

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 72 (11:00) 69
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 37

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$550,270.26
Expenses to date 2021: \$558,761.03

Principal Payment Paid 2021: \$354,605.22

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families
Received: \$241,667.69
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	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School For All Ages Order of St. Stephen's (Sanctuary)
Monday	11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary) Office Closed/No Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 7PM: Circle 5 (Parlor)
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary & Online) 5PM: Intermediate Handbells 5:15PM: WNL Dinner 6PM: Confirmation Orientation (Gym); Adult Bible Study (Social Hall); Cherub Choir; Children's Choir; Adult Handbells (Balcony) 6:30PM: Tone Chimes 7PM: Wings of Worship (Gym Stage) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	9AM: Preschool 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	5:30PM: Gym Reserved
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages New Member Class (Sanctuary) 10:30AM: Cookie Sunday (Social Hall) 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) God's Work Our Hands Service Day

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 5 – September 12, 2021

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **September: Music Program Scholarship Fund.** The Music Program Scholarship was founded in 2010 as an incentive to encourage St. Stephen's youth to participate in our various choirs. The scholarship is available to all high school aged members who participate in one of our adult choirs or adult handbells. Participants are required to be present for at least 75% of all rehearsals and performances, and they are awarded \$50 for each year of participation. The full amount that each student earns will be collected and given to them upon their graduation from high school. Love offering donations in September will go towards continuing these scholarships into the future.

Hospitalized: Martin Arant, LMC

Christian Sympathy is extended to Zane Morris upon the death of his wife, Gwen Morris, and to Susan Barnes upon the death of her father, Ron Wall. 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 8th 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.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Brant Taylor, Ivan Black, and Bert Davis for all their help with the new social hall bathrooms and preschool bathroom!!! These men out did themselves! They worked hard and saved the church a lot of money. The new social hall bathrooms each now have a shower which will allow SSLC to help the Red Cross if our facility is ever needed. When you see one of these gentlemen make sure to let them know how much they are appreciated!

God's Work Our Hands Service Day – Next Sunday, September 12th has been reserved to participate in the ELCA's Annual "God's Work Our Hands" Day. We will be going out as a congregation to do yardwork for members of our congregation who need our assistance. If you would like to participate please let Pastor Jason know so we can get organized. Also, if you have tools, mowers, trimmers, cutters, etc. that you can bring that would be greatly appreciated as we will be splitting up to hit multiple projects at once.

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? TODAY at 9:45 AM

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 6,802 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 10,683 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.

Bereavement Meals and Refreshments: As many of you know, WELCA Circles provide a tremendous ministry to bereaved families by preparing a meal or refreshments after a funeral. Over the past few years, we have seen a decline in Circle growth and an increase in funerals. If you are not involved in a Circle, but would be willing to help out with meals/refreshments, please reach out to Kelley Mintz, Bereavement Coordinator, at k Kelley.mintzsc@gmail.com or (803) 609-4971. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!

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 this coming **Wednesday, September 8th** 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 20th 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. 21st and Wednesday mornings at 10:30am starting Sept. 22nd. 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!

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.

Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class is BACK! We look forward to gathering in the chapel **TODAY** 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.

St. Stephen's 101: For New and Prospective Members (and Seasoned Ones Too!): The Pastors and Staff at St. Stephen's will be offering a class for new members and anyone else who would like to attend. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary.

***Sunday, September 12th – Welcome and History of St. Stephen's**

Pastor Jason will lead this session that will focus on getting to know a little about each other and then learning some of the history of our congregation.

***Sunday, September 19th – Lutheranism 101**

Pastor Dennis will lead this class that will focus on introducing the basics of Lutheranism and how that is lived out at St. Stephen's.

***Sunday, September 26th - Getting Plugged In**

Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. Tonya, and Mrs. Bailey will team together to introduce you to all the basics of being a member of St. Stephen's and all the different opportunities you will find to be "People of Christ Making a Difference" within and outside the walls of our congregation.

***Sunday, October 3rd – Welcoming of New Members at both services**