

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 109 (11:00) 102
Wednesday Service: (12:30) 41

General Offering Totals for 2022: \$252,426.74
Expenses to date 2022: \$233,379.71

Freedom to Imagine Campaign: Pledged: \$1,039,288.19 from 129 Families
Received: \$741,665.22
Loan Balance: \$692,000.00

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: Sunday School for All Ages 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 5PM: Geary (Gym)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 5PM: Taylor (Gym) 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: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary & Online) 5:15PM: WNL! Dinner 6PM: Adult Bible Study; Cherubs; Children's Choir 6:30PM: Tone Chimes 7PM: Adult Choir
Thursday	7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor) 9AM: Preschool 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) – Youth Sunday 9:30-11AM: Mother's Day Brunch (Social Hall) 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for May 1 – May 8, 2022

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **May-Youth and Children's Ministries** at St. Stephen's are a pivotal part of our mission to make our church a place where people of all ages develop and nurture their faith in Christ so that they can make a difference in the world around them. All love offering donations during the month of May will go towards fundraising efforts to support our youth and children's ministries including summer mission trips, monthly activities, special camps, etc. Thank you for giving to this hugely important ministry over and above your regular giving!

Welcome our newest members Kyle, Shelby, Isabella and Tenley Lovejoy joining today at the 11:00 service.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated today at the 11:00 service when Kyle and Shelby Lovejoy bring their daughter, Saylor Reese Lovejoy forward to begin her spiritual journey with Christ and His Church.

Christian Sympathy is extended to Cheryl Redford upon the death of her father, Viron Jones. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her and her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for the Wednesday, May 4th 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.

A Big Celebration!! On May 26th, Beulah Glover will celebrate her 105th birthday!! Please take a few moments to brighten her special day and send a card to: 218 Old Chapin Rd. The Legacy of Lexington Room 139.

Bible Study for Young Adults (college age, college grads, newly married, etc) is being facilitated by Kerri Brittingham at 9:45am in the chapel each Sunday. "Don't Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table" by Louie Giglio. This study will last 6 weeks. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Kerri (mbrittingham@sc.rr.com), (803) 318-4599 or just show up today!

Attention Parents of Seniors if you have not shared your graduate's information with Shannon, please email her ASAP. Graduation Recognition is next Sunday, May 8th.

Mission Lexington Our Epiphany to Easter food drive was a huge success with 3,530 lbs. collected! Food total for the year is 3,530 lbs. Our goal for the year is 18,000 lbs. Our Easter to Reformation food drive starts today with a goal of 6,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Mission Lexington needs the following items: Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Chili, Pork & Beans, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soups, Rice, Coffee, Grits, Sugar, Flour, Oatmeal, Applesauce, Breakfast Cereals, Dog Food (Dry & Wet), Cat food (Dry and Wet), Chicken/Turkey/Beef Broth, and Gravy Mixes. Please place your food donations in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the box in front of the Men's Sunday School Class. Mission Lexington is also in urgent need of plastic bags. Bring your used plastic or paper bags to the church and I will deliver to Mission Lexington. If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section write for Mission Lexington. Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry. Thank you again for your support. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Lutheran Men will hold a barbecue chicken dinner fundraiser Saturday, June 18 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. The price will be \$10.00 a plate. Each plate comes with a half chicken, two sides and a roll. Carry out only. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 24 before and after each service and will run through Sunday, June 05. Tickets will also be available for purchase in the church office. All proceeds will go to pay for the new refrigerator and freezer in the church kitchen. **Barbecue Hut Clean up day:** There will be a barbecue hut cleanup day Saturday, June 4 beginning at 9am. This is to clean and sanitize the barbecue hut for our barbecue chicken dinner fundraiser June 18. The more people we have the quicker the cleanup will go. If you would like to sign up, please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241 or Eric Wessinger 803-917-8771.

Circle 9 will meet Wednesday, May 4th at 5pm at Christie Addy's home. Carpool from the church at 4:40.

Sunshine Circle will meet Monday May 2 at 6:30 at the home of Suzanne Swaffield. Please call 803-606-5683 for more information.

Debt Retirement Farmer's Market Boxes each box will include 2 lemons, 2 limes, stalk of celery, pint of grape tomatoes, 2 red apples, 1 yellow onion, 1 head of romaine lettuce, 3 red potatoes, 1 red bell pepper, 1 green bell pepper, 2 navel oranges, 1 yellow squash, 2 zucchini, and 1 bunch of red grapes (items subject to change depending on availability). Each box only costs \$25 and will be ready for pick up in the social hall the first Wednesday of each month. The next pick up day is **Wednesday, May 4th from 11am until 6pm**. Place your order by 11am the Monday before (May 2) by emailing Shannon@sslc.org. Make checks payable to SSLC. Enjoy a box of fresh vegetables while helping to pay off the building debt!!

Via De Cristo Weekend: South Carolina Lutheran Via De Cristo will hold a weekend Starting Thursday evening May 12 through May 15, 2022, at the Gunter Camp and Conference center in Leesville, SC Via De Cristo is Spanish for the way of Christ. Via de Cristo is intended for lay people from every walk of life, for pastors, and also for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ. If you are interested, please contact Ron Redd at 803-360-0241 or Rredd7848@gmail.com.

The St. Stephen's golf tournament will be held on May 10 at the Ponderosa Country Club in Batesburg-Leesville. There will be a noon shotgun start. There will be a steak dinner at Otis and Melissa Rawl's home, 204 Foxglen Road, beginning at 6:30pm after the tournament. If you are only going to play golf the cost is \$30. The cost of the dinner is \$15 per person. Drinks will be provided at the golf course and at the dinner. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the narthex. Come join us for a great day on the links and a great social event in the evening.

Looking for information about events, meetings, or recorded worship services? Check out St. Stephen's website at SSLC.org for everything St. Stephen's!

Chat N Chew

Date: May 19, 2022

Time: 5:30-6:00 -social time and order meal.

Restaurant: Old Mill Brew Pub

Host: Marilyn and Paul Fattman

Join your church family for a time to be together and enjoy good food. Please sign up on the church's bulletin board! Hope to see you on May 19th!!

Relay for Life: Our annual Relay for Life Event will be held at Lexington High School on Friday, May 20th in order to Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back! If you are a cancer survivor, please check the Survivor List outside of the downstairs SS Classroom to make sure that we have your name so we can honor you with a luminary. If you'd like to honor a loved one with a luminary, please fill out a form located outside of the Men's SS Classroom and return it to Shannon Burnett. **Luminary forms due by May 8th!** If you plan to be part of the festivities on May 20th, please sign up on the clipboard outside of the narthex!

The Men's Sunday school class no longer exists. It was unable to resume following Covid restrictions and the death of Mr. Murray Price in December 2021. The Agape class from upstairs will begin meeting in the former Men's classroom today.

Upcoming Events:

May 8: Graduate Recognition

June 5: Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation

June 12: Synod Assembly

June 18: Lutheran Men BBQ

June 26-29: Vacation Bible School

July 11-15: Lutheridge Day Camp

Aug 1: Music Camp

Aug 14: Blessing of the School Year

Aug 21: Rally Sunday