



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

March 2021 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church 2021 Lenten Calendar

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

March 3, 10, 17, and 24
12:30 pm | Worship with No Singing | Sanctuary
6:00 pm | Worship with Singing | Sanctuary

Holy Week Services

Passion/Palm Sunday March 28th

8:30 am | Worship with Singing | Sanctuary
9:45 am | Worship with No Singing | Gym
11:00 am | Worship with Singing | Sanctuary

Wednesday Eucharist, March 31

12:30 pm | Worship with No Singing | Sanctuary
Sermon Theme: *Among the Crowded Ways*

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
12:30 p.m. | Worship with No Singing | Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. | Family Worship w/ Singing | Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. | Worship with Singing | Sanctuary
Sermon Theme: *Of Happiness and Tears*

Good Friday, April 2

Tenebrae
12:30 p.m. | Worship with No Singing | Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. | Family Worship w/ Singing | Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. | Worship with Singing | Sanctuary
Sermon Theme: *Faithfulness and Fears*

The Resurrection of our Lord Easter Day, April 4

6:30 a.m. | Sunrise Holy Eucharist with Singing | Sanctuary
8:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist with Singing | Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist with No Singing | Gym
11:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist with Singing | Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. | Holy Eucharist with Singing | Sanctuary
Sermon Theme: *This Feast Awaits*

***We will be using SignUpGenius again to RSVP for worship on Easter.
You should be receiving an e-mail from SignUpGenius on March 10th.
If you don't, please reach out to Shannon!***

EGGstravaganza

It is once again time for our Easter Eggstravaganza and COVID is still an issue. Dearest COVID, please depart as quickly as possible!! You are messing things up!

But, because Trunk or Treat was such a success in October, we are going to piggy back on that process and still have our Easter Eggstravaganza! Shannon needs your help to make it a success though.

We have eggs at the church....lots and lots of eggs....but we need them stuffed and handed out on Saturday, April 3rd at 10 AM. We are going to follow the same set of guidelines for our Easter Eggstravaganza as we did for Trunk or Treat.

You will then need to stuff your eggs (approximately 100) and come hand them out in the parking lot. You can decorate your cars and wear bunny ears or just come and hand out eggs! The children will come around and collect eggs from each vehicle and then return the empty eggs to Shannon. We will park cars in every other space and ask folks to wear masks so that everyone is comfortable!

- ♦ If you are willing to hand out eggs, please email Shannon and she will make arrangements to get eggs to you.
- ♦ If you have a child that is toddler-5th grade that wants to come join us for the Easter Eggstravaganza, please email Shannon so that she has an idea of how many children to expect.
We want to have enough for everyone!

This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the beautiful morning that God is going to provide for us. Gotta think positive!! And the kids still get to enjoy an Easter tradition and see their friends and most importantly, we get to see them!!

The Easter Bunny will be available for photos as well.

Contact Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) with questions, to RSVP to hand out eggs, or to RSVP to come take part in the Easter Egg Hunt!

Dear friends,
You expressed your love and sympathy in so many beautiful ways--with cards, calls, texts, memorials and prayers--during my father, Palmer's, illness and death. For all of these, I thank you for being there for me at this most difficult time.

Gratefully,
Craig Wheatley

Thank you to my loving St. Stephen's family for all of the cards, phone calls, and visits during my recent illness. Your prayers and support have meant the world to me. God bless all of you!

-- Marge Spears

Thank You

Lutheran Men:

Fellow member,
Coach Mike Burgess,
will be our guest speaker Monday,
March 15, 2021 at 7:00pm in the
Social Hall.

The topic will be
"Covered with Glory."

The history of St. Stephen's and
the civil war. Please come and join
us. Social distancing will be
practiced and masks are required.

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

First Communion Class

A first communion class will be offered by Pastor Jason and Pastor Pat on Sunday, March 7th at 12:30pm. We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities! If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, March 4th so that we can know how much pizza to order. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Jason!



Adult Wednesday Evening Class will resume after Holy Week!!!

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.

February 17-March 31 (Lenten-Holy Week Break)

Congratulations to **Scott Stogner** who was named Chapin High School's Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to **Claudia Lee Schneider's** granddaughter, Meg Gaston (daughter of Connie and Neal Gaston), who has been approved for ordination in the United Methodist Church. She will be ordained this June.

Congratulations to the Yeomen who won the Gold Division Championship (ages 10 and 11) with Lexington County Recreation Basketball League.

We had 4 St. Stephen's boys that played on the team:

Porter Dooley, Connor Geary, Sam Taylor, and Luke Wenzel.

The team was coached by our very own **Chad Geary** and **Jon Taylor!**

Congratulations to **Mary Gaskins** who was promoted to Chief Academic Officer of Lexington County School District One.

Congratulations to **Lucas Reynolds** and **Cooper Reynolds** for being named the Saxe Gotha Conference of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission Young Men of the Year for 2020 at the Convention held February 20.

Congratulations to **St. Stephen's Lutheran Men** for receiving an Outstanding Unit award for 2020 at the South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission Convention February 20.

*Remember to email Shannon if you have
GOOD NEWS to share!*



MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Epiphany to Easter food drive continues with 1017 lbs. toward our goal of donating 4000 lbs. of food between now and Easter Sunday. Our yearly total is 1017 lbs. toward our goal of 15,000 lbs. for the year.

Please place your food donations in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the container outside the Men's Sunday School Classroom.

All food items and pet food are being accepted.

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

If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's. In the remarks section write for Food purchase 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
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
Coffee
Oatmeal
Grits
Dog food/Cat food


**Mission
Lexington**

March Love Offering

Operation Inasmuch

Operation Inasmuch is a national nonprofit that employs proven models to motivate, train, and equip churches to move more congregants out of the sanctuary seats and into the streets to serve the neediest in their communities. A day is selected each year in the SC Synod in the month of April on which to mobilize Lutherans around the state in completing projects that will serve the "least of these" around us. All love offering donations in March will go towards helping to finance the projects we undertake on that special workday. To find out more please see Pastor Jason.

If you are single and ready to mingle but don't know how or where to begin please join us in a six-part series, "Love Is" by Bianca Juarez Olthoff. Facilitated by Dr. Ebony Bowers, singles will discuss how we can use the Bible to guide our dating journey. This Zoom series will take place weekly starting Thursday, March 11th and will continue until Thursday, April 15th from 7pm to 8pm.

Please contact Ebony Bowers at efmbowers@gmail.com or text her at (803) 360-0652 by March 9th, if you are interested in participating.

**SINGLE
LIFE**

JCREW (1st-5th grade)

"Sheep Shearing Day" at Old McCaskill Farm – Saturday, March 27th

Old McCaskill's Farm (377 Cantey Lane, Rembert SC 29128) is owned and operated by Kathy and Lee McCaskill. They have an annual event called "Spring Sheep Shearing Day", which is their "A Day in the Life" event featuring sheep herding, border collie demos, spinners, weavers, grits mill, saw mill, wood working, baby chicks to see, baby lambs to touch, face painting, concessions, live music, and more! It is a lot of fun for families, couples, or individuals alike! Admission is \$5 per person. Children 2 and under get in free. If you'd like to be a part of the caravan please be in the large parking lot at 10am. We will go and catch the morning activities, have some lunch, and head back home. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Sunday, March 21st so we can get organized. Hope to see YOU there!

Community Groups:

6th grade:

We are heading to Summit Adventure Park on Sunday, March 7th at 2 PM. Please RSVP if you plan to go by Wednesday, March 3rd. Cost is \$10.

7th and 8th grade:

Details will be emailed out as soon as they are finalized!

9th and 10th:

Mark your calendars for March 7th and plan to join us for a fun TEAMWORK outing! More details to come....watch for an email from Mrs. Julie!

11th and 12th:

Details will be emailed out as soon as they are finalized!



Jr. and Sr. Youth

It's time to get outdoors and back to nature! We are going fishing! You read that right! Sallie and Bob Oswald have graciously agreed to allow us to use their pond for our fishing adventure. All you need is a fishing rod or a cane pole. Crickets and worms will be provided! Not a fisherman? Come and join us anyway for some fresh air and time away! We will plan on having hotdogs and hamburgers at the pond!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 14th. We will meet at 12:30, eat lunch, and then fish for a while. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 11th so we have a head count and can tell you where to meet us!

Upcoming Blood Drive!
Mark your calendars for
Wednesday, April 4th for our
Red Cross Blood Drive.
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!



It's time to register for 2021 Lutheroad Day Camp!

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church invites you to join us for Lutheroad Day Camp! This year, camp is scheduled for June 27-July 2, 2021. Registration for campers entering 1st - 6th grade for next school year (2021/2022) is now open. The cost for one week of camp is \$150.00 for the 1st child & \$130.00 for siblings.

*****Register early....space is limited!***

Lutheroad Day Camp is a five-day program, which allows the benefits of camp at Lutheridge to come to us! It enables children to experience a Christian camping environment without having to stay overnight away from home. Each day will be full of fun-filled activities including camp-style worship and bible study, arts and crafts, music and songs, special events and field trips! Camp will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

If you think your child(ren) would enjoy the fun-filled and rewarding experience of attending Lutheroad Day Camp at St. Stephen's, please complete and return the registration form (available in the office or outside the Men's Sunday School Classroom) and a **\$50.00 non-refundable** deposit (per child). Receipt of this information will enable us to reserve a spot for your child(ren).

This will be our 20th year hosting Lutheroad Day Camp and we're looking forward to an exciting week! We hope your child(ren) will be able to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Burnett at 359-4175 or shannon@ssl.org.

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 outside of Mrs. Tonya's office.



Upcoming Events:

March 7: First Communion Class

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 1: Maundy Thursday Services 12:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7 pm in the sanctuary

April 2: Good Friday Services 12:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 7 pm in the sanctuary
3 pm Ringing of the Bell

April 3: Easter Eggstravaganza

April 4: Easter Sunday (We will be using the RSVP system like we did for Christmas Eve.
The sign-up link will be sent out on March 10th)

April 7: Blood Drive 2 pm-7 pm

April 25: Operation Inasmuch

May 9th: Youth Sunday; Graduation Recognition

May 22: Confirmation Banquet

May 23: Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

June 20: Pastor Jason's Campfirmation Week; Youth Mission Trip to Gilbert, SC

June 26: SC Synod Assembly (one day)

June 27: Summer Musical Practices Begin

June 28 - July 2: Lutheridge Day Camp

July 11-14: Vacation Bible School

July 18-21: Pastor Pat's Campfirmation Week; Sr. High Retreat

July 28: Blood Drive 2 pm-7 pm

August 15: Bookbag and School Year Blessing/Summer Musical Performance

August 22: Rally Sunday/Installation of SS and Preschool Teachers

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!

Kids Free Dinner – Friday, March 12th, 7-9pm, Old Mill Brew Pub

Everyone is invited to the Old Mill Brew Pub on Friday, March 12th from 7-9pm! This will be a kids-free time of food and fellowship. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, March 10th so he can make sure enough space is reserved. Hope to see YOU there!

Family Sunday School:

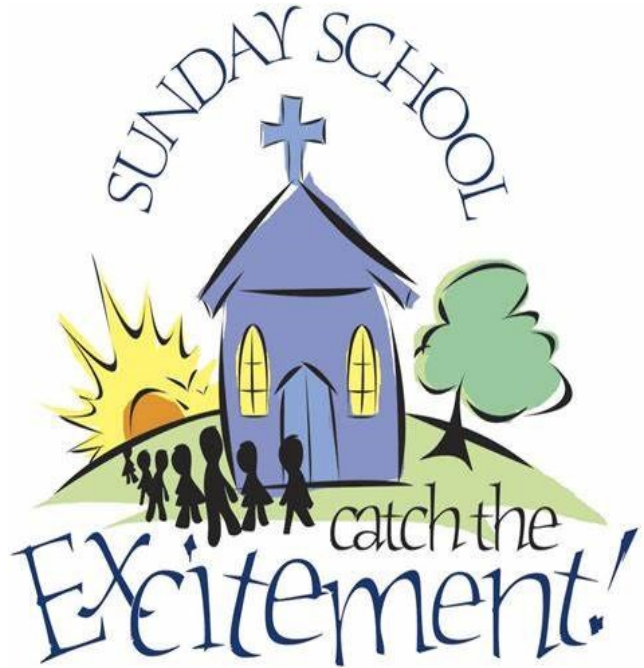
We will continue offering families the opportunity to gather in the Social Hall (each family at a different table) where we will have time for

Family, Faith, and the Father.

Ms. Shannon will be leading the sessions.

We have 2 sessions:
9:30-10 AM and 10:15-10:45 AM.

Snacks will be provided.
Come and Join us!



Flowers for March

7	Mickey Ann Burnett
14	David and Allison Van Cleef
21	Suzanne Robinson
28	Ashley and Shannon Burnett

Please contact the office if you'd like to provide flowers for one of the available dates!

Ushers for March

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

Called to *Serve*

Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2021

Paulette Shealy (803) 465-0942
Steve Fowler (803) 360-5605
Ivan Black (803) 513-7486
Sandy Dawkins (803) 606-1072
Mary Elizabeth Windham (803) 351-6572

Class of 2022

Craig McFarland (803) 360-7310
Evelyn Temple (706) 436-3052
Brian Paeth (803) 529-6117
Stephanie Jones (803) 606-3814
Mike Brittingham (803) 760-3219

Class of 2023

Michael Jebaily (843) 617-3147
Allison VanCleaf (803) 447-3002
Brian Lackore (803) 351-2585
Mike Burgess (803) 238-7426
Jessica Maxheimer (803) 422-5747

Youth Representatives:

Abby Burnett and Carlee Tworzyanski

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155
Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

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

Assistant Director of Music/

Organist

Tyler Meade Tyler@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 - Mike Brittingham
Vice President - Steve Fowler
Secretary - Allison Van Cleef
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"

=====
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.