

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30) 117 (11:00) 119  
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 32

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$521,456.08  
Expenses to date 2021: \$528,048.62

Principal Payment Paid 2021: \$354,605.22

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families  
Received: \$230,137.26  
Loan Balance: \$1,097,000.00

**Our weekly offerings are about returning back to God a portion of what he has first given us. We are able to be generous givers when God is at work in our hearts. St. Stephen's Activities for this week include:**

TODAY	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School For All Ages <b>11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary)</b> 4PM: Living Faith (Zoom)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	9AM: Preschool 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	5:30PM: Gym Reserved
Saturday	
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages Order of St. Stephen's (Sanctuary) <b>11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for August 29 – September 5, 2021**

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **August - Lutheran Campus Ministry** is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others on college campuses around the nation, not just a ministry for Lutherans. Its mission is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. In South Carolina we have 17 ministry sites that reach out to over 20 different colleges and universities. In recent years funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry has declined substantially and they could use our support to help them continue their important mission.

**Hospitalized:** Gwen Morris, LMC; Martin Arant, LMC

**Congratulations** Anna and Allen Browder upon the birth of their son, Charles Allen Browder on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Charlie's proud grandparents are Melissa and Odie Rawl. And congratulations to Corey and Jordan Hunter upon the birth of their son, James Bowen Hunter on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Bowen's proud grandparents are Candi and Pat Bowen.

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to Allison Van Cleef upon the death of her husband, David Van Cleef, to Claudia Schneider upon the death of her husband, Richard Schneider, and to Anna Skipper upon the death of her mother, Janette Vaughn. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them and their families assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

**Join us for the Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Service** held at 12:30PM in the sanctuary to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word in a unique, shortened, but spiritual time of worship. Lunch will be served at 11:45am in the social hall.

**Adult WNL Class:** Starting September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the social hall, Pastor Dennis will be teaching "The Surprise of Scripture. A Dangerous Reading of the Gospel of Luke". Scripture is filled with Holy Spirit breath that will challenge you, surprise you and yes even change you. The Gospel of Luke begins in Advent of this year and continues throughout 2022 in our Sunday worship. Come join Pastor Dennis and others for a close and intensive verse by verse reading of Luke. Please be aware that this might be spiritually dangerous for all of us as we see ourselves in the mirror of Scripture. Why? Well, because we do not interpret the Scriptures; rather the Scriptures interpret us. Together let us read, support and encourage one another as we discover our new reflections in the Gospel of Luke. Bring your NRSV Bibles

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 6,252 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 10,143 lbs. Our goal for the year is 15,000 lbs. Please place your food donations and plastic or paper bags in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the box in front of the men's class room. The following items are the most needed: Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Chili, Pork & Beans, Canned Soups, Rice, Grits, Sugar, Flour, Oatmeal, Applesauce, Cereals, Coffee, Dog & Cat Food. Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry. Thanks again for your support! Ron Redd Cell 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

**Calling all Confirmands!** If your child is a rising 7th or 8th grader, then we'd love to include them in our plans for our Confirmation ministry this year!

If you are interested, please do these two things:

- 1) Email Pastor Jason
- 2) Plan to attend our Confirmation Orientation session **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** in the gym at 6 PM.

If you have questions about Confirmation and/or whether your kid(s) should be involved, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jason!

**Chat N Chew:** Please note the meeting date for Chat N Chew has been permanently changed to the third Thursday of the month.

**Date:** September 16, 2021

**Host:** Ken and Sylvia Howell

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Restaurant:** UNO Pizzeria & Grill, 5304 Sunset Blvd, Lexington, SC

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the church's bulletin board! Join your church family for good food and fellowship! Hope to see you there.

**Lutheran Men:** Please join us September 20<sup>th</sup> in the social hall at 7:00pm for a meal and program. Fellow member Neil Brown will be our guest speaker. Please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241 if you have any questions.

**Attention Ladies!** Kerri Brittingham and Julie Harper will be facilitating a women's Bible Study "Finding I Am" by Lysa TerKeurst. They will be meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm starting Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday mornings at 10:30am starting Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in participating, please email Kerri at mbrittingham@sc.rr.com or text/call (803) 318-4599. Join these ladies for an uplifting look into scripture!

**Training for Order of St. Stephen's**

**What?** Learn how to serve St. Stephen's by being an acolyte (5th and 6th graders), crucifer (7th-10th graders), or banner bearer (11th graders)

**Who?** For anyone that needs to be trained

**Where?** Meet in the Sanctuary

**When?** Next Sunday, September 5th at 9:45 AM

**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 79 members in 2020. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Over \$19,000.00 was distributed to mission churches in 2020. The 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. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

**Stewardship Moment** During the month of August, we will be focusing on getting people "Plugged Back In" at St. Stephen's. A link to the Time & Talent form has been emailed out but you can pick a paper copy up in the narthex or church office. There are many opportunities to get involved at St. Stephen's! We know the more involved people are, the better our church runs! Please take some time to look over these opportunities and see where we can best use your gifts! If you already volunteer, please plan to continue (we NEED you and APPRECIATE you)! Since we feel like we are currently rebooting we'd love for everyone to submit your Time and Talent form so we know your intent!

**Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class is BACK!** We look forward to gathering in the chapel next Sunday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> for a time of welcome, catching up, and looking forward. If you've forgotten: The Saints and Sinners Class encompasses adults of all ages. There is no regular curriculum. Instead we watch movies, read books, and engage in open conversation about any number of topics. Don't have a Sunday School class that feels like home? We'd love to have YOU with us!

**WELCA Joint Circle Meeting and Salad Supper:** The Joint Circle Business Meeting and Salad Supper will be held Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 in the social hall. Please note the change of date from the one listed in the year book. All women of St Stephen's are invited to attend and learn more about WELCA and opportunities for fellowship and service through membership in a circle. Bring a salad to share and join us for a delightful and timely presentation from our guest speaker, Janet Tarbox. Janet is a retired Episcopal priest, she will share her inspirational observations about the seasons of life as they relate to our faith journey. Please bring a gift card for St Stephen's WELCA to donate to local women's and children's shelters including Nancy K Perry and Chris Myer Children's Place. These gift cards will assist residents with back to school and other needs. Gift cards in any amount from Walmart, Target or Amazon will be appreciated. Please contact Suzanne Swaffield 803-606-5683 with any questions.

**Living Faith Group Planning:** Everyone is invited to join the 4pm zoom **TODAY!** We will be planning for the upcoming year. If you did not get the link, please email Pastor Jason.