

Church Council Minutes December 7, 2025

1. **Opening Prayer:** Don Hill
2. **Check Roll:** Lacy Derrick, Christy Brasington, Beth Bedenbaugh, Ricky Derrick, Beth Ervin, Jeanne Lever, Fred Falls, Don Hill, Gale Smith. Absent: Debbie Rennhack and Deb Morrell.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Don reviewed treasurer report:
 - The Consolidated Fund Activity Report shows that we ended the month of November with a current operating fund balance of \$71,170.43
 - Current operating fund expenses during the month of November: \$16,170.31
 - November receipts: \$12,106.32
 - YTD income (current fund) for 2025 through the month of November: \$200,938.98

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

- Capital Improvement Fund: \$11,775.39
- Undesignated Memorial Balance: \$6,055.44
- Sanctuary Enhancements Fund: \$21,199.58
- 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

Don noted that giving has diminished the last couple of months; he has reminded the congregation during recent announcements at the church service to continue to prayerfully consider giving their offerings. We will be watching our budget.

4. **Call Process Update:** Looking at 2 possible candidates for interim pastor.
5. **Dismissal of council members leaving in 2025:** Gale Smith was thanked for her service. (Deb Morrell was not in attendance but was also recognized for her service on council for the past three years)

6. Elect Officers and Appoint Committee Liaisons 2026:

- a. Stewardship and Finance: Lacy Derrick
- b. Cemetery: Christy Brasington
- c. Christian Education: Beth Bedenbaugh
- d. Property: Ricky Derrick
- e. Outreach and Evangelism: Beth Ervin
- f. Children's and Youth Ministry: Jeanne Lever
- g. Worship and Music: Fred Falls

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Evangelism and Outreach: Gale reported (prior to leaving the meeting) Outreach and Evangelism has not

met since the last council meeting. She reported the Advent Brunch is planned for next Sunday following the service.

- b. Stewardship and Finance: Don reported the budget was passed at congregational meeting 41 to 9. Discussed Finance Committee members and that Sharon's hours will decrease to 3 days a week in 2026 but we will continue to assess her hours based on need going forward.
- c. Cemetery: Christy reported the flags are available for Wreath's Across America and that she will be contacting Caughman Harmon regarding tents still up in the cemetery.
- d. Christian Education: Beth Bedenbaugh reported we are still in need of a teacher for the K-4th grade class. Currently Elizabeth Hill is filling in. We are also reviewing confirmation class - on hold now until interim pastor or later. No Sunday School on Dec 14 or Dec 28th (including adult class). Written report submitted.
- e. Property: Lacy Derrick reported stain glass back wall in parish hall is being repaired and the window itself. Cost to repair: \$2,210 and was approved by council prior to its removal. Hope to have the window back before Christmas. Looking at changing the locks to have one key fit all door locks - getting quotes. A Plumber will look at the fellowship hall men's urinal. Fluorescent bulbs

replaced in the church office. Written report submitted.

- f. Children's and Youth Ministry: Don reported the youth will be helping with the Wreath's Across America Saturday, December 13th at 1:30pm.
- g. Worship and Music: Don reported Pastor Robinson will be preaching December 24th and December 28th.

8. **Old Business:**

- a. Beth B asked if the offering envelopes have been ordered. Don to look into. Discussed offering envelopes and how important they are for offering tabulators to keep offering credited to the right person. Discussed saving money by determining who did not pick up their offering envelopes from last year and not ordering for those members. Ongoing.
- b. Discussed Time and Talent sheets: Don proposed a campaign to help generate more participation in committees. Council agreed we need to increase our committee numbers. Beth Ervin and Don Hill will work together to come up with a new version of time and talent. The Evangelism/Outreach Committee will also help. Ongoing.

9. **New Business:**

- a. Christy recommended we give Sharon a Christmas bonus this year. We discussed the amount - decided \$500. Christy and/or Don will attend

Young at Heart and present the bonus to Sharon on December 16th.

- b. Beth Ervin asked if we can go caroling to the nursing homes this year. Fred to check with Ginny to determine availability.
- c. Discussed newsletter being mailed to congregation members - will need to look into who has the list and plan going forward. A stack of printed newsletters are available in Narthex. Will look at shut ins to be

prioritized to receive printed newsletters in mail otherwise will encourage all other members to pick up in Narthex.

- d. Beth Ervin mentioned we need a committee designated to planning our 150th anniversary event. Ongoing.
- e. Keeper of the Keys: Discussed process for new members. Fred Falls volunteered to open the church every Sunday and Beth Bedenbaugh

A Note of Thanks for the Christmas Season

We give thanks to all who served during the Advent and Christmas season—those who prepared the sanctuary, provided music, assisted in worship, decorated, gave offerings, and supported the ministries of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in many faithful ways.

May the Lord bless all who serve in His name, and may the joy of His birth dwell in our hearts throughout the new year.

New Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday:
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

5 Kim Starnes
 13 Carson Woodham
 Cooper Woodham
 14 Terri Bickley
 Katherine Lindler
 15 Brooks Bickley
 Barbara Sweatman
 18 Franklin Monts



19 Cissy Comalander
 21 Chantz Monts
 25 Rita Derrick
 26 Kurt McCartha
 27 Salley Slice
 28 Melverta Sandel
 29 Ryan Starnes
 31 Ellen Rabon

15/1983 Bob & Tricia Cullum
 23/1993 Kurt & Rhonda McCartha
 01/2010 Robert & Valerie White



Dear Church Family,

I am deeply touched and humbled by your generous Christmas gift and for all the gifts and cards many of you gave me. Your thoughtfulness mean so much to me and it continues to be a true blessing to be part of this St. Thomas Church Family.

I am truly grateful for each of you and for the love and support you've shown me in so many ways over the years. I especially want to thank my sweet Young at Heart and Fitness Works friends for their constant love and support!!

I pray that God will richly bless you and continue to guide us all during this New Year!

With my love and heartfelt appreciation,
 Sharon Dickert



A Record of Our Faithfulness Through 12/31/2025

2025 Budgeted income	\$ 227,024
2025 Monthly need	\$ 18,919
2025 Actual income	\$ 224,361
Monthly avg income	\$ 18,697

Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
Dec 7	55
Dec 14	89
Dec 21	49
Dec 24	115
Dec 28	28

December Worship Service Average

Attendance = 84

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on *January 8th & January 22nd at 8:30 am*. All are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of good food and fellowship.



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.



ELCA FAITH LENS



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

215 St. Thomas Church Road
Chapin, SC 29036

STLC Newsletter
January 2026

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

Beth Ervin

Treasurer

Jennifer Wicker

Memorial Recording Clerk

Sharon Dickert

New Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday:

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 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

703-774-5341