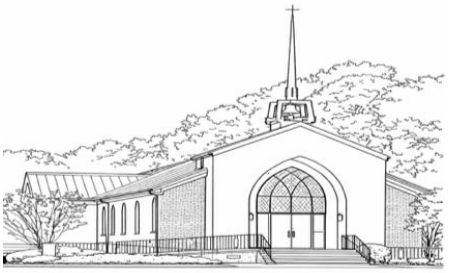
St. Thomas Lutheran Church Newsletter
November 2026

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ozzie Herlong
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Celebrating a 150 Years of God's Grace

Coming from the celebration of Homecoming in September, you are invited to another anniversary celebration of a 150 years of God's grace on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Dr. Susan Wilds McArver, H. George Anderson Professor of Church History, Emerita, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, will preach at the 10:00 a.m. Service of Worship. Following worship, the congregation is invited to a potluck lunch and a 20-minute slide presentation on the history of Lutherans in the South.

Our ancestors of 1876 faced difficult and challenging times, involving personal hardship, sacrifice, and the efforts of extraordinary individuals. St. Thomas Lutheran Church traces its beginnings to those years following a civil war and reconstruction in the South. The United States was celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

Have you ever imagined where your ancestors were in 1876? Where did they come from? What were the struggles they faced? If our ancestors in the faith had not persevered, we would not be here today as St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

Join us on November 8th as we welcome Dr. McArver who will share some of the stories of God's people and the Lutheran Church in this part of South Carolina and beyond.

As we celebrate 150 years of God's grace, we are reminded that the history we make today reflects both our past and our present, while pointing us to the future.

Pastor Ozzie

Church Council Meeting - October 11, 2026

Church Council Meeting – Sunday, October 11, 2026

Attendees – Lacy, Christy, Beth B, Ricky, Jeanne, Fred, Don and Debbie
Beth E absent

Opening Prayer: Pastor Herlong

Old Business:

Child Protection Policy – Beth B not finished yet and will get with Don.

New Members – John and Elizabeth Sowards transfer of membership. Will be received on November 22, 2026 at service. Council voted. Don recommended. Don was first and Beth B was second. All approved.

First Communion – Lucas, Scarlett and Beckham Powell will complete and present to church on November 1, 2026.

Mission/Vision Statement – Suggested that the new Council complete this task. Pastor suggested we have Lexanne Graves do a free zoom (15-20 minutes) to help with information to complete this task.

Pastor's Office – Brittany has done a great job. Hold off on the Pastor's office until the new Pastor comes aboard for his/her input. Suggested that we implement a fund to the congregation to help in the cost of the new office. The new budget does not include the Pastor's office renovation of 4000 ish dollars.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Ron is presenting the budget for 2027 to the congregation 1st week of November. The budget has increased by 1205.00 from last year. Property insurance is up 18%. We have a deficit of 10,000 in giving for 2026. Salaries will remain where they are for 2027.

Church budget has some account numbers that are in gray. These accounts will need to go through Lacy for reimbursements first. She will be assigning some designated funds to these areas and wants to be sure this is handled properly.

Pastor gave out a handout on what the 5,000 to the SC Synod in our budget is used for. Attached.

Church proposed budget was voted on. Don recommended. Fred made first and Lacey made second. All approved.

Christy mentioned that the church website has expired. This is to be handled promptly.

Don mentioned there is an account 5363 for Inreach/Fellowship in the amount of 250.00. This money is available to a committee to utilize.

Recommended that the Church Treasurer begin to attend Council meetings – at least at the beginning. This should be added to the job description and begin in 2027.

Cemetery – no report from Christy
Christian Ed – No Sunday school on 12/13/26 due to Cantata – Beth B
Property – Notes attached. Ricky
Outreach/Evangelism – Beth emailed written report to council
Children/Youth – Next activity to be planned by getting parents together. - Jeanne
Worship and Music – Cantata practice to begin at the end of October. – Fred

On November 8th Dr. Susan McArver will preach and have a 20 minute PowerPoint with a potluck after church.

November council meeting moved to Tuesday 11/10 at 6:30
December council meeting was moved to 12/6 after church.
Pastor will be a Lutheridge this upcoming week from Monday – Friday but will be in touch with Sharon.

Treasurer's Report

The Consolidated Funds Activity Report shows that we ended the month of September with a current operating fund balance of $77,416.43.

Current operating fund expenses during the month of September: $18,238.49.

September Current Fund receipts: $13,760.40.

YTD income (current fund) for 2026 through the month of September: $143,886.41.

YTD income (current fund) for 2025 through the month of September: $174,928.43.

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

3002	Capital Improvement Fund:	$	3,997.03
3015	Undesignated Memorial Balance:	$	5,364.37
3210	Sanctuary Enhancements Fund:	$	14,898.63
3006	Music/Hymnal Fund	$	8,933.39
3213	Piano / Organ Maintenance:	$	2,545.00
3004	STLC Youth Fund:	$	3,442.28
3400	Cemetery Fund:	$	4,926.81
3005	Bereavement Support:	$	1,522.28
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

Please take note of the Consolidated Funds report for balances less than 1% of total cash that fell within your committee. These funds were given as a memorial, please use them. Note a General Ledger transaction was made to fund parking lot escrow in September based on approval to fund in January. Current Fund Giving VS Current Fund Expenses is at a deficit of $31,712.59.

Evangelism/Outreach Council Report October:

- Budget submitted to finance committee - increased to $1000
- Movie Night Sunday, October 11 - outside movie (depending on weather) - “John Carter of Mars” - 6:30 weather permitting - Christy B coordinating
- Discussed having a Bible Journaling meet up outside of the church - Jessica E to coordinate
- Historical Presentation/Pot luck November 8 - will need tables set up before Nov 6 - signup sheet in narthex for RSVP

- New Member Reception November 22 after service: will have muffins/hot chocolate, coffee in Parish Building
- Advent Snack after Cantata Dec 13th - decided to have Christmas Cookies/treats, hot chocolate/coffee
- Next meeting November 6 at 6:30

Property Committee

a. The treetop that broke out of a tree near the shed and lodged in another tree is on the ground. Wood is available for anyone that wants to come cut and gather. **Debris has been cleaned up.**

b. Bickley Cooling has been called to check the AC in the Parlor and the condensation of the piping that is causing the leak marks on the ceiling tile in the Fellowship Hall. Will follow up with him once the weather is milder. **The Parlor AC has been fixed.**

c. The last upgrade to the sound system was installed on 9/29. Hearing assistance is now available to include Bluetooth connectivity via hearing aids or ear buds. We have 10 headsets as well to assist hearing. Need audio assistance to man the iPad.

d. The Sexton stripped and waxed the fellowship hall floor. Overall, she did a good job, but there are a few dull spots. After the waxing, she expressed her desire to delete the waxing of floors from her contract. Property Committee discussed and agreed to delete so that we could retain her a Sexton. She reduced her contract for 2027 by $400.00. We will hire a professional company to provide future waxing needs, with funding from the Capital Improvement money.

e. Burn pile will be burned on the 17th. **Complete**

f. Thank you to Rick Rennebaum for the power washing he did prior to Homecoming.

g. Mike Hufstetler fixed the leaking faucet in the custodian's room and has been called to lower the pressure on the men's urinal in the fellowship hall.

h. The Property Committee would like to thank Brittney Lindler for her work on the Pastor's office remodel rendering and budget needs. The committee voted to table the remodel until we have hired a Pastor, so his/her input can be provided.

November We Care Pantry Needs

NOTE: At time of printing the updated needs list was not available from We Care. Please see upcoming bulletins for new list.

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

WELCA NEWS:

KITCHEN ORGANIZING AND CLEAN UP: We are continuing to clean out and organize the kitchen. Our next meeting will be scheduled for after Christmas. Look for that date. We are almost done. Come join us!

THANKSGIVING POUND CAKES: We will be providing pound cake slices again for the community Thanksgiving meal. The sign up sheet will be on the Narthex table this Sunday. We need 15 cakes to get the number of slices we need, so please sign up! Cakes have to be turned in (to the kitchen) by Monday, November 23 at 5. We will be packaging up the slices that evening at 7. 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!
Angel Tree Christmas Outreach
Christmas Ornament Party 12/9

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Regular Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:30pm
Pound cake cutting / bagging: Monday, Nov. 23, 7pm (kitchen)

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

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING POUND CAKES



We will again be providing pound cake slices for the Thanksgiving meal for the less fortunate in our community. The signup sheet will be on the narthex table this Sunday!

We need **15 cakes** to get the number of slices we need, so please sign up! Cakes have to be turned in (to the kitchen) by **Monday, November 23 at 5. The packaging of the slices will be that evening at 7. Come join us!**

Evangelism/Outreach

- We had **Movie Night** Sunday, October 11 - "John Carter of Mars" - about 15 of us gathered together in the fellowship hall with popcorn, snacks and drinks - thanks to Christy Brasington for coordinating and Gale Smith for snacks.
- If you are interested in getting together to do **Bible Journaling** please talk to Jessica Ervin - this will be an opportunity to meet somewhere outside of the church for fellowship.
- **Historical Presentation/Pot luck lunch** November 8 - signup sheet in narthex for RSVP - Dr. McAvers will speak to us about the Dutch Fork Area in regards to St. Thomas church history. Please bring a dish to share.
- **New Member Reception** November 22 after service- we will have muffins/hot chocolate, coffee in Parish Building - we encourage everyone to join us and greet our new members!
- We will have **Christmas Cookies/treats and hot chocolate/coffee** on December 13th following the Cantata. Please join us!!
- Our **next meeting is November 5th at 6:30** - we will have a quick meeting and set up for our Potluck Lunch on November 8th. Everyone is welcome to join us and give us your ideas for Evangelism/Outreach.



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 November 12th **at 8:30 am.** All are invited to come and share in this Dutch Treat time of good food and fellowship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP: NEW AUDIO SYSTEM UPDATES

The sound system improvements identified in the Vitality Survey are now complete.

If you have difficulty hearing, you can now use a headset or connect via Bluetooth with hearing aids or your phone's earbuds. To use Bluetooth, download the app to your phone using the QR code below.

To connect to the Church WiFi, the network is STTOM215 and the password is STLC1876*.

We have 10 headsets available. If you prefer one, you may check it out for personal use and keep it until you no longer need it.

The new system's components are controlled by an iPad, so we need a team of audio volunteers. Ron Derrick and Stephen Hill are currently the only volunteers. Additional volunteers are needed to operate the sound system when neither is available, so services are not left without audio.

There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

Serving St. Thomas in November

Date	Reader	Flowers	Tabulators	Sound
1	Fred Falls	Janet Tapp	Ron and Lacy Derrick	Ron Derrick
8	Lynn Rennebaum	Kim Starnes	Ronnie Lindler and Norman Wilson	Stephen Hill
15	Debbie Morell	Carl David & Janice Lindler	Fred Falls and Don Hill	Ron Derrick
22	Susan Waites	Margaret Epting	Christy Brasington and Gale Smith	Stephen Hill
29	Phillip Lindler	Open	Christy Brasington and Gale Smith	Ron Derrick

Keeper of the Keys: Beth Bedenbaugh
Greeters and Ushers: The Ervin's

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

Donnie Slice by Brenda Slice

Marge Gray by John Gray

Mary Joyce Shealy by Hariette Kinard

Lewis Ballington by Joyce Ballington



November Birthdays

1 Lisa Derrick (Ronnie)
3 Chrissie Campitella
4 Nickie Powell
5 Zachary Lindler
6 Joe Derrick
9 Martha Derrick
10 Parker White
12 Christopher Powell
14 Joe Shealy
15 Mac McCaslin
16 Toni Kleckley
17 Elizabeth Wicker
17 Jaycee Wicker
20 Rhonda McCartha
23 Patricia Cullum
24 Ciel Englert
24 Lucas Powell
25 Scarlett Ann Powell
25 Justin Rowland
26 Bryan Lindler
26 Andy Rennhack
29 Harold McCaslin
30 Janice Lindler





14/1998	Allen & Janet Tapp
29/1975	Michael & Betty Rowland
30/1974	Bill & Christy Brasington
30/1991	Todd & Beth Bedenbaugh

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet on **November 17th at 11:30 am**. We will share lunch and great fellowship. Please see bulletins for more details to come.

Hope to see you all there!

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)
- 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 Center798 Hermitage Pond Rd. Camden, SC 29020)
- Betty Koon (Returned to Harbison Shores, Irmo)
- Patricia Haltiwanger (blood clots in legs/ family friend of Cissy Comalander)
- Mary Vacula (rehab / National Healthcare / wife of Tom Vacula)
- Jennings & Betty McCartha (aunt and uncle of Lisa M. Derrick)
- Bennie Derrick (health issues)
- Lewis & Jessica Wessinger (parents of Michael Wessinger)
- Family of Greg Rennhack (who died on October16th / brother of Andy Rennhack)
- Ina Edens (recovery from knee surgery on October 23rd)
- Betty Koon (Lexington Medical Center)

Dear St. Thomas Voting Members:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank God for all of you and the ministry that we share through St. Thomas Lutheran Church. I also pray that God continues to richly bless you and your family and to keep you healthy.

November is almost upon us and according to our Church constitution, it is that time again to elect council members for next year and to approve a church budget. congregational meetings will be held immediately following our worship services on **November 1st and 15th.**

At our November 1st congregational meeting, the Council will present their slate of candidates for the 2027 calendar year, as well as accept nominations from the floor. Per our constitution we must have at least eight (8), but not more than ten (10) members on Council so we are looking to fill between three (3) and five (5) seats for 2027. Any nominated candidate must have already agreed to serve, if elected. The elected Council members will each serve a two (2) year term.

The purpose of the November 15th meeting is to elect Council members and to approve a budget for 2027. The proposed budget will be mailed out in advance to all voting member households. As a preview, the recommended total overall budget for 2027 is $235,331.00, which is a one half of one percent (0.5%) increase from our 2026 budget.

Please prayerfully consider all actions taken and make plans to attend these important congregational meetings on **November 1st and 15th.**

Serving the Lord together,

Don Hill, Church President

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
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St. Thomas
Lutheran Church