

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 95 (11:00) 123
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 39

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$636,361.61
Expenses to date 2021: \$639,449.39

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) Living Faith Leave for Lutheridge 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary) 3PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth Marty Party (Zion Lutheran Church) 6PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 7PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Prime Time Luncheon (Social Hall) 6PM: 4H (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room)
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; Adult Handbells (Balcony) 6:30PM: Tone Chimes (3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Grade Classroom) 7PM: Wings of Worship (Gym Stage) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	No Preschool 6PM: Chat N Chew (Flight Deck) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	5:30PM: Gym Reserved 6PM: Living Faith (Brunson's House)
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) – Debt Retirement Meal 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages; Miss SC (Gym) 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 1:30PM: J-Crew (Sease Farm) 5PM: Nurture and Outreach (Social Hall)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 17 – October 24, 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.

Hospitalized: Laraine Slice, Home; Ronald Slice, Lexington; Roscoe Caughman, Home; Evelyn Temple, Home

Join us for the Wednesday, October 20th 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.

Congratulations to new parents Jordan and Morgan Crapps on the birth of their daughter, Marshall Frances Crapps on 10/7. Congratulations to proud grandmother, Rachel Crapps too!

St. Stephen's hosted another very successful blood drive on Oct. 6th! Thank you for your support and for allowing Red Cross to use our facility! A special thanks to the following folks that gave of their time (and blood) to help save lives: Jason Antley, Erin Fowler, Cynthia Douglas, Fred Douglas, Rachel Crapps, Gary Angus, Gay Clark, Bob Pittman, Don Chappell, Cathy Mathias, Alon Cox, Shannon Burnett, David Perry, Brant Taylor, Myra Strock, Bluetie Brooks, Chase Carter, Reese McCurdy, Peri Rouillard, Paul Rouillard, and Jenny Carter. Our members donated 21 units of blood and our drive collected **39** units!! **THANK YOU!!!!!!**

Nurture and Outreach committee will meet next Sunday at 5pm in the social hall.

Prime Time: Mark your calendars and join us this coming 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.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 9,340 lbs. toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 13,241 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.

JCREW: All 1st-5th graders are invited to meet at the church next Sunday, October 24th at 1:30 pm to go to the Sease Farms Corn Maze. The church bus will be available. If you'd rather not ride the bus you can just meet us at Sease Farm. The church will cover the cost of admission. J-Crewers will only need money for a snack/drink while we are there. We will be back at the church at 4:00. Any parents that could chaperone would be extremely helpful! Please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, October 20th! Hope to see YOU there!

Community Group: 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

Jr. and Sr. Youth Event (6th- 12th grade): Join us on TODAY 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.

Jr. Youth Event (6th-8th grade): Join us Saturday, Oct. 30th for dinner and a scary walk through the woods at Stutman Hollow! Plan to meet at the church at 6:30pm. We will get dinner and then head towards Leesville. We should be back between 8:45pm and 9pm. Please bring \$15 cash to cover admission. Dinner will be paid for!

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.

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.

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. 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. Join us in the gym at 9:45am for this amazing opportunity!

Living Faith: Jamie & Tripp Brunson will be hosting a Halloween Party for the Living Faith group on Friday, October 22nd! It is sure to be a SPOOKTACULAR event and you don't want to miss it!! The whole family is invited to come and enjoy good food, fellowship, a bouncy house, hayrides, games, and other fun activities! Costumes are highly recommended to add to the fun! Last but not least, each family is asked to bring a donation of canned goods for Mission Lexington (formerly LICS). We hope to see you there!!!

Preschool News: Book Fair is here! This year's book fair will be held virtually from Oct. 11-25 and there are titles for all ages, including adults. This is 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!

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.