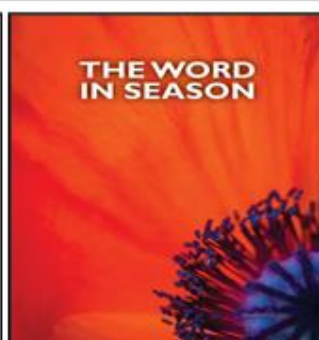
Mike Edens by Betty Wessinger

Lee Wessinger by Betty Wessinger, Michael, Holly & Sara Elizabeth Wessinger

George Lindler by Donna L. Briquet, John & Judy Swygert, Betty Wessinger



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



Evangelism and Outreach Update:

- Whoever is interested in a **game night** at the church, please sign up on a sign up sheet in narthex. We want to help organize your first meeting.
- Evangelism and Outreach next meeting:** October 15 at 6:30 - *Anyone is welcome to join us!!*
- Save the Date: **Movie Night** - November 14 at 6:30 - movie TBA
- Advent Brunch**—Sunday, December 14th at 11 AM

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on ***October 11th and October 25th at 8:30 am.*** All are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of good food and fellowship.



Altar Flowers Flower Chart is posted on the Cry Room door and has dates available in November and December. 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!

2 Debbie McCaslin
 8 McKenzie Lindler
 Ricky Waites
 11 Sidney Lindler
 12 Adam Bedenbaugh
 14 Joyce Ballington
 Ina Edens
 15 Grant Martini



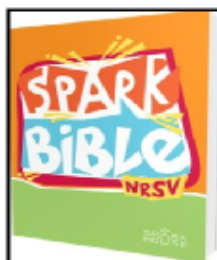
18 McKenzie Monts
 24 Randy Shuler
 26 Cameron Bickley
 Francis Shealy
 Gale Smith
 27 Kimberly Bickley
 28 Ken Comalander
 29 Ashley Metts

3/1992 Tony & Beth Ervin
 11/2014 Derek & Lindsey Williams
 12/1991 Randy & Robin Shuler
 27/1957 John & Judy Swygert



Sunday School and Confirmation classes resumed on August 10th.
 Classes run from 9:00 am to 9:45 am for:

- 1) Adults, using the Scripture Readings of the day;
- 2) Youth (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 9/30/2025**

2025 Budgeted income	\$ 227,024
2025 Monthly need	\$ 18,919
2025 Actual income	\$ 174,462
Monthly avg income	\$ 19,385

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Worship Attendance

Date	In-Person Attendance	# of On-line Views
Sept 7	67	26
Sept 14	46	21
Sept 21	60	38
Sept 28	107	37

September Worship Service Averages

In-Person Attendance	=	70
On-line YouTube views	=	31
Combined total	=	101

**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



Please join us on Tuesday, October 21st at 11:30 am for lunch and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

215 St. Thomas Church Road
Chapin, SC 29036

STLC Newsletter
October 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