

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 109 (11:00) 106
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 31

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$623,715.61
Expenses to date 2021: \$622,548.72

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families
Received: \$292,048.44
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	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) 9:45AM: Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary); Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary) 1:30PM: 7 th & 8 th Grade Community Group (Stars & Strikes) 4PM: 9 th -12 th Grade Community Groups (Front Lawn)
Monday	Church Office Closed 9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room) 6:30PM: Social Hall Reserved
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 10:30AM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room) 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary & Online) 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	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online); Living Faith Leave for Lutheridge 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 3PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth Marty Party (Zion Lutheran Church) 6PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 10 – October 17, 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 13th 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.

Called Congregational Meeting: TODAY at 9:45am in the sanctuary. 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.

Poinsettia Sale Starts Next Sunday: Poinsettias to be used on December 19th, 24th, and 26th worship services. They will cost \$15.00 each and can be placed in honor of or in memory of your loved ones or friends. If you would prefer, gifts can be made to the Debt Retirement Fund in lieu of poinsettias. A minimum donation of \$15.00 to Debt Retirement is requested. Order deadline is Sunday, Oct. 31st. Flowers will be wrapped with green paper. You can either mail in or drop off your order form along with your check at the church office.

Trunk or Treat: On October 27th we plan to have Trunk or Treat in the big parking lot like we did last year! We really want to make this a fun evening for our kids and plan to have a food truck or two available for dinner! We need adults and families that are willing to come and hand out candy. If you don't feel safe handing things directly to the children, you could always bring a table and set your treats there for the kids to pick up. We ask that you give your treats directly to the kids or have your treats spaced out on a table so the children can pick them up. We would LOVE for you to decorate your trunks and/or dress up yourself! Please let Shannon know if you plan to provide candy by Monday, October 25th! Our plan is to have food trucks here at 5pm which is when you can begin setting up your area! We plan to start at Trunk or Treat at 6pm and should be done by 6:45pm. Vehicles will be parked in every other space to help with crowding.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 8,928 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 12,819 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. **Holiday Hams and Turkeys for Mission Lexington:** Nurture and Outreach is seeking donations to purchase turkeys and hams to donate to Mission Lexington during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday. Please prayerfully consider donating \$20.00 toward the purchase of hams and turkeys. Write a check to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section of your check, please mark it for ham and turkey purchase and place it in the offering plate. We will make a ham and turkey purchase close to Thanksgiving and another purchase closer to Christmas. Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Ron Redd: 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Jr. and Sr. Youth Event (6th- 12th grade): Join us on Oct. 17th 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. 14th if you plan to go!

Lutheran Men: Please join us Monday, October 18th 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.

Chat N Chew: Please join our group for good food and wonderful fellowship with your church family! We will meet on Thursday, Oct. 21st at 6pm at the Flight Deck located at 109 Old Chapin Road. Sign up on the church bulletin board. We hope to see you there! Hosted by Glenn and Jeannette Neeley.

Prime Time: Mark your calendars and join us on Tuesday, October 19th 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:

6th grade: Oct. 24th - 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. 21st. We will leave the church at 2pm! Cost is \$20

7th and 8th grade: TODAY - 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! Stephanie Jones (ricejones@gmail.com)

9th and 10th grade: TODAY - Join us for Pumpkin Carving and hotdogs in the Grove (the front area under the trees at the church!) at 4pm. Michele Head (michelehead54@yahoo.com)

11th and 12th grade: TODAY - Join us for Pumpkin Carving and hotdogs in the Grove (the front area under the trees at the church!) at 4pm.

On Sunday, Oct. 24th, during the Sunday School hour, Miss South Carolina, Julia Herrin, will be at St. Stephen's to share her social impact initiative with us. Julia Herrin was born and raised in the low country of South Carolina. Her love of music was cultivated at a young age, due to her parent's work in the music industry. She began playing the piano at age 7. Julia was homeschooled through high school and matriculated to Auburn University Honors College to study Piano Performance and Communications on the Pre-Law track. Julia got involved in the Miss America Organization at the age of 13 as a way to build confidence. She now runs a non-profit organization and social impact initiative called #RealNotPerfect which is designed to help curb the rising tide of low self-esteem and depression by educating people on the importance of social media literacy and healthy social media use. In July of 2021, Julia was awarded the title of Miss South Carolina 2021 and will compete at the 100th Miss America Competition in Connecticut this December. Join us in the gym at 9:45 AM for this amazing opportunity!

Living Faith: Lutheridge Worship, Picnic, and Apple Picking – Next Sunday, Oct. 17th 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. 13th 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!