

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 205 (11:00) 160
Wednesday Service: (12:30) 56

General Offering Totals for 2022: \$304,702.10
Expenses to date 2022: \$256,996.28

Freedom to Imagine Campaign July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024
Received Since the Beginning of the Campaign: \$759,072.72
Loan Balance: \$492,000.00

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) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 5PM: Geary (Gym) 6:30PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Prime Time Picnic (Gibson Pond) 5PM: Taylor (Gym) 6:30PM: Women's Bible Study (Sr. High Room); 7PM: Wenzel (Gym)
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) 6PM: Meet & Greet Pastoral Candidate (Social Hall) 7PM: Adult Choir 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	9AM: Preschool 5:30PM: Chat N Chew (Old Mill Brew Pub) 6PM: Debt Retirement Cooking Class (Kitchen) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall); Wenzel (Gym)
Friday	6PM: Relay for Life (Lexington High School)
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online) 9:45AM: Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary); Sunday School for Children 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Gym) 3PM: JCREW (Gym)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for May 15 – May 22, 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!

Hospitalized: Chuck Corley, Home

Christian Sympathy is extended to Brenda Bruner upon the death of her sister, Pam Youngblood. 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 18th 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: There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 22nd at 9:45am in the sanctuary. We will be considering a candidate for our pastoral position. There will be a meet and greet dinner this coming Wednesday, May 18th at 6pm in the social hall. Everyone is welcome!

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.

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 plan to be part of the festivities on May 20th, please sign up on the clipboard outside of the narthex!

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

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with a goal of 6,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. We have collected 690 lbs. Our total food collection for this year is 3,820 lbs. Our goal for the year is 18,000 lbs. 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.

JCREW (1st-5th Grade): Next Sunday, May 22nd from 3-5pm we will welcome the J-Crew group from St. David's Lutheran and hopefully other churches around the midlands to play games, do a craft, have a Bible moment, and eat corndogs, chips, and make SMORES! Parents willing to stay and help facilitate the event would be appreciated! We look forward to having a good group to participate! Go ahead and mark the date on your calendars. You won't want to miss it!

Jr & Sr. Youth (6th -12th Grade): It's that time! Calling all youth and parents! Let the battle begin! Join us next Sunday, May 22nd at 12:30pm for **Parents vs. Youth!** We have all kinds of activities planned and need participants. We will also be serving lunch! Please let Shannon know if you plan to participate by Thursday, May 19th! You don't want to miss out on the fun!

Prime Time: Join us for our monthly Prime Time Luncheon served on the 3rd Tuesday of the month! We will gather for lunch on Tuesday, May 17th at 11:45am at Gibson Pond Park for a picnic before it gets too hot! Fried chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to come! On Friday, May 27th let's go to the Sumter County Iris Festival! Sumter's Iris Festival is South Carolina's oldest continuous festival and is consistently ranked among the top festivals in the Southeast. This is an all walking event!! There will be lots of vendors, and iris', and crafts. There is no cost for admission. The cost for the trip will be \$5 per person to cover gas. We need at least 10 people to make the trip. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you'd like to go!! We will plan to leave at 8:30 AM!

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!!

Lutheran Men: Mike Burgess will be our guest speaker on May 16th at 6:30. Come join us for a meal prepared by Chef Andy Marchant. The topic will be Rediscovering Banastre Tarleton; confronting the Mysteries of a legend in the American Revolution. 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 are on sale now 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 Cleanup 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.

Debt Retirement Cooking Class: Join Chef Andy Marchant, Thursday, May 19th at 6pm in the kitchen for an amazing cooking class. The cost is \$50 per person and all proceeds go towards debt retirement. The menu includes: **Thai Salad:** Thai Rice Noodles, Very Finely Sliced Red and Green Cabbage, Red Pepper, Shredded Carrot, Edamame, Fresh Cilantro, Sweet and Sour Cucumbers, Crushed Peanuts, Fresh Bean Sprouts and Scallions with Peanut Dressing. **Entrée:** Soy and Ginger Marinated and Baked Fresh Atlantic Salmon with Asian Stir Fry Vegetables and Coconut-Lime Jasmine Rice. **Dessert:** Sautéed Bananas with Sweet Orange - Cinnamon Sauce over Vanilla Ice and Fresh Mint. Email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) to reserve

St. Stephen's Lutheran Preschool will once again be offering Fun Fridays 9am-11am on June 10, 17, 24, July 8, 22, and 29. This summer fundraiser for our preschool is sure to be a great time! Open to preschool-aged children (ages 1-5), Fun Fridays are **2 hours** of supervised playtime with two of our preschool teaching staff. Each Friday is open to a maximum of 15 participants, so register soon to secure your spot! Fun Fridays include playtime in our gym and outdoor time on our playground (weather permitting). Examples of weekly activities include: bubbles, sidewalk chalk art, glow sticks, dance parties, parachute games, relay races, and you are welcome to bring your bike or scooter (with a helmet) for riding in the gym. Pre-registration is required. You may register for any Fridays that fit your needs, or all of them! Price per Friday is: \$20 per child, and \$15 per additional sibling. Email kimberly@sslc.org or call 803-359-4369 to register.

Upcoming Events:

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