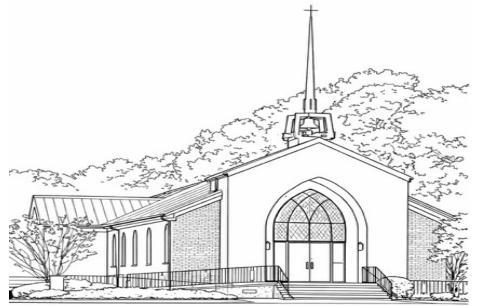


St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

Date: July 2026
Interim Pastor: Rev. Ozzie Herlong
Address: 215 St. Thomas Church Rd.
Chapin, SC 29036
Office: 803-345-2993
Web: www.stthomaschapin.com
E-mail (church office): sttom215@yahoo.com



The Whole Church is Grateful

What does one say to a congregation that has nurtured a person to answer the call to the ministry of the Gospel? I was pondering this question and so I thought I would ask someone who has a vision of leadership in the wider church. So, I asked our own Bishop Virginia Aebischer who is now completing 37 years of ministry and 18 years of service as Assistant to the Bishop and Bishop of the South Carolina synod. Bishop Aebischer replied,

“I would say the whole church is grateful for this congregation’s care and nurture of leaders like Zachary Lindler who can continue the legacy of proclaiming God’s word of grace to the world through our Lutheran tradition. Thank you for loving Zachary and teaching him the love of Christ’s Church, the Word of God and the Holy Sacraments. Thank you for your prayers during his formation in seminary and throughout the candidacy process and for his continued development as a pastor of this Church.”

Persons who are interested in serving as a pastor or deacon of this Church are committing themselves to four years of graduate studies through one of the seminaries of this Church such as Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, and along with academic studies they are also required by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to participate in a Candidacy Process throughout their time in seminary. The Candidacy Process is part of the ELCA leadership development and is administered by the synod where the student’s home congregation is located. It is an intensive process to help guide and support all persons who are open to ordained ministry. This Church walks together in this process in the three expressions of congregation, synod and Churchwide Organization, ELCA. “The South Carolina Synod Candidacy Committee joins up with candidates to walk alongside in finding direction and purpose in answering the call to ministry” said The Rev. Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop. He added, “I celebrate with Zach and with all of you at St. Thomas for a job well done.”

Thank you, dear friends at St. Thomas! The whole Church is grateful. We look forward to seeing you at the ordination of Zachary Lindler on July 25, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

-Pastor Ozzie



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

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

Interim Pastor

Rev. Ozzie Herlong

Director of Music

Ginny Lindler

Administrative Assistant

Sharon Dickert

Sexton

Tina Dyches of
Genie in a Bucket

Church Council Meeting - June 17, 2026

1. Opening Prayer -

2. Check Roll - all present -

give announcements to Don Saturday night

3. Special Guest: Zachary Lindler (via phone)

- a. Asking if St. Thomas is willing to host his ordination-
unanimously approved by council
- b. Saturday, July 25 at 2pm
- c. Christy Brasington and Margaret Epting (lead)

4. SC Synod Highlights: Beth Bedenbaugh and Christy Brasington

- a. Had 394 voting members attend + 40 visitors
- b. Updates regarding ministries and where our money is
being used
- c. Recognized St. Thomas as oldest church - 150th
anniversary
- d. Voted new bishop: Pastor Wade Roof from Mount Tabor
in West Columbia
- e. Discussed tithing to the synod apportionment- possibly
increasing our giving by at least 10% each year

5. Call Process Update:

- a. Congregation Vitality Project:
 - i. 25/60 have attended so
 - ii. Need continued announcement
 - iii. Re schedule Vitality meeting following the Young
at Heart meeting in July.
- b. Membership Audit: Don is working on it
- c. Next step after Vitality Survey - Ministry Profile is next
 - i. Use the synod's model
 - ii. The call committee will complete the Ministry
Profile

iii. Call Committee Selection: Pastor Ozzie recommends having a list of volunteers - establish a principle profile first - Example: 50/50 men and women, life long members, young members ?? Then decide who fits the profile. Need “establish a profile” to the next council meeting agenda.

6. New Business:

- a. Current Financial Status: - We are off our typical amount giving - we need to make the congregation aware - Do we need a special session/congregational meeting? See Treasurer’s report below.
- b. Beth B. shared that when she was at another church - having a QR code in bulletin insert allowed people to give digitally - need to look into
- c. Lake Murray Flower Shop - needs a key to get into the church - discussion regarding giving out keys to a minimum to allow us to keep up with who has keys.
- d. Lacy Derrick reported that Ronald purchased a keylock box. This will solve the key problem for florists getting into the church without giving them a key - it can be placed outside fellowship hall - you can use code to enter the box to get the key to open the door then return the key to the lock box. Council approved.
- e. Pastor Ozzie: presented an idea to have a synod historian give the history of our church/Dutch Fork area in celebration of our 150 church anniversary- honorarium will be needed \$250-300. Council approved.
- f. We have books purchased for Zachary Lindler (2 books) - need to reimburse Ginny - Beth B to manage books and add placard in each book, etc.
- g. Beth E discussed having a give- away for Homecoming - suggestions include a clear bag or Christmas ornament. The homecoming committee will meet Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 and discuss options. Council agreed we can fund this project - will bring options back to council next month.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Treasurer Report (Lacy Derrick): We have a \$4000 deficit for May, and a deficit year to date: \$30,000+! We need to remind people to continue giving - expenses have not changed. Discussed the Inreach fund \$250 can be used to pay for historian later this year.

- b. Cemetery Report (Christy Brasington): Scatter garden project is ongoing (Stephen Hill's Eagle Project)
- c. Christian Ed Report (Beth Bedenbaugh): 3 people volunteered to participate in VBS as assistants - need more - to help fill in. Sunday School starts back first of August. Plan catechism to start in August as well.
- d. Property Report (Ricky Derrick): New keys distributed. Integrated Media work completed. Dishwasher: cost for Hobart \$375 to service plus additional cost to repair. Discussion and council approved. A tree that needs to be cut down on church property will cost \$800 - council approved. Ricky/Ronnie Derrick to clean up wood - need more volunteers to assist.
- e. Outreach/Evangelism Report (Beth Ervin): no verbal report - written report issued
- f. Children's Youth Report (Jeanne Lever): Youth to provide donuts for Dads this Sunday. This Sunday is High School recognition for Ryan Starnes. Child Protection Policy Review by Deacon Deborah Poole handed out by Pastor Ozzie to council.
- g. Worship and Music Report (Fred Falls): July 5 celebration - can US and Christian Flag be placed in church? Yes, approved by the council. Discussion asking if we can place the US flag in church at all times? (not in the chancel area). Ongoing discussion. Pastor Ozzie to investigate policy.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer's Report:

The Consolidated Funds Activity Report shows that we ended the month of April with a current operating fund balance of \$72,118.08

Current operating fund expenses during the month of May: \$17,714.91

May receipts: \$ 13,676.07

YTD income (current fund) for 2026 through the month of May: \$ 74,259.43

YTD income (current fund) for 2025 through the month of May: \$104,395.59
The May 2026 consolidated activity report includes the following designated funds with totals representing at least 1% of total cash assets:

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3002 | Capital Improvement Fund: | \$3,649.53 |
| 3015 | Undesignated Memorial Balance: | \$10,958.44 |
| 3210 | Sanctuary Enhancements Fund: | \$16,740.73 |
| 3006 | Music/Hymnal Fund | \$8,808.39 |
| 3004 | STLC Youth Fund: | \$3,442.28 |
| 3400 | Cemetery Fund: | \$9,916.49 |
| 3403 | JLB Endowment Principal Balance: | \$91,674.39 |
| 3404 | JLB Endowment Interest Balance: | \$44,518.06 |
| 3408 | JLB Loan Balance: | \$16,910.63 |
| 3405 | Parking Lot Maintenance Escrow | \$3,310.00 |
| 3005 | Bereavement Support | \$2,562.80 |

Christian Education Council Notes 5/26

1. Summer hiatus:

Youth and high school class: June and July / last meeting will be 5/30 (high school class will end on 5/24 because Beth B. will be out of town)

Adult class: July only (the class decided to take a break in July which is also the same time the choir takes a break)

2. VBS: Snowball Mountain Challenge:

1. Find Your Strength in God (Cokesbury) Think Winter! Which should be refreshing in July!

2. July 19-23 / 5:45-8:00 (meal from 5:45-6:15)

(end time may change a bit due to some scheduling issues)

3. St. Thomas will provide a meal on Monday night and Wednesday night. The meals will be decided later. We will also need to provide the paper products on those nights too.

4. There will be 4 classes. Adult, Youth (ages 12-17), Kids (ages 5-11), Infants and Toddlers (ages 0-4)

5. We need to provide at least 3 assistants (volunteers from St. Thomas).

6. Because of the Bethel (and our own) child protection policy, assistants are

required. The assistants will be asked to help with the children on the nights of VBS, but no need to lead anything.

- a. Assistants needed in the following areas: Infants and Toddlers (Pre K), Storyteller/Music, Crafts and Science.
 - b. Three people have volunteered to help. YAY! More will be needed to fill in gaps in case someone can't be there. CONTACT Beth Bedenbaugh if you can help in any way.
7. The planning meeting on June 2 at Bethel was canceled. Beth Bedenbaugh will let the congregation know when this is rescheduled. Anyone is welcome to come!
 8. There will be other opportunities for St. Thomas to help: help on the nights of the St. Thomas meals, collecting items for crafts (look in the bulletin and newsletter for this list)
 9. REMEMBER to REGISTER for VBS: Info will come later on how to do this!

Outreach/Evangelism June Council Report:

- Game Night Kickoff was held on Friday, May 15th at 6:30pm in the Parish Building. We provided pizza, snacks, drinks, and dessert (cookies/cake). We had 17 attend - all ages were represented. Pastor Ozzie and Virginia introduced us to the game "Rat Tail".
- Event set up/take down team - we have volunteers from our Time and Talent Sheets who will assist for planned church events setup/take down.
 - * Ricky Waites
 - * Christy Brasington
 - * Ron and Lacy Derrick
 - * Jeanne Lever
 - * Fred Falls
 - * Don Hill
 - * Rick Rennebaum
- Hospitality Teams: Hope you are enjoying the fellowship
- 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.
- Save The Date: Movie Night - October 9th at Picnic Shelter
- Our next meeting is July 30 at 6:30 - everyone welcome to attend

WHO WANTS TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN THE CALL PROCESS?

We continue to have Vitality Survey meetings in order to discuss and complete individual surveys looking at the VITALITY of our church.

So far we have had about 25 people complete surveys/participate in discussion.

Our average attendance this year is about 60 - we are looking to get an additional 35 more to complete the surveys $25/60 = 42\%$ completion.

This is a VITAL part of our CALL PROCESS - we need your input.

Our next Vitality meeting is TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 following the Young At Heart meeting. Beth Bedenbaugh, Christy Brasington, and Pastor Ozzie will lead the discussion on 7/14/26.

We will plan additional meetings after our next council meeting if needed.

Thank you.

It takes a village...

The family of **Zachary Lindler**, along with the members of St. Thomas, are proud of his calling to the ministry of the Church. As the home where Zachary was baptized and confirmed, St. Thomas is privileged to host his **ordination and reception on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 2:00pm**. The attendance is expected to be approximately 250-300. We are offering the opportunity for sponsorships to help offset the cost of his reception. No amount is too large or too small. The planning committee is proposing \$25, \$50, or \$100 sponsorships.



You can drop them off at the church office or place them in the offering plate.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 19-23 / 5:45-8:00 (meal from 5:45-6:15)
at **BETHEL LUTHERAN**

There will be 4 classes:
Adult, Youth (ages 12-17), Kids (ages 5-11),
Toddlers



ALL MUST REGISTER (3 ways to register below)

1. Fill out the paper form found in Narthex and/or church office. You can leave the filled out form in the Narthex in the designated place, the church office, or give to Beth Bedenbaugh.
2. Go to bethelwhiterock.com. Scroll down to *Vacation Bible School* and *find click here to register. Fill out the form here.*
3. Go to the flyer in the Narthex, at the church office, and on the front door of the fellowship hall to find and use the QR code to fill out the form.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!!! See below

- St. Thomas will provide a meal on Monday night and Wednesday night. You can help with this effort.
- We need to provide assistants (volunteers from St. Thomas). Because of the Bethel (and our own) child protection policy, assistants in classrooms are required. The assistants will be asked to help with the children on the nights of VBS, but no need to lead anything.
- There will be other opportunities for St. Thomas to help like collecting items for crafts. More information later on this.

CONTACT BETH BEDENBAUGH or the CHURCH OFFICE if you are interested in helping with any of the above!

Bethel has done a stellar job in planning, BUT they need our help!!!

NEXT PLANNING MEETING Thursday, July 9 at 10 am at Bethel.

ALL welcome!

WELCA NEWS

WELCA SOCIAL: A social is being planned at 8 Petals in Little Mountain on Thursday, July 16 at 6:30pm. We each will create a fused glass piece of art as we socialize and partake in a bit of food. The price will be \$30-\$40 per person depending on what you choose to create. Food is included in the price. The pieces will be picked up a few days afterwards. Meet at the church at 6 if you would like to carpool. Thank you to Jeanne Lever for organizing this. **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING.**

KITCHEN ORGANIZING AND CLEAN UP: We are continuing to clean out and organize the kitchen. Our next meeting to work on this will be September 9 at 6:30pm. Come join us!

PANTRY REMINDER: We worked hard cleaning out, organizing, and labeling the kitchen pantry, so we are asking everyone to please put items back in their assigned space, so the next person can easily find the supplies and items they need. THANKS!

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.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday 7/16/26 (social) 6:30 at 8Petals (see above)

Wednesday 8/19/26 6:30 Kitchen clean up continued

Wednesday 9/9/26 6:30 Regular Meeting

We would LOVE to see all the women of St. Thomas at our meetings! Come join us in our ministry!





Tuesday, July 14th, 11:30 am.

Please join us for lunch, menu to be determined, and a presentation by the Congregation Vitality Team.

The Congregation Vitality Team would like to invite the members of Young at Heart to participate in the Congregation Vitality Project following lunch (Noonish) at the meeting on **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**. The vitality project engages members of the congregation to explore what God is up to in St. Thomas congregation. It addresses questions about where God is calling the congregation today and in the future. The responses to the questions will be used to develop a congregational ministry profile which will be used in the call process in calling a new pastor. Knowing who we are and what we are about will help identify the gifts needed in future leadership. We would be asking for about one hour of your time following the meal. The presentation will be led by Pastor Ozzie, Beth Bedenbaugh, and Christy Brasington.

July Food Pantry Needs

Kids' Snacks: Fruit snacks, pudding or Jello cups, Goldfish, Cheez-its, pretzels, popcorn, nuts, raisins, Little Debbie's, pop-tarts.

Breakfast & Pantry: Cereal, cereal bars, oatmeal, grits, jelly, spaghetti sauce.

Canned Goods: Canned mixed vegetables, yams, chili beans, canned chicken, tuna, spam.

Hygiene & Household: Shaving cream, razors, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels

Thank you so very much for your generous support!





**Pizza & Bowling
was a blast!**



Sunday, May 31



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

We will meet at Palmetto Roads on
July 9th and 23rd at 8:30 am.

You are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of
good food and fellowship.

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 & their families
- SC Synod, Bishop, Staff & their families
- Zachary Lindler (currently seeking pastoral call)
- Mary Nichols (dementia / Laurel Crest Community, West Columbia)
- Joe Epting (continued kidney dialysis treatments)
- Betty Koon (Harbison Shores)
- Melverta Sandel (rehab at Wellmore in Lexington)
- Greg Rennhack (pancreatic cancer / brother of Andy Rennhack)
- Christopher Lindler (recovery from orthopedic surgery)
- Ethan Lindler (health issues)
- Melissa Derrick (upcoming kidney transplant)
- Pam Meetze (health issues)
- Brenda Thomas (aunt of Holly Wessinger)
- Wendell Bedenbaugh (uncle of Holly Wessinger)
- Kristen Lee-Fish (transferred to rehab facility for young stroke victims / friend of Janet Crump)
- Carl David Lindler (recovery from back surgery / in Mt Pleasant on April 1st)
- Morgan Ward (cousin of Holly Wessinger)
- Family of John Carroll Swygert (who died on April 28th)
- Mike Steinhilpher (prostate cancer)
- (Lori Turkvant (sister of Tracey Lindler (Allen) who died on May 11th)
- The Family of Betty Wessinger (who died on May 26th)
- The Family of Elizabeth Geraldine “Geri” Gambill (who died on June 1st / mother of Debbie McCaslin and sister of Marie Stoudemire)
- Jason Jolley (teacher at CHS recovering from brain surgery)
- The Family of O’Neal Bickley (who died on June 12th)
- The Family of Mary Joyce Shealy (who died on June 26)
- Sharon Dickert (St. Thomas secretary—fall and broken wrist. She will have surgery on Monday, July 6)



In Christian Service in July

Greeter: Lacy Derrick
Usher: Lacy and Ron Derrick

Keeper of the keys: Lacy Derrick

Altar Flowers:

5– open
12– Ronnie & Ginny Lindler
19– open
16– Ronnie & Ginny Lindler

Lay Readers:

5– Fred Falls
12– Debbie Morell
19– Beth Ervin
16– Beth Bedenbaugh

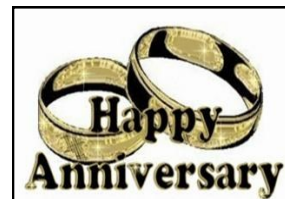
Alternate: Ronnie Lindler

1 Judy Swygert
2 Bill Brasington
Ronnie Lindler
5 Mary Mac Richardson
7 Debbie Rennhack
9 Jimmy Lindler
Tim White
12 Ginny Lindler
13 Beth Bedenbaugh
15 Harrison Bedenbaugh



18 Lib Derrick
Virginia Herlong
20 Sonya Beale
William Harvey
21 Lynn Rennebaum
22 Jennifer Hart
23 Betty Koon
Susan Waites
Holly Wessinger
25 Allie Marie Bickley
28 Deb Morell

06/1968 Carl David & Janice Lindler
17/1993 Ronnie & Ginny Lindler
23/2005 Don & Elizabeth Hill



³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 38-39

We extend our deepest condolences to the Family of Elizabeth Geraldine "Geri" Gambill who died on June 1st . She was the mother of Debbie McCaslin and sister of Marie Stoudemire.

We extend our deepest condolences to The Family of O'Neal Bickley who died on June 12th. His service was held at St. Thomas on June 16.

We extend our deepest condolence to the family of Mary Joyce Shealy who died on June 26th. She was the sister of Francis Shealy. Her service was held on June 29th.

Thank you to the members who signed up to be Lay Readers for the month of July. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign up for August and September. We have several Sundays available.

Flower Chart

The flower chart is 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.** We still have openings for the year. Thank you!



MEMORIALS

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

John Carroll Swygert by Site Infrastructure Engineering Group - Savannah River Nuclear Solutions , Doris & Philip Wessinger, Betty &

Bobby Counts, Linda & Jacob Frick, James Derrick, Lewis & Jessica Wessinger, Wilbur & Kathryn Swygert, John & Linda Fulmer, George Swygert & Lori Jenkins, Heyward & Brenda Counts, Joe & Margaret Epting, Anne Shealy, Jeanne Lever

Betty Wessinger by Lewis & Jessica Wessinger, Donna Briquet Judy Swygert, Ronnie & Melissa Derrick, Bill & Melverta Sandel, Roger & Trish Edwards, James Derrick, Ricky & Lisa Derrick, Nell Derrick, Andrew Westbrook, John & Linda Fulmer, Heyward & Barbara Shealy, Mary Joyce Shealy, Francis Shealy, Martha Derrick, Ina Edens, Gale Smith, Michael & Holly Wessinger, Leonard & Donna Chapman, Jim & Alice Lindler, Ronnie & Ginny Lindler, Doris & Philip Wessinger, Joe & Margaret Epting

Geri Gambill by Marie Stoudemire, Patrick & Grace Knie , Theo Williams & Lisa Brink, Bruce Williams, Ronnie & Ginny Lindler, Employees of Biodone

O'Neal Bickley by Martha Derrick, Bill & Melverta Sandel, Roger & Trish Edwards, Marie Stoudemire, Ronnie & Ginny Lindler, Randy & Pam Frick, Carl & Bonnie Derrick, Joe & Margaret Epting

Clay Falls by Hollis and Arlene Derrick

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John P. Gray

Lee Wessinger by Lewis and Jessica Wessinger

Mary Cleo Lindler and John Snelling by Mary Steward



Gospel Lessons for July

July 5: Matthew 11: 16-19 , 25-30

July 12: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-42

July 26: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Reminders:

- The Word in Season Devotional Booklets are available in the narthex in large print and small print.
- As you receive communion, please fill out a communion card located in the pew rack. After signing and dating it, you may place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. Only one card per year is needed (although there is no harm in submitting multiple!). This record of communing, along with contributions records, helps us maintain accurate accounting of active membership at St. Thomas. Such membership is important, as it helps determine eligibility to use Church facilities, be interred in the St Thomas Church cemetery, and vote on matters affecting the life and decisions of our church.



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church

215 St. Thomas Church Road
Chapin, SC 29036

STLC Newsletter
July 2026

Forwarding Service Requested

Interim Pastor

Rev. Ozzie Herlong

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.

Interim Pastor

Rev. Ozzie Herlong
803-360-1877

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