

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 117 (11:00) 98
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 42

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$701,630.85
Expenses to date 2021: \$702,057.30

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families
Received: \$338,501.94
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) – Debt Retirement Meal 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Gym) 2PM: Grief Group (Social Hall); 11 th & 12 th Grade Community Group (Sonic) 4:30PM: 6 th Grade Community Group (Social Hall); J-Crew (Social Hall)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6PM: Geary (Gym)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool
Wednesday	11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary & Online) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	Church Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) – First Sunday in Advent 9:45AM: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 4PM: Pastor Jason's Installation Worship Service (Sanctuary)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for November 21 – November 28, 2021

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **November - Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary** is 1 of 8 ELCA Seminaries and the only seminary found in the Southern region of the United States. The campus is found on North Main Street in the Eau Claire community of Columbia. LTSS has been educating and preparing leaders for the church since 1830 and continues that mission today. As members of the SC Synod of the ELCA it has been and will continue to be a part of our mission to support the seminary both with our prayers and our treasures. Please consider designating any donations over and above your regular giving to LTSS to help support the institution, the students, and their ministry present and future.

Hospitalized: Ronald Slice, Still Hopes Rehab; Carol Lunsford, Home

Christian Sympathy is extended to Blaine Richardson and family upon the death of his father, Johnny Richardson. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them and their family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for the Wednesday, November 24th 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.

Installation: Please join us for the installation service for Senior Pastor Jason T. Antley next Sunday, November 28th at 4 PM in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in the gym.

The Angel Tree is in the hallway outside of the narthex. We are asking that you prayerfully consider taking an angel (or two) from the tree, record your name next to the corresponding number on the log, and then purchase a gift card for the recipient. We are collecting gift cards for those that are served through Lutheran Family Services. We are also asking that you provide a box of candy to go with your angel so that each resident can get a sweet treat and a gift card! All gift cards should be returned by **December 12th**! Thank you!

Principle Payment Reduction Lunch TODAY! 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 in the social hall. Join **Lutheran Men TODAY** for: Country Fried Steak, Rice & Gravy, Black Eyed Peas, Rolls, and Dessert.

Mission Lexington: Our end of the year food drive is underway with 1,481 lbs. of food collected. Our goal is to collect 5,000 lbs. between now and the end of the year. The total food collected for this year is 15,335 lbs. Our goal for 2021 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. 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 **TODAY** from 4:30-6pm to roast hot dogs and smores. We hope to see YOU there!

Living Faith: Brittany and Chas Stafford have invited everyone to their home (128 Brighton Court, Lexington, SC 29072) for our 7th Annual Living Faith Christmas party on Saturday, December 4th from 6-9pm! We really appreciate them offering to host this fun and festive evening! Dinner will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring three things: 1) your own beverage, 2) a dessert to share, and 3) a Mission Lexington food donation. Hope everyone will mark their calendars and plan to be there!

6th Grade Community Group: Join Mrs. Shannon **TODAY** from 4:30-6 PM for a Thanksgiving activity and a trip to Lick for ice cream!

11th & 12th Grade Community Group: Join us **TODAY** at 2PM at the Lexington Sonic for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to help make care packages for our college friends!

Via De Cristo: Congratulations to Ron Redd on being selected Lay Director for South Carolina Via De Cristo. Our next Via De Cristo weekend is scheduled for May 12-15 at the Gunter Camp and Conference Center in Batesburg Leesville, SC. For more information, contact Mr. Ron at 803-360-0241 or Rredd7848@gmail.com.

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.

Advent and Christmas Materials in the Church Library: Looking for information about Advent symbols, the Christmas story, Christmas traditions, the history of Christmas carols, devotions, family activities or books to read with your children? Stop by the Church Library located on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building down from the Balcony choir to see the large selection of Advent and Christmas books for both children and adults. The library is open on Sundays from 9:30-11:00 or by appointment. For questions or to reserve a book, please contact Sharon Mackintosh (359-2407).

Christmas Bingo: Whether you have been naughty or nice **Everyone** is invited to come play!! Please join us in the gym on Thursday, Dec. 2nd at 6pm. Snacks, drinks, and plenty of Christmas cheer will be provided! Please email Tonya (Tonya@sslc.org) and let her know you are coming so that we have enough prizes!!

Upcoming Events:

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

Nov. 30: Holden Evening Prayer Service

Dec. 2: Christmas Bingo

Dec. 5: Cocoa & Carols at the Nativity

Dec. 12: Children's Christmas Service

Dec. 19: Blue Christmas Service