

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 66 (11:00) 72

Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 43

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$551,227.55

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: \$244,705.69

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
 New Members Class (Sanctuary)
10:30AM: Cookie Sunday (Social Hall)
11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary)
God's Work Our Hands

Monday 9AM: Preschool
12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Tuesday 9AM: Preschool
6:30PM: WELCA Salad Super (Social Hall)

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
6PM: Chat N Chew (UNO's)
7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Friday 5:30PM: Gym Reserved

Saturday

Sunday **8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) – Debt Retirement Meal**
9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages
 New Members Class (Sanctuary)
11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:30PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall)
2:30PM: 9th -12th Grade Community Groups (Stars & Strikes)
5PM: Nurture & Outreach (Social Hall)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 12 – September 19, 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, Home; Greta Morris, Providence

Join us for the Wednesday, September 15th 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.

Today we welcome Pastor Jesse Canniff-Kuhn as our guest preacher. In January, Pastor Jesse accepted a call to be the Campus Pastor for both Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Gamecock Lutheran (Lutheran Campus Ministry for the University of South Carolina and the Midlands area). Pastor Jesse believes that for campus ministry to be vibrant it needs to connect and partner with local individuals and congregations. In his down time, he loves to go on walks with his wife, Lindsay (a 9th grade math teacher at Lexington High School), and their dog, to run around in the yard with their kids, to drink coffee, and to hang out with the students he serves.

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 – TODAY 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. 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.

Principle Payment Reduction Lunches are BACK! These luncheons are held once a month September – May. All proceeds go directly to retire the debt. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services. Join your Church Council Members next Sunday, September 19th for: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 7,175 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 11,066 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 kelley.mintzsc@gmail.com or (803) 609-4971. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!

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.

Prime Time: We are planning to resume Prime Time Luncheons once each month. Since lunch is being prepared each Wednesday before the WE! service, we are going to try a different day of the week to gather! Mark your calendars and join us on the third Tuesday of the month! Join us September 21st at 11:45 AM for a Chick-fil-a catered luncheon! Please sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

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! Books are available outside the men's classroom.

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.

WELCA Joint Circle Meeting and Salad Supper: The Joint Circle Business Meeting and Salad Supper will be held this Tuesday 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 at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

***TODAY – 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**

Nurture and Outreach will meet next Sunday, Sept. 19th at 5pm in the social hall. Anyone interested in joining our group, please come and join us. We would love to have you. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241