



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

November 2020 Newsletter



Please consider purchasing a Poinsettia which will be used during the December 20th, 24th, and 27th worship services in both the sanctuary and gym. They will cost \$15.00 each and can be placed in honor of or in memory of your loved ones or friends. If you would prefer, gifts can be made to the Debt Retirement Fund in lieu of poinsettias. A minimum donation of \$15.00 to Debt Retirement is requested.

Order deadline is Sunday, Nov. 15th.

Flowers will be wrapped with green paper.

You can either mail in or drop off your order form, along with your payment, at the church office.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Through the Samaritan's Purse organization, Operation Christmas Child continues to be an amazing cause that our church has been involved in for many years now. This year, however, will be a little different than in years past due to the pandemic that we are all facing. Traditionally, we come together each year and pack shoeboxes for children in need and they are shipped across the world to children who may have never received a gift before. Not only do they receive a very special gift from you, but they also receive the gift of learning the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Samaritan's Purse discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. This year, they are offering an online platform for churches and community organizations to use to pack a shoebox virtually and from the comfort of your own home. Ashely Lackore has created a Shoebox Packing goal page just for our church. We have a goal of 100 boxes to be fulfilled by November 11th. This date is when we would normally have the annual packing party. Through this link, you can pack a shoebox online with your family. You can still choose if it is going to a boy or girl and their age group. You can even choose which types of items will be included and then, Samaritan's Purse will fill the box for you and ship the boxes all over the world to children in need. Here is the custom link that was created for our church to use so that we can keep track of our contributions.

USE THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/goal/view/9faaf7f1-8130-4cc0-a5d0-2c2f2da86d95>

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact Ashely at ashlackore@yahoo.com or (803) 446-1303.

St. Stephen's Preschool Ministry



November

“Stuff a Turkey” campaign Nov. 1 – Nov. 24

Our giant turkey will be in the hallway as your child enters school. Help us collect food for Mission Lexington.

Scholastic Book Fair – Nov. 2-15

Fire Drill/Chapel Spirit Day – Nov. 10 & 11

Thanksgiving Holidays – Nov. 25- 26

December

Fire Drill/Chapel Spirit Day – Dec. 8 & 9

Santa Claus will be visiting us virtually on Dec. 11

Last day of school until January – Dec. 23 (school will resume on Jan. 4)

Service Projects

“Stuff a Turkey” - this is our annual Mission Lexington Food Drive. We will be taking collected food to Mission Lexington at the end of November. All are welcome to help stuff our preschool turkey located beside the preschool workroom. You can leave canned goods by the entrance doors.

Weekly Chapel

Our preschoolers meet virtually for weekly chapel every Tues & Wed. with Pastor Pat, Pastor Jason or Mrs. Shannon. Themes for November are:

November 2 – Creation (Day 5)

November 9 – Creation (Day 6)

November 16 – Creation (Day 7)

November 23 – Thanksgiving/thankfulness

November 30 – Introduction to The Nativity and Mary

Scholastic Virtual Book Fair – Nov. 2- 15

Due to Covid-19, we are unable to have Scholastic visit our preschool, so instead we will be holding a virtual fair! We invite our congregational members to participate.

All proceeds benefit our preschool ministry. Just follow the link below and make your purchase. Books will be delivered straight to your home! These make great gifts for Christmas.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/ststephenspreschl>

Thank you for support our preschool!



Give the gift of reading!



Thanksgiving Prayer

Let's be thankful for this day

For our friends and our play

Let's be thankful;
let's be glad

For our food and the
things we have

Let's give thanks for you
and me

And our home and family.

Amen.

Sr. Youth Community Groups

YOU ARE NEEDED!!

Our Community Group meetings last month were fun...now we are putting you to work!

Please come to the church Friday, November 13th and help us get ready for the yard sale. We literally need every set of hands we can get!!

Mrs. Shannon will feed you lunch and dinner if it takes that long! HEEHEE

We will start at 8 AM but if you can't be here then, come anytime!!

Invite your friends, invite your parents...invite anybody who will work for food!

Let Mrs. Shannon know if you can help (Shannon@sslc.org) by Wednesday, November 11th!

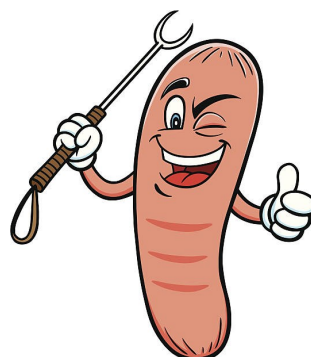
JCREW

Sunday, November 22nd – Hot Dog and S'mores Roast

All 1st-5th graders are invited to meet at the church on Sunday, November 22nd from 4:30-6pm to roast hot dogs and make s'mores.

Please make sure and bring your mask!

Contact Pastor Jason by Friday, November 20th to RSVP! Thanks and hope to see YOU there!



Jr. (6th-8th) and Sr. Youth (9th-12th) event

Head to Mrs. Shannon's house on Sunday, November 8th at 3:30 PM for a friendly game of kickball and a hotdog cookout! Pick up will be at 5:30 PM.

Please RSVP to Shannon@sslc.org by November 6th so that we have enough food.



Our 6th grade Community Group will meet before this event at 2:30 PM at Mrs. Shannon's house! Don't miss out on the fun!!

Holiday Hams and Turkeys for Mission Lexington

Nurture and Outreach is seeking donations to purchase turkeys and hams to donate to MISSION LEXINGTON during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods. Please prayerfully consider donating \$20.00 toward the purchase of hams and turkeys. Write a check to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section of your check, please mark it for ham and turkey purchase and place it in the offering plate. We will make a ham and turkey purchase close to Thanksgiving and another purchase closer to Christmas. Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Point of Contact: Ron Redd: 803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com.

St. Stephen's Grief Group

Are you dealing with grief? You are not alone! Grief is experienced by so many people and in so many ways -- physical, emotional, and spiritual. Do you need a place to know that you are not alone, to affirm that what you are going through is a part of the journey of grief, to take a break from the loneliness, to be supported as you share your story and support others as they share theirs, and/or to find some hope in the midst of your struggle? If so, St. Stephen's will be starting a grief group on Sunday, November 1st at 2 PM, where we will provide a safe environment for you and others to come and share their stories, to find comfort and support, and to share the hope given to us by God. If you would like to sign up please contact Pastor Jason.



Join us as we celebrate the season of Advent with a Virtual Crèche Festival!

St. Stephen's is holding a crèche festival as part of integrating the arts into our mission of ministry this year and we need your support. If you have a special nativity scene, or crèche that is special to you and your family, we would like to showcase it during the season of Advent. We are inviting all adults and children to send us a picture of your crèche and write a few words about why the crèche is special to you. It could be something you made, or perhaps something that has been handed down in your family. We plan to showcase a crèche per day during the season of Advent on our social media pages. We ask that all photos be emailed before November 23.

Here's how to participate:

Take a picture of your crèche in good lighting, maybe include a picture of yourself with the crèche.

Email the picture to Beth@sslc.org

Be sure to include a note about why the crèche is special to you, how long you have had the crèche, etc. along with your name.

Wreaths Across America

In past years, St. Stephen's members have supported the Wreaths Across America Program at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. Because of COVID, the cemetery will still be allowed to place the wreaths but without the general public's help this time. The wreaths will be in place by National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Although we can't place the wreaths on the graves this year, our financial help is still needed! This year, Fort Jackson National Cemetery needs 8500 wreaths to Remember and Honor our Veterans past and present.

Wreaths are \$15 each. For every 2 wreaths sponsored, the National Wreaths Across America program will donate 1 wreath free. If you would like to donate a wreath, Shannon can email you a form. You can complete the form and return it with your payment or you can contact Carol Davis at (803) 467-4482. She is the SC State representative for Wreaths Across America.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you feel may be interested in helping.



November Love Offering:

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary is 1 of 8 ELCA Seminaries and the only seminary found in the Southern region of the United States. The campus is found on North Main Street in the Eau Claire community of Columbia. LTSS has been educating and preparing leaders for the church since 1830 and continues that mission today. As members of the SC Synod of the ELCA it has been and will continue to be a part of our mission to Support the seminary both with our prayers and our treasures. Please consider designating any donations over and above your regular giving to LTSS to help support the institution, the students, and their ministry - present and future.

Adult Wednesday Evening Class continues and you are invited !!!

This will be a survey study of the New Testament with Bishop N. T. Wright and Michael F. Bird, entitled: **The New Testament in it's World: An introduction to the history, literature, and theology of the first Christians.** Our Adult WNL! Classes have enjoyed the great Biblical scholar Bishop Wright over the years and we look forward to journeying with him and Dr. Byrd through the New Testament.

All Classes are Wednesday in the Gym at 6:00 pm

November

4: Galatians

11: 1st and 2nd Thessalonians

18: Philippians

25: No Class (Thanksgiving Eve)

Committee of 100: How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? Actually it could be really simple – by becoming a part of the Committee of 100 which is composed of members who contribute a special \$100.00 in a given year to help support newly organized mission churches in the SC Synod as they struggle to become self-supporting. St. Stephen's has led the way in this program since 1980 – having 69 members in 2019. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Over \$19,000.00 was distributed to mission churches in 2019. Make your check to: Committee of 100 – drop it in the offering plate or give it to Ron Redd and he will handle the details.

POC Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

SSLC Living Faith Group

This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a "young adult". The definition of "young adult" is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us!

6th Annual Christmas Party – TBD

Everybody knows that it's been a different kind of year than usual, which has altered our regular schedule of events for Living Faith. With that being said it seems that a lot of folks are trying to get back to some semblance of a normal routine, which is just in time for us to celebrate our 6th annual Living Faith Christmas Party! If you would be interested in hosting this event for our group, please let Pastor Jason know as soon as possible.

Thanks and looking forward to getting together soon!

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

We have exceeded our Pentecost to Reformation Food Drive goal of 5,000 lbs. with 6,664.5 lbs. donated. Thank you so much.
Year to date totals are 8,246.5 lbs.

Please place your food donations in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the container outside of the narthex.

Mission Lexington is also in urgent need of plastic bags. Bring your used plastic bags to the church and Mr. Ron will deliver to Mission Lexington.

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.

Thank you again for your support.
Point of contact: Ron Redd 359-6363 Cell 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com



Needed items:

Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese
Pork & beans
Chili
Canned Vegetables
Rice
Canned Soups
Dog food/Cat food
Stuffing mix
Instant potatoes
Canned sweet potatoes
Cornbread mix
Cranberry Sauce
Candied yams
Chicken/Turkey/Beef broth

The

Blessing of the Animals will be
November 1st at
3:30 PM. All animals
are welcome! If you
can't bring your pet,
bring a picture! Please
bring dog or cat food
to donate to
Mission Lexington!



Reminder:

Small groups can meet in the Social Hall but meetings MUST be scheduled through the office. The Social Hall can be used for meetings that do not exceed 34 people in attendance. Social distancing (2 people per round table) and mask guidelines (keep the mask on until you are seated) are still in effect. No food will be allowed during meetings.

Upcoming Blood Drive! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 17th for our Red Cross Blood Drive. Our goal is to collect 38 units! We need all hands on deck!! Please go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code SSLC. This will take you directly to our sign-up!

Family Sunday School:

We are offering families the opportunity to gather in the Social Hall (each family at a different table) where we will have time for **Family, Faith, and the Father**. Ms. Shannon will be leading the sessions.

We will have 2 sessions:
9:30-10 AM and 10:15-10:45 AM.
This way 8:30 service people can stay for Sunday School after worship and people attending the 11 AM worship service can come early!

Thank You:

Thank you for the prayers and thoughtful cards we received upon the passing of our beloved Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Mrs. Mary Caractor.

Ebony Bowers, Selena Magni, and Shayla Bowers

*Thank
you*

Congratulations to the following
Confirmands that were
confirmed on October 25th:

Manning Solomon Burgess

Ella Grace Dickey

Gage Tillman Gaskins

Drake Lawrence Glover

Sullivan Grace Hayes

Porter McCaskey Herritage

Mary Elle McLaurin Marchant

Mary Kendall McCurdy

Ryan Andrew McFarland

Bryson Cole McMurray

Samantha Renee Timmerman

Brayden Henry Weaver

Lauren Philomena Wenzel

Bryce Katherine Windham

Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2020

Chris Bernard (516-380-0979)

Tripp Brunson (422-7297)

Ralph Haggard (312-5480)

Brant Taylor (609-3777)

Christy Wenzel (348-6708)

Class of 2021

Paulette Shealy (465-0942)

Steve Fowler (360-5605)

Ivan Black (513-7486)

Sandy Dawkins (606-1072)

Mary Elizabeth Windham (351-6572)

Class of 2022

Craig McFarland (360-7310)

Evelyn Temple (706-436-3052)

Brian Paeth (529-6117)

Stephanie Jones (606-3814)

Mike Brittingham (803) 760-3219

Youth Representatives: Jack Hayes and Alex Burnett

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (960-9155)

Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

Council person of the month: Brian Paeth

Some reminders as we increase our worship opportunities:

- In-person worship services will be conducted in the Sanctuary and the Gym.
- A worship service will be held in the Sanctuary at 8:30 AM (no singing; masks still highly recommended).
- Worship services will be held in the gym on Sundays at 9:45 AM (no singing; masks still highly recommended) and 11 AM (singing; masks required) and on Wednesdays (no singing; masks still highly recommended) at 12:30 PM.
- Virtual worship options will continue for those that do not feel safe or cannot attend in-person services.
- Please keep yourselves socially distanced at all times while on campus, especially as you proceed to and from worship.
- Hugging, handshaking, and any other physical contact are strongly discouraged.
- It is highly recommended that each worshipper wear a mask and keep it on for the duration of their time on campus. Masks are required for services with singing.
- If you are able, please park in the big parking lot adjacent to the cemetery.
- Handicapped parking and a drop-off for those with limited mobility will be offered in the small parking lot and circle drive, respectively.
- We ask that no one park in the circle around the fountain so that it may be used for dropping off those that have limited mobility.
- Offering plates will be located by the doors. You can give your offering as you enter or exit. We will not pass offering plates during the service. You can still give on our Givelify app and on-line at www.sslc.org.
- Family units will get their communion elements (individually packaged wafer and wine) as they are seated.
- A nursery is offered during all Sunday Worship Services.



Lutheran Men at St. Stephen's!!

Lutheran Men will meet at 7:00pm Monday, November 16 in the Social Hall. Dallas Shealy and Bob Fuzy will be our guest speakers and will talk about the South Carolina Retreat Centers and also the upcoming project to build a chapel at Camp Kinard. Come join us. No meal or dessert. Social distancing will be practiced with 2 people per table. Masks are required.

POC: Ron Redd Redd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Congratulations to our members that will receive their First Communion on November 1st.

Conner Crumpton

Madeline Gessner

Miles Gessner

Andrew Mintz

Riggs Williams



Flowers for November:

1	Thad and Brenda Bruner
8	Brant and Jennifer Taylor
15	Myra Strock
22	Virl Caughman
29	Jerry Redman

Ushers for November

Odie Rawl and Randy Huber will be coordinating ushers for November.

Called to *Serve*

Just a reminder that we do continue to collect glasses for the Lions Club. Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities to support the Lions Recycle For Sight Program. Glasses can be placed in the Lions Club box by the bulletin boards.



There's 
always 
SOMETHING
To be
Thankful 
for    

Our Annual Yard Sale will be Saturday, November 14th from 7 AM—Noon. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, tell people you don't even like! We have a lot of goodies that need a new home!

Office Hours:

8AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday
8AM-12PM Friday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562
FAX: 803-951-0738
Crisis Care Line: 803-808-6471
Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor

Patrick W. Riddle Pat@sslc.org

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@sslc.org

Pastor for Welcome & Visitation

Dennis R. Bolton retrev61@gmail.com

Director of Family Life Ministries-

Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org
359-4175

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562/808-6489

Director of Music

Bailey Parker Bailey@sslc.org

Organist

Matthew Ganong Matt@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Beth Haggard Beth@sslc.org
803-359-4369

Sexton

Eric Abramson Eric@sslc.org

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Brant Taylor
Vice President - Tripp Brunson
Secretary - Stephanie Jones
Treasurer - Mary Keisler
Treasurer Emeritus - Bill Mathias

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

place

119 North Church Street

stamp

Lexington, SC 29072

here

"Return Service Requested"

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For our guests (during normal times) our Ministry includes. . .

Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): 2's-5th grade choirs and Intermediate Ringers (6th-12th grade) meet at 5 PM; meal at 5:15PM; Confirmation class, Adult class, and JCREW Tone Chimes meet at 6 PM

The Balcony Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00PM.

Handbell Choir: Rehearses on Wednesday at 6 PM in the balcony

Wings of Worship: Meets at 6:45 on Wednesdays

Prime Time Adults: Adults 55 and older meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:30AM for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grades): meet regularly for planned activities

J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 7:00PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker; **Men's Bible Study** meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8:45 AM

WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.

Scouting: Boy Scouts (contact David Loney); **Juniors and Brownies** (contact Ashely Lackore, Jennifer Howell, Erica Waites, Nina Tansey); & **Jr. Girl Scouts** (contact Missy Moore).

Preschool: An extension of our ministry for our church & the community for children 12 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00Noon with extended care 12:00 Noon to 2:00PM. Early drop-off is available Contact Beth Haggard.

Living Faith: This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. High Youth and our Crossroads group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. Activities alternate between adult only and family friendly.

Crossroads: This group is comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults. This group meets on the 4th Saturday of the month to prepare PB&J and snack bags for the hungry and participates in other events throughout the month.