

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30) 87 (11:00) 107  
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 41

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$582,341.53  
Expenses to date 2021: \$623,008.27

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families  
Received: \$264,844.75  
Loan Balance: \$1,047,000.00

**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) – New Member Sunday</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary)</b> 12:30PM: First Communion Class (Social Hall) 3PM: Blessing of the Animals (Corner of Butler St. & N. Church St.)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room) 7PM: Circle 5 (Parlor)
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 10:30AM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room) 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 2PM: Blood Drive (Gym) 5:15PM: WNL Dinner 6PM: Confirmation Class (Agape Classroom); Adult Bible Study (Social Hall); Cherub Choir; Children's Choir; Tone Chimes; Adult Handbells (Balcony) 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	4:30PM: Sr. Youth (Scarowinds)
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary &amp; Online)</b> 9:45AM: Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary) Sunday School for All Ages <b>11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 3 – October 10, 2021**

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **October - Newberry College**  
Newberry College is 1 of 23 Lutheran (ELCA) colleges in the United States of America and the only Lutheran (ELCA) college in South Carolina. As members of the SC Synod of the ELCA it has been and will continue to be a part of our mission to support Newberry College both with our prayers and our treasures. St. Stephen's has a special scholarship fund where moneys are awarded to members of our congregation who attend Newberry. For the month of October, we encourage donations over and above your regular giving to be designated to Newberry College for the purposes of supporting the St. Stephen's Koch Congregational Scholarship Fund.

**Join us for the Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</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.

**Welcome!** Today we welcome our newest members! These new members are joining today or have joined since March of 2020: Rev. Larry and Bonnie Long, Jim and Nancy Herritage, Barbara Lunsford, Angie Black, Tom and Brenda Janson, Mary Sesler, Joshua Harrington, Doug and Jana Curry, Donald and Renate Chappell, and Tim and Diane Setterlund. We are excited to have you all as a part of the SSLC family!

**Called Congregational Meeting:** Next Sunday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am there will be a called Congregational Meeting. During this meeting the congregation will vote to extend the call of Senior Pastor to Pastor Jason T. Antley. We will also be voting on the pay package that will be presented from our Finance Committee. An absentee ballot is available for those unable to attend. This ballot must be completed by Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Please contact Tonya (Tonya@ssl.org) if you need a ballot!

**First Communion Class** will be offered by Pastor Jason **TODAY** at 12:30pm. We will eat lunch and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason!

**Blessing of the Animals** is **TODAY** at 3:00pm on the front lawn at the corner of Butler Street and N. Church Street. All types of animals are welcome!

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 8,438 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 12,329 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.

**Sr. Youth Event (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade):** Join us for a trip to Scarowinds on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The gates open at 7pm. We will plan to leave the church at 4:30 pm, get a bite to eat on the way up, and then be there when the gates open! Cost is \$40. That covers your ticket and dinner. Bring extra money for snacks inside the park. Please RSVP by Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> so we can get our tickets. Friends are welcome! We will plan to be home by midnight!

**Jr. and Sr. Youth Event (6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade):** Join us on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> for the Marty Party - a fun afternoon celebrating all things Lutheran! We will go to Zion Lutheran and join with folks from other churches for fun games and fellowship! We will leave the church at 3pm and return around 5:30pm. RSVP by Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> if you plan to go!

**Lutheran Men:** Please join us Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the social hall for fellowship and a meal. Pastor Jason will be our guest speaker. Lutheran Men is open to men of all ages. Ron Redd: Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

**Blood Drive:** We will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-7pm in the gym. Please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) and enter sponsor code SSLC to sign up! Please consider giving the gift of life!

**Prime Time:** Mark your calendars and join us on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 in the social hall for a Halloween themed luncheon! Please sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board so we know how many folks to expect.

**Community Groups:**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> - Join Mrs. Shannon as we head to Escapology in Columbia. We will enter The Lost City and work together to find the treasure! RSVP to Mrs. Shannon by Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. We will leave the church at 2pm! Cost is \$20

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Let's head to Stars & Strikes for some bowling fun! Plan to leave the church at 1:30pm! Cost is \$15. We will be back around 4pm! Please RSVP by Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> so we have a head count. Stephanie Jones ([ricejones@gmail.com](mailto:ricejones@gmail.com))

**9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade:** Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Join us for Pumpkin Carving and hotdogs in the Grove (the front area under the trees at the church!) at 4pm. RSVP to Mrs. Michele by Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> so we have a head count! Michele Head ([michelehead54@yahoo.com](mailto:michelehead54@yahoo.com))

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> - Join us for Pumpkin Carving and hotdogs in the Grove (the front area under the trees at the church!) at 4pm. RSVP to Mrs. Tonya ([tonya@sslc.org](mailto:tonya@sslc.org)) by Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> so we have a head count!

**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](mailto:kelley.mintzsc@gmail.com) or (803) 609-4971. Your help would be greatly appreciated!!

**Living Faith:** Lutheridge Worship, Picnic, and Apple Picking - On Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> the Living Faith group is sponsoring our 3rd annual Lutheridge Worship, Picnic, and Apple Picking. Anyone interested is invited to gather in the large parking lot by 8:30am for departure to Lutheridge in Arden, NC. Everyone will be traveling in their own cars. At Lutheridge we'll have a worship service and then a picnic. Both will be held at the Lakeside pavilion awning that has chairs and picnic tables. Afterwards we'll head to a local apple farm. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to come. Folks that attend are asked to bring their own picnic lunch, chairs, blankets, etc. that you'll need for your family to be most comfortable. Hope to see YOU there!

**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.

**Preschool News:** Book Fair is coming! This year's book fair will be held virtually from Oct. 11-25 and there will be titles for all ages, including adults. This will be a great time to pick up books for Christmas gifts because after all, what better gift than the gift of reading? All books will be delivered to the preschool to avoid shipping costs. You can order from Scholastic online and be sure to use our preschool link to give us credit for the books you purchase. The online site is available until Oct. 25. Visit <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ststephenspreschl> Butterbraid Fundraiser! The preschool ministry will be selling Butter Braid pastries, a delicious premium frozen product that buyers will truly enjoy! These are great for breakfast, for the upcoming holidays to serve guests and to take to holiday parties. The pastries come frozen, you let it thaw on your counter overnight, then bake and serve. It is delicious!! We will sell until Oct. 20 and delivery will be Nov. 16, a week before the Thanksgiving Holiday! A great treat for guests and family!

**Upcoming Events:**

Monday, Oct. 18: Lutheran Men

Thursday, Oct. 21 Chat-N-Chew

Sunday, Oct. 24: Debt Retirement Meal

Wednesday, Oct. 27: Trick or Treat Trail

Sunday, Oct. 31: Reformation Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 14: WELCA Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 28: First Sunday in Advent

Tuesday, Nov. 30: Holden Evening Prayer