

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter

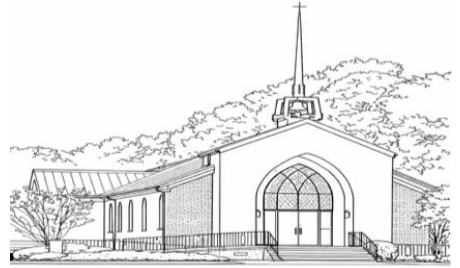
October 2026

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ozzie Herlong

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Ministry Profile: What Is It?

The writing of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is in process at St. Thomas. What is an MSP? The MSP is intended for use by congregations that are seeking to call a pastor. The MSP includes characteristics of St. Thomas Congregation: our leadership style, our programming and our focus on who we are, our purpose, giftedness and mission. Why is an MSP needed? The MSP helps the congregation to look at our leadership needs and the type of leadership we seek in a pastor.

In July and August members of the Congregation Council conducted the Congregation Vitality Project. This survey asked members of the congregation to identify the strengths and challenges of the congregation. Respondents to the congregation vitality project named the strengths of St. Thomas Church. Among the strengths they listed generous hospitality, strong sense of community, care for one another, meaningful worship, love for the Lutheran liturgy and tradition, helping others in need, and excitement about the congregation's future.

Respondents also identified challenges. Anticipating the next chapter in the life of St. Thomas, many are looking for clarity of mission and purpose, outreach to young families, seeking and using the gifts of members of all ages, and interaction with the community. Congregants are concerned about the aging membership and retaining new members and helping others.

The Call Committee, using the information provided by the Congregation Council, will write the MSP. The committee, installed and commissioned on September 27, 2026, includes Ronnie Lindler, Chair; Jessica Ervin, Elizabeth Hill, Phil Lindler, Janet Tapp and Holly Wessinger.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God has called us to a new time in our life as St. Thomas Church. It is a time for reflection and prayer, a time for self-examination and seeking, a time for expectation and hope. We need a shepherd to lead our flock, and God has promised that he will provide a shepherd for us.

Almighty God, you alone are the great Shepherd of the sheep, and we turn to you to lead and guide us in all things. Our trust and our hope are in you. You are the way, the truth, the life. As you have raised up faithful servants of your holy word to tend your flock in each time and place, send us now, we pray a faithful shepherd to lead our flock. **Amen**

Pastor Ozzie

Church Council Meeting - September 13, 2026

1. Opening Prayer - Pastor Ozzie

2. Check Roll - All present except Lacy Derrick

3. Old Business:

- a. Michael Lindler: gave presentation regarding his summer camp/activities funded by our church
 - i. Lutheridge and 1 day at Lutherock
 - ii. Caving - Leroy's room
 - iii. White Water Rafting
 - iv. Graceworks - favorite agencies he worked with: Mission Lexington, Meals on Wheels - next year he will be on the planning committee for Graceworks
 - v. He encourages everyone to participate in these activities
- b. Call Committee Status:
 - i. Call Committee to be installed on September 20 - Don will announce after installation that the Call Committee will congratulate the Committee, and we would like the committee to convene and formally pass information. Don will communicate in an email prior to installation that electing a chair is priority.
 - ii. Pastor Ozzie handed out a timeline - call committee installed, Call Committee elects a chair, Ministry Profile completed and council approves...
 - iii. Council will have physical handoff - to include Vitality Survey with summary, financials, synod profile, membership numbers, etc. "Passing the Baton"
 - iv. Don expressed that numbers need to be verified regarding membership - Don will follow up
 - v. The Call Committee will set a date for the hand-off meeting and we encourage as many council members present.

- vi. Next Step: Kimberly Hidal (assistant to bishop) - she will be contacting the Call Committee chair and begin process
- c. New Members requesting to join: Sowards - Elizabeth and John - possibly in October (from St. Paul Lutheran Church)
- d. Pastor reports Betty Koon was in LMC - now in Encompass Rehab
- e. Membership Audit: Don to send Debbie and Christy update on membership with communion cards.
- f. Waxing the floor - Christy thinks Tina is out of chemicals - Ricky Derrick to follow up - is the floor completed? Some areas look dull/splotchy. Young at Heart to meet in the basement of church instead of the Parish Building.
- g. Child Protective Policy: Beth B is working on this - ready by Oct
- h. Usher training - asking to start working on - need to add audio visual to their duties - Fred Falls to update

4. New Business

- a. Pastor's Study: Brittany Lindler will lead a project to renovate/update the office - possibly laminate floor, new furniture/reupholster furniture. Beth showed a picture of what Chat GPT suggested. Need a budget - suggest Brittany come up with what money is needed. Suggest having a small table and 3 chairs. Beth to get back with Brittany Lindler.
- b. Christy is seeking council approval for a cemetery plot for Tom Vacula's spouse - Mary Vacula. Approved by all.

5. Committee Reports: written reports received as noted - highlights given

- a. Homecoming 150th celebration: Beth E updated to congregation - written report submitted. Beth B to check with Emory regarding lens of camera - Emory may be able to video - Beth B. to ask.
- b. Treasurer Report (Lacy Derrick): defer - Lacy to send digital update this week
- c. Cemetery Report (Christy Brasington): replacing planters at Memorial Wall

- d. Christian Ed Report (Beth Bedenbaugh): No Sunday school on Homecoming Sunday
- e. Property Report (Ricky Derrick): Written report given - tree behind the shed is available for members to pick up otherwise it will be removed. The sound system will be installed soon. Burn pile will be burned on Sept 17, Calling Mike Huffstetler to fix the leaking faucet in the custodian's room.
- f. Outreach/Evangelism Report (Beth Ervin): Coat drive ending next Sunday. Written report given
- g. Children's Youth Report (Jeanne Lever): Planning for fall through Christmas
- h. Worship and Music Report (Fred Falls): Fred asking for usher list - will contact Sharon. Music for homecoming. Music for cantata was delivered to Ginny's home.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Next official council meeting: October 11

Treasurer's Report:

The Consolidated Funds Activity Report shows that we ended the month of August with a current operating fund balance of \$82,376.03

Current operating fund expenses during the month of August: \$15,162.18

August receipts: \$26,548.12

YTD income (current fund) for 2026 through the month of August: \$ 126,676.01

YTD income (current fund) for 2025 through the month of August: \$162,709.94

The June 2026 consolidated activity report includes the following designated funds with totals representing at least 1% of total cash assets:

3002 Capital Improvement Fund:	\$3,599.53
3015 Undesignated Memorial Balance:	\$14,604.44
3210 Sanctuary Enhancements Fund:	\$11,218.13
3006 Music/Hymnal Fund	\$8,808.39
3004 STLC Youth Fund:	\$3,442.28
3400 Cemetery Fund:	\$3,691.81
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	\$2,602.80
3213 Piano/Organ Maintenance	\$2,545.00

October We Care Pantry Needs

Peanut butter, jelly, Jiffy mix, grits, soup, canned beans, Ramen, oatmeal,
Vienna sausages, Spaghettio's

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!

Alecia Klauk directorwcc@sc.twcbc.com

Homecoming 2026

We enjoyed our Homecoming Service and Potluck Lunch on Sunday, September 27th - Celebrating 150 years of ministry in the Chapin area. We counted 100 people attending the service and 65-75 attending the lunch. Thank you to Pastor Miles and Debbie Miles for attending and for Pastor Miles being our guest pastor. We enjoyed catching up with them. We also enjoyed visiting with Matt and Marcia Moye. It felt like a family reunion!

Thanks to all who contributed their time and talents including our Homecoming Committee - Pastor Ozzie, Ginny Lindler, Debbie Rennhack, Jessica Ervin, Christy Brasington, Jeanne Lever, Margaret Epting, Fred Falls, and Beth Ervin. Thanks to Janice Lindler who provided our delicious Homecoming cake. Thanks to our handbell choir - Robert White, Parker White, Ricky Derrick, Ronnie Lindler, Don Hill, Sara Hill, Michael Lindler, Lucas Powell, Lisa Derrick, Jeanne Lever, Virginia Herlong, Mary Hill, Jessica Ervin, Beth Ervin, as well as our trombonist - Parker White. Also, thanks to Ginny Lindler, our choir director, and our special ringers, Lizzie and Christopher Lindler. Thank you to our food helpers in the kitchen, Janet Tapp and Lynn Rennebaum, as well as all the ladies of WELCA who decorated the fellowship hall. Thanks to our cleanup crew - Gale Smith, Virginia Herlong, Rick Rennebaum, Lacy and Ron Derrick, Susan Waites, Beth Bedenbaugh, Beth Ervin, Jessica Ervin, Jeanne Lever, Janet Tapp, Margaret Epting, Andy and Debbie Rennhack. Thanks to Elizabeth Hill who was our official photographer and arranged flowers for the tables and Stephen Hill who was our drone photographer for the group photo. Thanks to our wonderful choir - Beth Bedenbaugh, Janet Crump, Lib Derrick, Lisa Derrick, Margaret Epting, Fred Falls, Pastor Ozzie Herlong, Virginia Herlong, Don Hill, Ronnie Lindler, Anne Shealy and Kim Starnes. Thanks to our crucifer Mary Hill and torch bearers Lucas

Powell and Michael Lindler. Thanks to Jeanne Lever who provided the special homecoming cups and Debbie Rennhack who provided the napkins. Thanks to Jessica Ervin for organizing our evites and designing our Homecoming 150 years logo for the cake topper and commemorative cups. Thanks to Margaret Epting for providing the ice for our meal. Thanks to Christy Brasington and Beth Ervin for the historical summary. Thanks to Sara Hill for creating our artwork for the bulletin cover and the framed print. Thanks to Emory Bedenbaugh for videotaping the service. Thanks to Debbie Rennhack and Jessica Ervin for our picture slide show during the meal as well as the photos on the tables. Thanks to our event set up/take down committee - Rick Rennebaum, Ron Derrick, Fred Falls, and Don Hill. Thanks to Andy Rennhack for picking up our chicken provided by WELCA. And, of course, thanks to Ginny Lindler and Sharon Dickert for our beautiful bulletins!!

It was a great day!!! We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did!! We ask our Lord to continue to bless our church and congregation as we begin this next chapter in the life of St. Thomas Lutheran Church.



WELCA NEWS:

KITCHEN ORGANIZING AND CLEAN UP: We are continuing to clean out and organize the kitchen. Our next meeting to work on this will be **Wednesday, October 21, 6:30pm**. We are almost done. 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.

LOOK FOR THESE COMING UP SOON!

Community Thanksgiving pound cakes
Angel Tree Christmas Outreach
Ornament Party 12/9

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Kitchen Organizing: Wednesday, October 21, 6:30pm

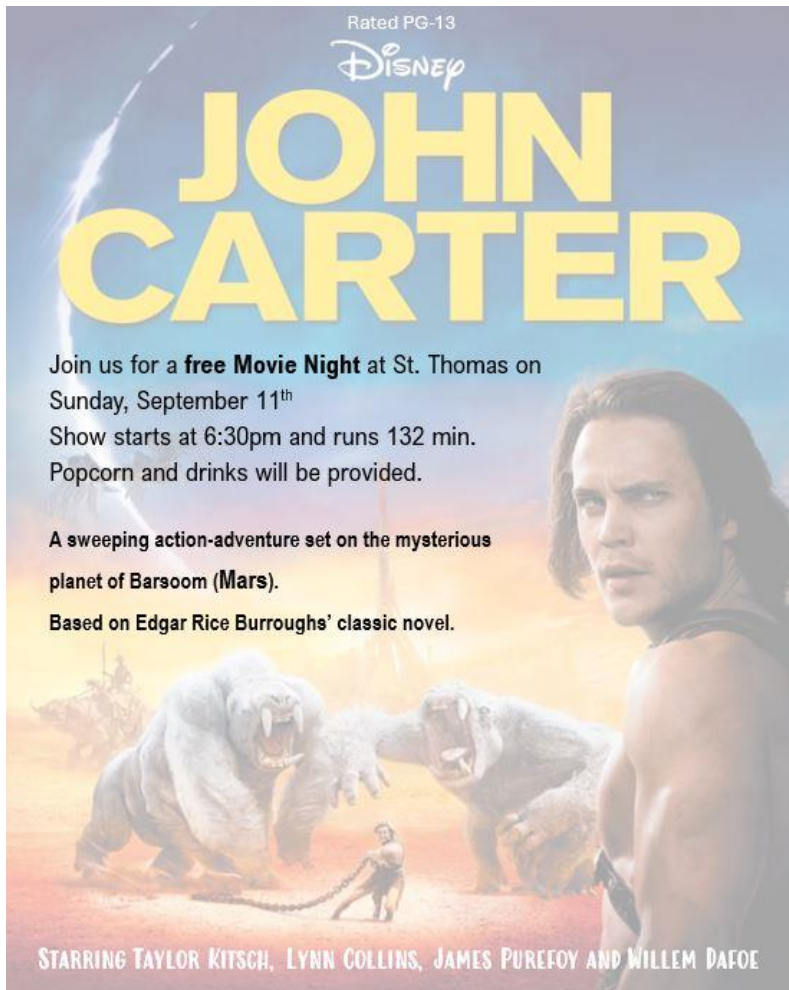
Regular Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:30pm

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

Outreach/Evangelism

Susan W, Debbie R, Pastor Ozzie, Christy B, Gale S, Beth E, Jessica E, Lisa D

- Coat Drive - may take before Homecoming
- Hospitality: Lacy and Ron Derrick for September
- Visitation by Pastor Ozzie and our committee members is ongoing
- Narthex TV - it's working!!
- SAVE THE DATE: Movie Night October 11 - at picnic shelter - 6:30
- Our Next Meeting: October 6 at 7pm - everyone welcome!!





SERVING IN WORSHIP: NEW AUDIO SYSTEM UPDATES

Integrated Media completed the latest sound system upgrade on September 29th. The Vitality Survey identified the need for this improvement. Anyone who has difficulty hearing can now use either a headset or Bluetooth connectivity. Bluetooth connectivity will require downloading an app to their phone.

The new technology required replacing the old mixer, which controls the speakers and microphones. The new system operates these components through an iPad, so a team of audio volunteers is needed each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Ron Derrick has completed the training and will teach others to use the controls. He will not be available on Sunday the 18th or 25th, making sign-ups especially important.

👉 **TO SIGN UP:** Please speak with Ron Derrick today or add your name to the sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

Serving St. Thomas in October

Date	Reader	Flowers	Tabulators	Sound
4	Fred Falls	Open	Ron and Lacy Derrick	Ron Derrick
11	Lynn Rennebaum	Open	Ronnie Lindler and Norman Wilson	Ron Derrick
18	Jeanne Lever	Open	Fred Falls and Don Hill	Needed
25	Beth Bedenbaugh	Francis Shealy	Christy Brasington and Gale Smith	Needed

Keeper of the Keys: Christy Brasington

Greeters and Ushers: Christy & Bill Brasington



Mark Your Calendar — Wreaths Across America Ceremony - December 19, 2026, at 1:30 PM, STLC Cemetery

For the **3rd consecutive year**, Saint Thomas Lutheran Church will join communities across our nation in honoring and remembering those who have served our country.

We especially invite you to help us recognize the **dedication, courage, and sacrifices of our STLC veterans**. A simple wreath is a powerful reminder that their service—and the sacrifices made by their families —will never be forgotten.

Sponsor a wreath for just \$17 and join us in laying a wreath to honor all 70 of our veterans.

Every veteran deserves to be remembered.

For details, contact Rick Rennebaum at 650-464-2535

Fellowship Breakfast

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

October Birthdays

2 Debbie McCaslin
 8 McKenzie Lindler
 Ricky Waites
 Mark Wolford
 11 Sidney Lindler
 12 Adam Bedenbaugh
 14 Joyce Ballington
 Ina Edens



18 McKenzie Monts
 24 Randy Shuler
 25 John Brasington
 26 Cameron Bickley
 Francis Shealy
 Gale Smith
 27 Kimberly Bickley
 28 Ken Comalander



12/1991	Randy & Robin Shuler
03/1992	Tony & Beth Ervin
11/2014	Derek & Lindsey Williams

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet on **October 20th at 11:30 am**. We will have lunch consisting of: BBQ sliders, BBQ meatballs and beverages, (which will be provided) You are asked to please bring a side and dessert to share and it would be helpful if you could let Sharon or Margaret know what you'd like to bring. **After lunch we will enjoy a video of our Church History that's filled with many wonderful memories!** Hope to see you then!

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 (First Call)
- Mary Nichols (dementia / Laurel Crest Community, West Columbia)
- Joe Epting (continued kidney dialysis treatments)
- Melverta Sandel (rehab at Wellmore in Lexington)
- Kristen Lee-Fish (rehab facility for young stroke victims / friend of Janet Crump)
- Greg Rennhack (pancreatic cancer / brother of Andy Rennhack)
- Melissa Derrick (upcoming kidney transplant)
- Pam Meetze (health issues)
- Brenda Thomas (aunt of Holly Wessinger)
- Wendell Bedenbaugh (uncle of Holly Wessinger)
- Carl David Lindler (recovery from back surgery)
- Mike Steinhilpher (prostate cancer)
- Al Bates (cancer– friend of Christy Brasington)
- Michael Williams (kidney failure/ waiting on transplant / friend of Jennifer & Jason Wicker)
- Ken Comalander (recovery at home from surgery)
- Anne Orange (Pinedale Residential Center 798 Hermitage Pond Rd. Camden, SC 29020)
- Family and friends of Lorelei Friedel (who died on August 31st / friend of Jennifer Wicker)
- Family and friends of Bobby Counts (who died on September 3rd)
- Mrs. Betty Counts (hospitalized / brother-in-law and sister-in-law of Judy Swygert)
- Betty Koon (Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Irmo, 108 Evergreen Dr. 29063)
- Patricia Haltiwanger (ICU / blood clots in legs / family friend of Cissy Comalander)
- Mary Vacula (rehab / National Healthcare / wife of Tom Vacula)
- Jennings & Betty McCarty (aunt and uncle of Lisa M. Derrick)



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

Mary Joyce Shealy by Judy Swygert

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

James & Edith Wessinger by Janet Tapp

Joe & Sarah Koon by Betty L. Koon

Given to the glory of God and in honor of:

Rev. Zachary Lindler on his ordination by Judy Swygert,
Howard & Anita Lindler

To St. Thomas Church,

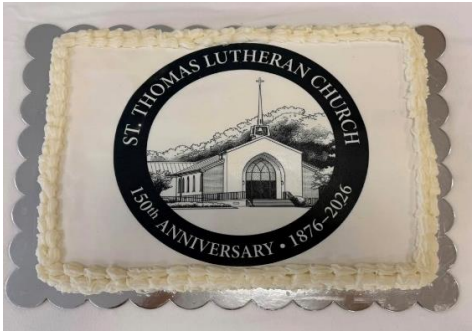
I'm writing to let you know that I've moved to Pinedale Residential Center in Camden, SC. I believe my association with St. Thomas started in 1978 when I sat with Pearl & Arthur Wessinger on the right-hand side of the church, and Matt Moyer was preaching. I have spent many years, very fondly, with St. Thomas and I'm going to miss the people I know well, and I wish continued success to the congregation and in finding a pastor.

Best always,

Anne Orange

798 Hermitage Pond Road

Camden, SC 29020



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

Rev. Ozzie Herlong
803-360-1877

Council President
Don Hill
(703) 774-5341 (cell)



St. Thomas
Lutheran Church