

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

Date: February 2026
Pastor: Pulpit Supply by SC Synod
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Shrove Tuesday

- **Lent** is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the **Christian** calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, **Lent** is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of **Lent**, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.
- Mardi Gras is French for "**Fat Tuesday**", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.
- Shrove **Tuesday** (also known in Commonwealth countries and Ireland as **Pancake Tuesday** or **Pancake Day**) is the **day** in February or March immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (the first **day** of Lent), which is **celebrated** in some countries by consuming **pancakes**.
- The word **shrove** is a form of the English word shrive, which **means** to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Thus **Shrove Tuesday** was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.
- Today, the **baby** symbolizes luck and prosperity to whoever finds it in his/her slice of cake. That person is also responsible for purchasing next year's **cake**, or for throwing the next Mardi Gras party. In some traditions, the finder of the **baby** is designated "**king**" or "**queen**" for the evening.
- Shrove Monday, sometimes known as Collopy Monday, Rose Monday, Merry Monday or Hall Monday, is a Christian observance falling on the Monday before Ash **Wednesday** every year. A part of the English traditional Shrovetide celebrations of the week before **Lent**, the Monday precedes Shrove Tuesday.
- **MARDI GRAS IS ALWAYS THE TUESDAY BEFORE ASH WEDNESDAY....**
- **MARDI GRAS MARKS THE END OF CARNIVAL SEASON....**
- **MARDI GRAS IS ALSO KNOWN AS "PANCAKE DAY"**
- **THE OFFICIAL COLORS OF MARDI GRAS ARE PURPLE, GOLD, AND GREEN....**
- **KING'S CAKE IS EATEN ALL THROUGHOUT CARNIVAL SEASON....**
- **Masks** are a fun part of Mardi Gras, but if you're riding on a float, don't leave home without one. It is **ILLEGAL** to ride on a Mardi Gras parade float in New Orleans without a mask.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Don Hill

Vice President

Christy Brasington

Secretary

Beth Ervin

Youth and Children's Ministry

Jeanne Lever

Christian Education

Beth Bedenbaugh

Worship and Music

Fred Falls

Property

Ricky Derrick

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

Beth Ervin

Stewardship and Finance

Lacy Derrick

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



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake
and Sausage Supper
February 17th at 6:30 pm**



**Worship Service February 18th
at 7:00 pm Holy Communion
and Imposition of Ashes**

Community Lenten Service
STLC will host the Community
Lenten meal and service on
February 25th. Meal 6:30 pm with
service to follow. More info to
come in weekly bulletins.



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

Church Council Minutes January 11, 2026

Opening Prayer: Don Hill

Check Roll: Christy B, Beth E, Jeanne L, Fred F, Don H, and Debbie R. present; Lacy D, Beth B, and Ricky D absent. Ronald Derrick reporting for Lacy.

Treasurer's Report:

- ◇ The Consolidated Funds Activity Report shows that we ended the month of December with a current operating fund balance of \$82,599.58.
- ◇ Current operating fund expenses during month of December: \$15,568.25.
- ◇ December receipts: \$26,997.40.
- ◇ YTD income (current fund) for 2025 through the month of December: \$227,936.38.
- ◇ YTD income (current fund) for 2024 through the month of December: \$237,130.80.
- ◇ The December 2025 consolidated activity report includes the following designated fund totals:

Acct #	Acct title	Amount
3002	Capital Improvement Fund	\$11,775.39
3015	Undesignated Memorial Balance	\$10,936.44
3210	Sanctuary Enhancements Fund	\$21,299.58
3054	Social Ministry/Outreach Fund	\$783.37
3004	STLC Youth Fund	\$3,442.28
3400	Cemetery Fund	\$8,446.49
3403	JLB Endowment Principal Balance	\$83,674.39
3404	JLB Endowment Interest Balance	\$27,553.94
3408	JLB Loan Balance	\$24,910.63
5309	Parking Lot Maintenance	\$1,000.00

(*3400 Cemetery Fund and 3402 Memorial Wall/Columbarium are to be combined in to Cemetery Fund in 2026)

- ◇ Note - Consolidated Funds amount for 2025 is less than 2024 – reason being that in previous year we implemented a capital campaign that raised an additional \$30,000 to replace roof on Fellowship Hall
- ◇ Discussed possibly having a quarterly report showing expenses for committee accounts as a check and balance to monitor expenses
- ◇ Stewardship & Finance committee will check with Jennifer (treasurer) to see if we can have quarterly reports to assist each committee to budget/plan for expenses
- ◇ Each committee head needs to send what they need to the Stewardship and Finance committee so they can tell our treasurer what reports are needed for council meetings

Call Process Update:

- ◇ Pastor Ozzie Herlong will be our Supply Pastor next Sunday, 18 January.
- ◇ Request members of Council meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 18 January service to discuss the Interim Pastor position. In parallel, we will continue to pursue additional supply pastors to fill Sunday services in January and February.

Committee Reports:

- Stewardship and Finance:
 - ◇ Ron Derrick reported for Lacy – majority of comments pertained to Treasurer's Report (see above); will schedule committee meeting for late January/early February - will need feedback from council regarding budget reports
- Cemetery:
 - ◇ Submitted yearbook report
 - ◇ Adding section 6 back into constitution
 - ◇ Moving forward with scatter garden - removing gazebo and bushes (note - could become part of an Eagle project to help with scatter garden)
- Christian Education: no report
- Property: (Ron Derrick reported for Ricky)
 - ◇ Submitted written report
 - ◇ Contracts for sexton/grounds signed
 - ◇ Key log will be needed/maintained moving forward
 - ◇ Planning to have one key for all doors – will require changing the lock cylinders for all doors; total cost for 30 keys and re-keying all doors - \$3,059.20
 - ◇ Ron (on behalf of Property Committee) requested Council approval to move forward with plan and cost to re-key all doors; Council approved (Unanimous decision) to accept proposal for keys/new lock cylinders
 - ◇ Looking to improve internet at church soon
- Outreach/Evangelism:
 - ◇ Next meeting - Wednesday, January 14, 2025
 - ◇ Visitation/Bulletin Packets: will update following our next meeting
 - ◇ Movie Night November 14, 2025
 - ◇ Advent Brunch December 14, 2025
 - ◆ Overall, very successful
 - ◆ Attendance great - seating for 72 (almost full)
 - ◆ Good food/everyone seemed to enjoy - catered by Dupres Catering
 - ◇ Planning to have an usher training first quarter
 - ◇ Game Night - hoping to start first quarter
 - ◇ Time and Talent Sheets presented today to council - see attached.

- Children's and Youth Ministry:
 - ◇ Don reported that youth participated in Wreaths Across America and the caroling at Generations and Harbison Shores Assisted Living Facility in December. The WAA and caroling events went very well and were well-received.
- Worship and Music:
 - ◇ Hymns/music planned thru April
 - ◇ Cantata and Christmas Eve service went well

Old Business

- ◇ Time and Talent sheet reviewed. Beth E sent out to all the council and asked for feedback. We want to get started on this ASAP. Don proposes we start a campaign to increase congregation participation. His idea is to chart growth in participation over time. He wants council feedback regarding this idea. We can add to the Time and Talent Sheets as needed. Ongoing.

New Business

- ◇ Worship bulletins - Don reported the bulletin format today reflected going back to the similar way we used the bulletins when Pastor Hagerty was here but the Microsoft publishing has changed. Please give feedback regarding thoughts. Fred reported that he heard congregation members state that it was much easier today. Ongoing.
- ◇ Christy reported that it is difficult to water planters at Columbarium wall - need a hose connection to help water those plants - a spigot would be great. Ongoing.
- ◇ Christmas Eve service had a supply pastor (Rev Carroll Robinson); Zack Lindler assisted the supply pastor but did not get paid. Discussed offering Zack something - \$150 was voted. We appreciated Zack's help.



Outreach/Evangelism Newsletter Update:

- Outreach/Evangelism met on January 14, 2026
- We are having a **COAT DRIVE** starting Sunday, February 1st - look for box in the cry room.
- **Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper:** Tuesday, February 17th
 - ◊ Please let Beth Ervin know if you are able to assist with set up/decorations, food prep, and clean up.
 - ◊ Dinner will be served at 6:30pm
 - ◊ Anyone helping flip pancakes - please arrive by 5:30pm
 - ◊ Wear your Mardi Gras colors!
- **GAME NIGHT** - We are going to defer game night during Lent - we are hosting the pancake supper and Lenten meal in February. Stay tuned for a new date soon.
- On March 7th we are hosting a **community class** for **Dementia Day** - 9-12:30pm - this class will be presented by Tori Anderson with the SC Department of Aging. It will offer a comprehensive introduction to dementia types, stages, warning signs, risk factors, navigating a diagnosis, current treatments, care planning and support resources available. You will also learn practical problem-solving strategies to help support meaningful relationships through a dementia diagnosis. Brunch will be provided but registration is required. More information to come. You can go to Hopkare.com to register or find more information. A flyer will be in narthex soon.
- **VISITATION** to our Shut Ins: please see Christy Brasington if you would like to help visit some of our shut ins. We can assign you someone or you can request a name.
- We are hoping to host a **cooking class** - please see Beth Ervin if you are interested in teaching a group about a favorite dish. It doesn't have to be complicated or fancy - something that you feel others would be interested in cooking. The participants would pay for any food costs.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** August 2, 2026, following the church service - we will have a cook-out and ice cream party to celebrate our kids returning to school. More details to come!

Children's and Youth Ministry Update

The Children's and Youth Ministry participated in the Wreaths Across America on December 13th and they also went Caroling at Generations and Harbison Shores on December 20th.



**Young at Heart for February is still to be determined.
Please check weekly bulletin for update.**

In Christian Service in February

Lay Readers:

- 1 Holly Wessinger
- 8 Susan Waites
- 15 Fred Falls
- 22 Lynn Rennebaum

Greeter: Beth Ervin

Ushers: Beth & Tony Ervin

Keeper of the keys:

Ricky Derrick

Altar Flowers:

- 1 Open
- 8 Jeanne Lever
- 15 Open
- 22 Lent / No Flowers

MEMORIALS

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

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John P. Gray



2026 Flower Chart

Our 2026 flower chart is now posted on the Cry Room door. If you would like to put flowers in the church in honor or in memory of someone, ***please sign up*** and **indicate one or two flower arrangements beside your name.** Thank you!



February Pantry Needs



Oatmeal, jam / jelly, pancake mix / syrup, Jiffy cornbread mix, canned potatoes, grits, canned fruit cocktail, canned pears, Ramen noodles, canned tomatoes We can always use non-food items such as paper products, dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, shaving cream, etc. Thank you so very much for your generous support!

WELCA NEWS:

LENTEN MEAL: We will once again provide a meal for the community Lenten service. The date will be Wednesday, February 25. **We will be doing pots of soup again, so LOOK OUT FOR THE SIGN UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX!** Thank you so much for your help with this! WELCA will meet on Tuesday, February 24 at 6 to set up for the Lenten Meal.

ANGEL TREE SUMMARY: We provided 32 presents for 4 children from our community for Christmas this year. We Care, who heads up this initiative, sent us a letter thanking us for our participation, and they said that 575 children total benefited from this. Wow.

PRAYER BLANKETS: We continue to make and deliver **prayer blankets**. If you know someone who needs one, contact Beth Ervin or Elizabeth Hill.

GOLDEN AGERS' LUNCHEON: Save the Date! This will be held after church on Sunday, April 19. More information coming later.

WE CARE REMINDER: 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.

Our next meeting is Thursday 3/19/26 at 6:30 in the parish building. We would LOVE to see all the women of St. Thomas there! Come join us in our ministry!

- 1 Tony Ervin
- 2 Sherri Johnson
Jason Wicker
- 3 Kay Bickley
- 4 Derrick Comalander
- 8 Christy Brasington
Debbie Monts
- 10 Robert Bickley
- 11 O'Neal Bickley
Roger Edwards
- 14 Bethany Hobbs
Logan McCartha



- 15 Richard Miller
Nancy Monts
- 19 Joe Epting
Bill Sandel
- 20 Jennifer Wicker
- 23 Alice Lindler
- 24 Chase Starnes
- 28 Clara Bickley
Ashley Comalander
Carolyn Hagerty

A Record of Our Faithfulness Through 1/31/2026

2026 Budgeted income	\$ 234,126
2026 Monthly need	\$ 19,511
*2026 Actual income	\$ 8,093
Monthly avg income	\$ 8,093
*4th Sunday was cancelled due to inclement weather	

Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
Jan 4	62
Jan 11	56
Jan 18	56
*Jan 25	0

January Worship Service Average

Attendance = 58

*4th Sunday cancelled due to inclement weather

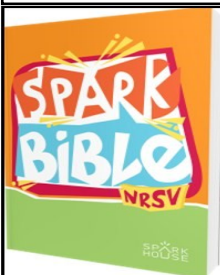
FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on *February 12th & February 26th 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



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215 St. Thomas Church Road
Chapin, SC 29036

STLC Newsletter
February 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