

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

Date: December, 2025
Pastor: Pulpit Supply by SC Synod
Address: 215 St. Thomas Church Rd.
Chapin, SC 29036
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Web: www.stthomaschapin.com
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We invite every-
one to attend our
Christmas
Cantata
on Sunday,
December 14th
at the 10 am
service
followed by our
Advent Brunch
in the parish
building
Bring a Friend!

LARGE PRINT

EXCEL
PLUS

A Song A Son A Savior

The GLORY & HOPE of CHRISTMAS

MARTY PARKS

lillenas

CHURCH COUNCIL***President***

Don Hill

Vice President

Christy Brasington

Secretary

Debbie Morell

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

Don Hill

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***

Pulpit Supply by SC
Synod

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

November 16, 2025

Called to order in the Parish Hall by President Don Hill at 11:00.

Opening prayer by Pastor Rick Carter.

Check Roll: Pastor Rick Carter (SC Synod, ELCA), Don Hill, Christy Brasington, Debbie Morell, Gale Smith, Beth Bedenbaugh, Beth Ervin (candidate), Rick Derrick (candidate), and Jeanne Lever (candidate)

Absent: Lacy Derrick, Fred Falls, Debbie Rennhack (candidate)

Treasurer's Reports

The Consolidated Fund Activity Report shows that we ended the month of October with a current operating fund balance of \$75,234.42.

Current operating fund expenses during the month of October: \$17,182.04.

October receipts: \$13,904.23.

YTD income for 2025 through the month of October: \$188,832.66

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

Capital Improvement Fund:

\$11,460.39

Undesignated Memorial Balance:

\$7,590.44

Sanctuary Enhancements Fund:

\$20,784.58

Social Ministry/Outreach Fund:

\$783.37

STLC Youth Fund: \$3,442.28

Memorial Wall/Columbarium:
\$4,630.67
JLB Endowment Principal Balance: \$83,674.39
JLB Endowment Interest Balance: \$27,553.94
JLB Loan Balance: \$24,910.63

In lieu of the regular agenda, Council representatives submitted written reports for individual committees:

**Stewardship and Finance
(Council Representative: Don Hill)**

Council reviewed and approved the proposed 2026 budget at the October Council meeting. The overall budget is \$234,126.10, which is a three percent (3%) increase from 2025. A detailed breakdown and comparison to 2025 was mailed out to all voting member households in advance of the 23 November meeting.

Cemetery (Council Representative: Christy Brasington)

The Youth replaced American flags in honor and remembrance of Veterans Day.

Christian Education (Council Representative: Beth Bedenbaugh)

1. Current curriculum and teachers:
Britney/Jennifer: Nursery
We need a teacher here (w/ Elizabeth Hill filling in for a little while):
Sparks (Wicker/Lindler twins)
Open: Here We Stand (confirmation)/ 5-8 (not being held right now. On hold until interim pastor or later)

Beth: ELCA Faith Lens (based on the Gospel each week)/ 8-12

Fred/Phillip: First and Second Lessons of the day / Adults

2. No Sunday School on Dec 14 (cantata) and Dec 28 (Sunday after Christmas/ many may be traveling)

Property (Council Representative: Lacy Derrick)

1. Repair the caulking for the stained glass by entrance and back wall in Parish Hall. The transom window work is complete and they were able to use the existing protective glass. Shenandoah provided a change order on Jesus in the Garden to repair rotten wood. The window has been removed and taken to their shop to be repaired. Cost to repair, \$2,210.00 was approved by council prior to removing.
2. Drainage of church gutter lines - Alex Metts suggested that Ron call Alan Overton who has a commercial clean up business. He may have a Jetter System that will unclog the drains so a camera can then be used to find the damaged drain. More to follow.
3. AED Unit has been installed in the Narthex.
4. Whitakers Floor Covering gave us 3 spare tiles that appeared to match the Church basement flooring. However, when placing the tile on the floor, the new tile was too light. In fact, the broken tile that was taken to Whitakers is lighter than the floor. In an effort to repair, Ron cut the broken floor tiles

to make one tile, which is an improvement.

Outreach and Evangelism (Council Representative: Gale Smith)

No visitation visits were made.

The new AED was hung in the Narthex. Thanks to the property committee. We discussed training for the Life Vac. There is a short video on their website. There is also a laminated copy of the instructions with the Life Vac which is located in the Church kitchen.

Movie night was held on Friday, November 14th with 3 youth and 4 adults attending.

We will discuss usher training the first of next year.

There are 7 people who have signed up for Game Nights. We plan to get them together the first of the year. The plan is for them to manage this themselves in the way that they want to meet.

Judy Derrick confirmed that the plans for the Advent Brunch have been finalized with the caterer and it has been paid for. Gale agreed to handle setting up on December 13 (Saturday) before. Will need some help with tables and chairs. WELCA to help with table cloths and decorations.

While some changes are being made in the Narthex, a board will be hung in the Narthex for sign-up sheets. The property committee agrees with our idea of where

it should be.

Beth Ervin spoke to someone with The Department of Aging about speaking to our congregation concerning topics that would be relevant. More to come.

We talked about having refreshment outside after church. Discussed maybe once a month. There will be a sign-up sheet soon. Ongoing.

Children's and Youth Ministry (Council Representative: Don Hill)

Sunday, November 9th - the youth and their families helped to replace the American flags for the veterans in the church cemetery.

Thursday, November 20th - Beth Bedenbaugh and Elizabeth Hill will attend a workshop hosted by the SC ELCA called "Child & Youth Protection Workshop". Our goal is to continue to keep our children and youth safe at all church events. St Thomas does have a policy that is available for all members to read in our yearbook (pp 42-45). We need to review and update this policy.

Worship and Music (Council Representative: Fred Falls)

The committee continues to support the Supply Pastor process. Schedule for upcoming weeks include the following:

23 Nov – Zachary Lindler

30 Nov – Zachary Lindler

7 Dec – Zachary Lindler

14 Dec – N/A (Cantata Service)

21 Dec – Rev Carroll Robinson

24 Dec – Rev Carroll Robinson

28 Dec – Zachary Lindler

3 Jan – Pastor Jane Mitcham

Additional supply pastors will be announced once they are scheduled.

Call Process

Members of Council (both current and newly elected) met with Pastor Rick Carter (SC Synod, ELCA) to discuss the ELCA Call Process.

Call Process involves 3 phases: 1) Supply Pastors, 2) Interim Pastor, and 3) Interim Pastor/Call Committee; hi-lights of each phase include the following:

1. Supply Pastors – St Thomas Lutheran Church will be responsible for identifying pastors and seminarians to lead services between now (16 Nov) and early/mid-January 2026.

2. Interim Pastor – St Thomas Church Council will work with the SC Synod to identify an Interim Pastor. This pastor will be appointed by the SC Synod Bishop after consultation and approval by St Thomas Council. The purpose of the Interim Pastor is to provide stability during the absence of a regular pastor and to guide Council and the Call Committee in the Call Process; due to St Thomas' location in the Midlands of SC (good thing!), should expect to have an Interim Pastor in place around mid-January 2026. Interim Pastor will be paid for half time (~20 hours/week).

3. Interim Pastor/Call Committee – St Thomas Council will elect six (6) voting members of the congregation to serve on a Call Committee; expect to stand-up committee around February/March 2026; first priority of Call Committee will be to produce (with Interim Pastor's guidance), a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for St Thomas Lutheran Church. Purpose of MSP is to define who we are as a congregation – vision/beliefs/priorities/preferences/strengths/weaknesses; this information will be used to match St Thomas to a compatible pastor; expect MSP to completed in late April/early May 2026, at which point the formal Call Process will begin.

Bottom Line: Process will take time – please be patient!! (better to take longer than we would like, than to rush the selection and regret it)

Respectfully submitted,
Don Hill

Post Script

At the 23 November Congregational meeting the 2026 church budget was approved by a vote of 41 – 9 (50 voting members in attendance); seven (7) members were approved by acclamation for Council. Four (4) will serve 2-year terms (Beth Ervin, Jeanne Lever, Debbie Rennhack, and Ricky Derrick); and three (3) existing council members will serve one (1) additional year during the transition to a new pastor (Christy Brasington, Don Hill, and Fred Falls).

Evangelism and Outreach:

- We had **movie night** Friday, November 14 - our youth enjoyed a movie at the picnic shelter under the stars. Thanks to Christy Brasington for planning this event and Susan Waites and Gale Smith for helping.
- We invite everyone to come to our **Advent Brunch** on Sunday, December 14 following the church cantata. Invite a friend. The food will be catered. We look forward to sharing this meal with our church family and guests. We will have a sign up list in narthex to give us an idea of how many people to plan for this meal, but we invite anyone to attend even if you are unable to sign up.
- Crooked Creek has a **yoga** class every Thursday (Yin Yoga) 6:30 - 7:30 and Monday (Yin Restorative yoga) 12 - 1 pm for \$36/month. We were unable to set up a class at the church.
- **Game night** will start after the first of the year - 2026 - stay tuned
- We are planning to do some **usher training** in Jan 2026 - stay tuned



Christmas Poinsettias Orders

Due December 17th



If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in the church, given in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out an order form which will be located on the narthex table and submit it to the church office or place in the offering plate with your payment of **\$13** per poinsettia. **Checks should be made payable to St. Thomas Lutheran Church.**

WELCA NEWS:

Thanksgiving Pound Cakes: Thank you to all who donated a pound cake and/or helped cut and package slices for the community Thanksgiving meal! We provided almost 300 slices! Thank you to Jeanne Lever and Joyce Ballington for heading this up. And thanks to Jeanne for delivering the slices on Thanksgiving morning to Lake Murray Presbyterian Church.

Angel Tree: We are sponsoring 4 children from our community for Christmas this year. Thank you to all who are donating to help make this Christmas more special for these children. Thank you to Debbie Rennhack for heading this up. The last day to drop off gifts to Debbie or the church office is Friday, December 5 (before 2pm if bringing to the church office).

WELCA Christmas ornament party December 11. ALL women of the church are invited! See the larger announcement in the newsletter about this. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. It is not necessary to sign up, but it is helpful to know the approximate number coming.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 1/21/25 at 6:30. We would LOVE to see the women of St. Thomas there! Come join us in our ministry!



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

New 2026 Flower Chart now posted!!!



Women of St. Thomas Christmas Ornament Party

Thursday December 11 7pm

Beth Bedenbaugh's house

*bring a dish to share and a wrapped ornament

All women are invited! Bring a friend!



December Pantry Needs

Boxed pasta, dry / canned beans, jam / jelly (plastic jars),
grits, canned meats, soups (all sizes / varieties), syrup,
canned peas, cookies / other snacks
always need toiletries, dish soap, laundry detergent
& cleaning supplies!

Thank you so very much for your generous support!

Alecia Klauk directorwcc@sc.twcbc.com



Thanks to all who supported Wreaths Across America this year! I'm excited to say that we have sponsored wreaths for all 65 of our veterans. Please join us on Saturday 13 December at 1:30 here at the STLC cemetery. We'll need family, friends, neighbors and members of the congregation to help place wreaths on each headstone. Please join us to celebrate and honor our veterans during this patriotic and notable ceremony. - Rick Rennebaum

In Christian Service in December

Lay Readers:

7 Lynn Rennebaum
 14 Jeanne Lever
 21 Rolf Baghdady
 24 Beth Bedenbaugh
 28 Debbie Rennhack

Greeter: Debbie Rennhack

Ushers: Debbie Rennhack &
 Andy Rennhack

Keeper of the keys:

Fred Falls

Altar Flowers:

7 Open
 14 “
 21 “
 24 “
 28 “

MEMORIALS

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

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John P. Gray

Clay Falls by Roger & Tricia Edwards, Kurt & Rhonda
 McCartha, Bill & Christy Brasington, Michael, Holly &
 Sara Elizabeth Wessinger, Bill & Melverta Sandel,
 Carolyn B. Frick & Family, Jim & Margaret Williams,
 Ronnie & Ginny Lindler

Ronnie Epting by Joe & Margaret Epting

Lee Wessinger by J. Hollis & Arlene Derrick

Beau Bickley by Carolyn B. Frick & Family



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"> • 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) • 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) • John Swygert (liver cancer / home healthcare) • Judy Derrick (health issues) • Christopher Lindler (recovery from orthopedic surgery) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark Emory Bedenbaugh and family (born on October 21st / son of D'Arcy and Emory Bedenbaugh) • G.B. Slice (health issues / brother of Margaret Epting) • Bobby Kinard (health issues with kidneys / cousin of Holly Wesinger) • Family of Clay Falls (who died on November 15th) • The family of Beaumont Brooks Bickley, the seven week old son of Brooks & Emily Bickley; grandson of Heyward & Dawn Bickley (who died on November 19th) • Ethan Lindler (health issues) • Family of Stanley Slice (who died on November 27th / brother of Margaret Epting / uncle of Beth Bedenbaugh & Tim Slice) |
|---|---|

2 Allen Lindler
 4 Mary Joyce Shealy
 5 Mandy Garron
 6 Elizabeth Hill
 Sharon Kilpatrick
 Payton White
 8 Herbert Lindler
 Margaret Williams

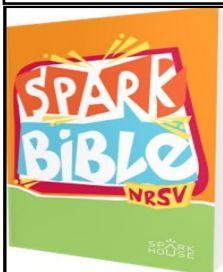


9 Rhea McCaslin
 10 Don Hill
 12 Judy Derrick
 14 Derek Williams
 18 Chantz Elliot
 21 Annette Falls
 29 Thomas Bickley
 30 McKenzie Metts

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes 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.

(Note: Sunday School will not meet on December 14th and 28th)



ELCA FAITH LENS

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on *December 13th at 8:30 am*. All are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of good food and fellowship.



A Record of Our Faithfulness Through 11/30/2025		Worship Attendance	
		Date	Attendance
2025 Budgeted income	\$ 227,024	Nov 2	55
2025 Monthly need	\$ 18,919	Nov 9	45
2025 Actual income	\$ 199,765	Nov 16	55
Monthly avg income	\$ 18,160	Nov 23	58
		Nov 30	52
		November Worship Service Average	
		Attendance	= 53



We hope you will join us on Tuesday, December 16th at 11:30 am for our Christmas lunch and fun fellowship. Lunch will be provided / BBQ chicken, hash / rice. Please bring a side dish and / or a dessert to share.

“Show and Tell Christmas Edition”

You are asked to bring an item that reminds you of a special Christmas - a photo, ornament, recipe, a song, story or anything special to you. During lunch we will share our stories. Bound to spark rich memories! Hope you’ll join us!



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

215 St. Thomas Church Road
Chapin, SC 29036

**STLC Newsletter
December 2025**

Forwarding Service Requested

Pastor

Pulpit Supply by SC Synod

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.

Pulpit Supply

SC Synod Office
803-765-0590

Church Phone: (803) 345-2993

Office email: sttom215@yahoo.com

Web: www.stthomaschapin.com

In Case of Emergency:

Council President
Don Hill
703-744-5341