

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30) 97 (11:00) 105  
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 39

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$566,197.55  
Expenses to date 2021: \$576,349.06

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families  
Received: \$246,021.69  
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	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online) – Debt Retirement Meal</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School For All Ages New Members Class (Sanctuary) <b>11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary)</b> 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall) 2:30PM: 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Groups (Stars & Strikes) 5PM: Nurture & Outreach (Social Hall) 6PM: 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Community Group (Social Hall)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 7PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Prime Time Lunch (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 10:30AM: Women's Bible Study 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 5:15PM: WNL Dinner 6PM: Confirmation Orientation (Gym); Adult Bible Study (Social Hall); Cherub Choir; Children's Choir; Adult Handbells (Balcony); 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	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages New Members Class (Sanctuary) <b>11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 2PM: J-Crew (JC Bowling)

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 19 – September 26, 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:** Greta Morris, Home

**Join us for the Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</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.

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to Ron Diegel upon the death of his wife, Charlotte Diegel and to Tom Janson upon the death of his mother. 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.

**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!

**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 **TODAY** for: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, and Dessert.

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 7,558 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 11,449 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!!

**J-Crew:** All 1st-5th graders are invited to go bowling Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>! We will meet at the JC's bowling alley at 2pm to bowl a couple of games. The church will pay for bowling and shoes. If you want something from the concession area you will need to bring your own spending money. We should finish up around 3:30pm. Parents are encouraged to stick around during the event to help chaperone and also to help develop our activity schedule for the upcoming year! Pastor Jason needs an RSVP by Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>!

**First Communion Class** will be offered by Pastor Jason on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm. We will eat lunch and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities! If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office or Pastor Jason no later than Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> so that we can know how many to expect for lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason!

**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.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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.

**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! Books are available outside the men's classroom.

**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 – 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 26<sup>th</sup> - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – Welcoming of New Members at both services**

**Nurture and Outreach** will meet today 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