

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 110 (11:00) 113
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 58

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$650,574.61
Expenses to date 2021: \$647,477.47

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families
Received: \$314,444.19
Loan Balance: \$972,000.00

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) – Reformation Sunday 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: First Communion Class (Social Hall)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Sunday School Room) 7PM: Circle 5 (Parlor)
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 10:30AM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Sunday School 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	9AM: Preschool 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	5:30PM: Gym Reserved
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) – All Saints Sunday 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 2PM: Grief Group (Social Hall) 4PM: 9 th & 10 th Grade Community Group

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 31 – November 7, 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: Ronald Slice, Lexington; Clint Lowery, Lexington, Terry Lowery, Lexington

Join us for the Wednesday, November 3rd 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.

Lost and Found: Have you misplaced something? It could be in the church office lost and found bucket! We have glasses, jewelry, a set of keys, lots of umbrellas, and much much more. Stop by and check it out before it is all donated the end of November.

A HUGE thank you to the Agape Sunday School Class for a wonderful debt retirement meal last Sunday! The food, the decorations, and the fellowship were all fantastic! Mark your calendar now because you don't want to miss next month's Lutheran Men's meal on Nov. 21st!

Poinsettia Sale End Today: 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 TODAY. 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.

St. Stephen's Grief Group: Are you dealing with grief? You are not alone! Grief is experienced by so many people and in so many ways -- physical, emotional, and spiritual. Do you need a place to know that you are not alone, to affirm that what you are going through is a part of the journey of grief, to take a break from the loneliness, to be supported as you share your story and support others as they share theirs, and/or to find some hope in the midst of your struggle? If so, St. Stephen's will be starting a grief group on **Sunday, November 7th at 2pm** in the social hall, where we will provide a safe environment for you and others to come and share their stories, to find comfort and support, and to share the hope given to us by God. If you would like to sign up, please contact Pastor Jason.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive was a huge success! Thank you St. Stephen's! We donated 9,853 lbs. which exceeded our goal by 4,853 lbs. Our total collected for the year is 13,854 lbs. Our goal for the year is 15,000 lbs. Our end of the year food drive begins today with a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and December 31. 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. The following holiday items are needed too: stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, candied yams, and chicken/turkey/beef broth. 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.

J-Crew: All 1st-5th graders are invited to meet at the church on Sunday, November 21st from 4:30-6pm to roast hot dogs and smores. Contact Pastor Jason by Friday, November 19th to RSVP! Thanks and hope to see YOU there!

9th & 10th Grade Community Group: Join us for a game night and pizza on Sunday, Nov. 7th from 4-6 PM. We will also be planning events for future community group gatherings! Don't miss out! Please RSVP by Thursday, November 4th so we know how many to expect! Michele Head (michelehead54@yahoo.com)

Jr. (6th-8th) and Sr. (9th-12th) Youth Event: Sunday, November 14th at 2 PM
Join us for a fun afternoon focusing on THANKFULNESS! We will watch some short videos, play some games, and take time to be together and connect! Bring a snack to share! RSVP to Mrs. Shannon by Thursday, November 11th!

Lutheran Men: Please join us Monday, Nov. 15, at 7:00 in the social hall for a meal, fellowship, and a program presented by fellow member John Mackintosh. The topic will be our 2nd Pastor Rev. Dr. Ernest L. Hazelius (1777-1853). He is the only Pastor with a historical marker in our cemetery. Come and bring a friend! Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com

Living Faith: After a long week what could be better than gathering with our family and friends in our PJ's for pizza and a movie? On Friday, November 12th at 6pm come and enjoy a night of fun, food, fellowship, and entertainment St. Stephen's Living Faith style. Please let Pastor Jason know if you'll be able to attend by Wednesday, November 10th so he can get the correct amount of pizza. 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.

The holiday season is upon us! What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than visiting the **Christmas Arts and Crafts Market** at the SC State Farmer's Market. This event takes place Saturday, Nov. 13th and Sunday, Nov. 14th. The church bus will be heading to the market on **Saturday**. We will plan to leave the church at 8:30 AM and return around 12:30 or 1 PM. If you'd like to ride the bus, sign up on the bulletin board across from the Men's Sunday School Classroom. We need a minimum of 10 folks to take the bus. There will be a \$2 cost to cover gas.

Upcoming Events:

Nov.7: All Saints Sunday; Grief Group Starts

Nov. 14: WELCA Sunday

Nov. 21: Christ the King Sunday; Debt Retirement Meal

Nov. 28: First Sunday in Advent; Pastor Jason's Installation

Nov. 30: Holden Evening Prayer Service

Dec. 5: Cocoa & Carols at the Nativity

Dec. 12: Children's Christmas Service

Dec. 19: Blue Christmas Service