



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

February 2023 Newsletter

Our ***Annual Congregational Meeting*** will be held at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary on February 5th. You should have received a congregational letter along with the 2023 spending plan. There will be muffins and coffee after the meeting in the Social Hall! Please plan to attend!



2023 Talent Show

In the past, our talent show was taken place in January or February. Due to scheduling conflicts, we are moving the Talent Show to April 30th! Go ahead and mark your calendars now as it is always a wonderful night of fellowship!



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

February 5th:
Annual Congregational Meeting

February 21st:
Shrove Tuesday/Men's Bake-off

February 22nd:
Ash Wednesday

March 5th:
First Communion Class

April 2nd:
Palm Sunday

April 6th:
Maundy Thursday

April 7th:
Good Friday

April 8th:
Easter Eggstravaganza

April 9th:
Easter

May 14th:
Graduate Recognition

June 12--16:
Lutheridge Day Camp

June 25-28:
Vacation Bible School

2023 Lenten Calendar

Shrove Tuesday, February 21st

5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper;
Fat Tuesday Bake-Off

6:00 pm Burning of the Palms and
Burial of the Alleluia

(Front Lawn at N Church St. and Butler St.)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

12:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
5:30 pm Family Ash Wednesday Worship
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship



Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
12:30 pm Worship in the Sanctuary
6:00 pm Worship in the Social Hall

Men's Fat Tuesday

Bake Off:

Calling ALL St. Stephen's male bakers! You are invited to enter our 2nd Annual Baking Competition. Judging will take place on Shrove Tuesday (February 21st) during the pancake supper. Everyone attending will get a chance to vote for their favorite entry. All entries need to be in the social hall by 4pm. Please let Tonya know if you plan to participate.

Tonya@sslc.org



First Communion Class

A first communion class will be offered on Sunday, March 5th at 12:30pm.

We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities!

If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, March 2nd so that we can know how much pizza to order.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Jason!



In April, we will have an incredible opportunity to experience the Living Last Supper here at St. Stephen's. The participants are already working hard to make this an experience you won't soon forget. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these performances:

Palm Sunday April 2 3:00 pm

Wednesday April 5 7:00 pm



Living Last Supper practice schedule

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

(Feb. 1, 8, and 15, March 1, 8, 15, and 22)

Sundays at 3:00 pm

(Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26)

March 29 Full dress rehearsal and filming

A HUGE thank you to the 5 Council Members that will be rolling off Church Council after a 3 year term! Their dedication and time is more appreciated than they will ever know!

Mike Brittingham Stephanie Jones

Craig McFarland

THANK YOU

Brian Paeth Evelyn Temple

It's time to register for 2023 Lutheroad Day Camp!

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church invites you to join us for Lutheroad Day Camp! This year, camp is scheduled for June 12-16. Registration for campers entering 1st - 6th grade for next school year (2023/2024) is now open. The cost for one week of camp is \$150.00 for the 1st child & \$130.00 for siblings.

****Register early....space is limited!**

Lutheroad Day Camp is a five-day program, which allows the benefits of camp at Lutheridge to come to us! It enables children to experience a Christian camping environment without having to stay overnight away from home. Each day will be full of fun-filled activities including camp-style worship and bible study, arts and crafts, music and songs, special events and field trips! Camp will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

If you think your child(ren) would enjoy the fun-filled and rewarding experience of attending Lutheroad Day Camp at St. Stephen's, please return the registration form and a **\$50.00 non-refundable** deposit (per child). Receipt of this information will enable us to reserve a spot for your child(ren). See Shannon with questions!



Our monthly luncheon is at 11:45 AM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Join us February 9th for pizza and a movie (The Most Reluctant Convert: The Story of C.S. Lewis)

Experience C.S. Lewis' profound journey from vigorous debunker of Christianity to become, as he said, "the most reluctant convert in all England." Through Max McLean's detailed and masterful performance, Lewis' story of grief, loss and redemption comes to life on screen in his own magnificent words.

Please sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board and choose which type of pizza you prefer!



Ready for a road trip?

Jump on the bus Friday, February 24th for a day trip to Buc-ee's in Florence. If you've never been, it's a place you won't soon forget! Buc-ee's is a chain of travel centers (convenience stores) that can be found throughout Texas and the South. The stores are known for their enormous gas station facilities, wide range of food and snack offerings, and most of all: ultra-clean bathrooms.

After adventuring through Buc-ee's we will have lunch at Julia Belle's. We will plan to leave at 10 AM.

Adults 60(ish) and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Looking for information

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



WE! Lunch

A light lunch is offered in the Social Hall at 11:45 AM on Wednesdays.

The cost of the lunch is \$5. Come enjoy lunch and then worship with us at our 12:30 Eucharist Service.

Crossroads -

Crossroads - a group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults - will have its next gathering on February 2 (the first Thursday) @ 6:30 pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main). Join us for a devotion, connection over a great meal (Dutch treat), and faithful 'Mulligans' - second changes - we have experienced, as we celebrate Groundhog Day!

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ralph through the office and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet located outside the narthex.

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Epiphany to Easter food drive is underway with 245 lbs. donated toward a goal of 3,500lbs. Year to date total is 245 lbs. toward a yearly goal of 17,000 lbs.

Please continue to place your food donations in the red food barrel across from the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrel outside the Agape Sunday School Classroom.

Mission Lexington also needs plastic bags. Bring your used plastic bags to the church and Mr. Ron 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. In the remarks section write:

Food purchase for Mission Lexington

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry

Thank you again for your support.

Needed items:

Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese
Pork & beans
Chili
Canned Vegetables
Rice
Canned Soups
Coffee
Oatmeal
Grits
Sugar
Flour
Applesauce
Breakfast cereals
Chicken/Turkey/Beef Broth

Dog food/Cat food
(wet & dry)

Point of contact:

Ron Redd
803-360-0241


**Mission
Lexington**

Lutheran Men

Plan to meet Monday February 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the social hall. Robin Bowers, Executive Director Mission Lexington will be our guest speaker. Come join us for the program and a meal prepared by Jim Nantz.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd

Rredd7848@gmail.com

803-360-0241.

The Saxe Gotha Conference SC Lutheran Men in Mission:

Meeting Monday February 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2491 Emanuel Church Rd, West Columbia, SC 29170. Mr. Bill Galardi will be the guest Speaker and will do an impersonation of St. Peter. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd

Rredd7848@gmail.com

803-360-0241.

Boston Butt Fundraiser:

Lutheran Men will sponsor a Boston Butt Fundraiser Saturday May 13, 2023, the Saturday before Mother's Day between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Alternate pick-up day will be Sunday May 14, after both services. The cost will be \$50.00 each. Tickets go on sale beginning Sunday March 5 through Sunday April 30.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd

Rredd7848@gmail.com

803-360-0241.

Thank you:

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Thank you for everything - For visiting, Myra Strock and Gail Felton, and for goodies from Nurture and Outreach, and for Pastor Ralph and the group who came to sing for me. It's a blessing to have such a caring church family.

God Bless you one and all.

Yours in Christ,
Sharron Reams



Souper Bowl of Caring

Each year, our youth collect money to help support Mission Lexington and fight hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring was founded in 1990 in Columbia, SC at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church. On Sunday, February 12th, you will have the opportunity to donate money in 3 different pots. Those pots will represent the two teams playing and the commercials! But, no matter which team wins the Super Bowl, the real winners will be the folks we help through our donations! Coins, dollars, and checks are accepted! Please make checks payable to SSLC!



Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class

The Saints and Sinners Class encompasses adults of all ages. There is no regular curriculum. Instead we watch movies, read books, and engage in open conversation about any number of topics. Don't have a Sunday School class that feels like home? We'd love to have YOU with us! Our schedule is as follows:

February 5th – No Class – Congregational Meeting

February 12th – The Sacraments: Holy Baptism

February 19th – The Sacraments: Holy Communion

February 26th – Lenten Study



This month we will finish our Adult Confirmation Class series. This class is for all Lutherans new and old who are interested in learning about the Bible, Jesus' Life, Luther and the Reformation, the Small Catechism, the Sacraments, and other aspects of Lutheranism (ie worship, prayer, sharing our gifts, and witnessing). The schedule is included along with the content of each class. Please do not be intimidated, this will be a fun time of lecture and discussion. Come learn with us! Hope to see YOU there!





St. Stephen's Preschool Ministry is excited to announce our program offerings for the 2023-2024 school year! Classes for children ages 15 months through four-years-old are available. Check out the Preschool tab at sslc.org for more information or contact Kimberly in the preschool office at kimberly@sslc.org.

Registration is now open to church members and currently enrolled preschool families. Registration opens to the community on February 6th. Classes fill quickly. Don't delay in submitting your registration packet to secure your space for the upcoming preschool year.

WELCA News

February 5—

3:00 WELCA Executive Committee meeting in the Social Hall

February 6—

Sunshine Circle 6:00

Contact Marty Nantz for information
803-351-1185.

February 12—

Sweet Swap sponsored by WELCA will be held in the hall outside the Social Hall after each service. Sweet and savory items on sale, perfect for your Super Bowl party and Valentines Day.



Chat N Chew for February

Be on the lookout for details regarding the location for this month's Chat N Chew. We will meet on Thursday, February 16th!



SSLC Living Faith Group

Jamil Shrine Circus – Sunday, February 5th at 1pm

On Sunday, February 5th the group will gather at the Jamil Shrine Temple (206 Jamil Road, Columbia, SC) for the 1pm show. General Admission tickets are being provided complimentary through David Able, which also means that you need to get there as early as possible because entrance to the show will cease upon a certain number of attendees. Families will be responsible for their own spending money for refreshments/souvenirs. Please RSVP on the Facebook event so we can know how many tickets to secure. Hope to see you there!



Young Adults Sunday School:

Young Adults Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs Chapel. In February, we will continue our series on world religions and which will be followed by a series exploring the variety of protestant faith expressions. We are using Pastor Adam Hamilton's book/dvd resource, Christianity and World Religions & Christianity's Family Tree. We gather to learn about God, grow in discipleship, and develop relationships. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ralph! Ralph@sslc.org. *No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. – Matthew 5:15*

Our WNL! programs continue in February!

5:00 PM - Dinner will be served

5:25 PM – 5:55 PM - Cherubs (2's – 5K) and Treble Choirs (1st-5th grade)

5:55 PM – 6:25 PM - Choir Chimes (1st-6th grade)

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM - Confirmation; Adult Bible Study

Pastor Ralph will be teaching Confirmation and Pastor Jason will be leading the Adult Bible Study.

6:30-7:15 PM - Wings of Worship (1st grade and up)

6:45 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

**wednesday
night LIVE!**

Jr. and Sr. Youth (6th-12th grade)

February 12th - Souper Bowl of Caring

We will collect money for the Souper Bowl of Caring after both services and donate what is collected to Mission Lexington. Let Mrs. Shannon know if you can help!

February 17th - Flight Night

Let's head to Flight Adventure Park Friday, Feb. 17th from 7pm to 9pm. They'll pump up the music and turn off the lights and you'll glow under the black-lights! We will plan to leave the church at 6:15 PM and be back by 9:30 PM. Cost is \$10 plus money for snacks/drinks. **RSVP by Monday, Feb. 13th!**

February 21st - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We will need batter stirrers, pancake flippers, and sausage cookers to help us get ready for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please let Mrs. Shannon know if you can help!

March 17th-18th Youth Retreat:

You requested it and we are making it happen! We will have a Youth Retreat Friday, March 17th-Saturday, March 18th at Look Out Lodge in Traveler's Rest, SC. We will look forward to spending time together, participating in team building activities, and getting away to just have some fun! Lexington One is out of school on the 17th but I know all of our youth don't attend Lexington One Schools. We will figure out our departure time once we know who is going! We plan to return by 6 PM on Saturday. A very gracious member has given a donation to the youth so expenses will be covered. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow youth better! We currently have reservations for 20 so please let me know if you are interested in going!

JCREW (1st-5th grade)

Sunday, February 19th – Bowling at Anchor Lanes in Irmo

All 1st-5th graders are invited to go to bowling at Anchor Lanes in Irmo on Sunday, February 19th. We will plan to ride the bus and leave the church parking lot at 2:00 PM. The church will pay for bowling. Kids are asked to bring money if they would like refreshments. Parents can plan to pick their kids up at 4:30 PM. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 16th! Parent chaperones are needed so please let Pastor Jason know if you're planning to go with us to help! Thanks and hope to see YOU there!



Notes from Aloft

Greetings! I'm writing this the morning after the Hymn Sing. What a wonderful evening filled with some very tasty chili and lots of good fellowship. The highlight of the evening was singing such wonderful hymns, led by Dr. Justin Addington. Thank you to those who came. We look forward to having another hymn sing later this spring.

One thing I was reminded of as we sang was how the hymns shape our Christian journey. No matter what stage of life we are in, music plays a part. Composer Olivier Messiaen said "The joy of music is that it can go beyond mere words – which are too precise. Music can express what there is in the soul."

The singing of hymns inspires and uplifts our worship. Singing together is a corporate action. We are called to make a joyful noise. Our voices offer praise and adoration to our God.

Perhaps this thought is best conveyed in the hymn text for ELW #851 "When in Our Music God is Glorified". No better hymn has been written about the reasons for the use of music in worship. The last verse gives us the charge – "Let every instrument be tuned for praise; let all rejoice who have a voice to raise; and may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!"

Soli deo gloria
(To God alone be glory)

Susan Wilson
Director of Music/Organist



Upcoming Music and Worship happenings...

- February 5 Wings of Worship at both services
- February 12 Children's Choir parent's coffee and conversation, conference room, 9:45 a.m.
- February 19 Rebecca Nagle, oboist, at both services
- February 22 Ash Wednesday, no children's choirs or choir chime rehearsals

Handbell Choir News –

- The handbell choir recently got new handbell tables. The new tables allow for more table space, especially for our larger bells. This choir has one spot open for an additional ringer. Rehearsals are Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. No experience is necessary. Contact Susan@ssl.org for more information.

Adult Choir News –

- This choir meets for weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:45 pm. How about consider joining us during Lent and Easter? Try a short term commitment to choir. We'd welcome more singers, especially men.

Piano Lessons –

- Did your new year's resolutions have anything to do with learning to play the piano? Did you take as a child and want to revive your music making? Susan Wilson is available to teach children or adults. Contact her at Susan@ssl.org for information about fees,

Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
February 5th	A – Connor Fink	A – Jack Jebaily
	C – Kaidyn Glover	C – Gavin Gaskins
	BB – Drake Glover	BB – Gage Gaskins
February 12th	A – Gracen Geary	A – Aaron Head
	C – Connor Geary	C – Susannah Howell
February 19th	A – Shaun Wessinger	A – Catherine Sadler
	C – Jaime Wessinger	C – Sam Taylor
February 26th	A – Katy Hooker	A – Thomas Brunson
	C – Katie Dawkins	C – Sophie Taylor

This is Us is a group that is meeting once a month (the last Thursday) at a local restaurant. This group is made up of parents of high school and college aged kids and if you fall into this category and would like more information, please reach out to Shannon Burnett or Tonya Reynolds.

We look forward to seeing everyone February 23rd!



Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2022

Craig McFarland (803) 360-7310
 Evelyn Temple (706) 436-3052
 Brian Paeth (803) 529-6117
 Stephanie Jones (803) 606-3814
 Mike Brittingham (803) 760-3219

Class of 2023

Michael Jebaily (843) 617-3147
 Allison Van Cleef (803) 447-3002
 Brian Lackore (803) 351-2585
 Mike Burgess (803) 238-7426
 Jessica Maxheimer (803) 422-5747

Class of 2024

Cathy Mathias (803) 238-4458
 Eric Wessinger (803) 917-8771
 Gregg Mills (803) 210-9761
 Melissa Rawl (803) 359-2909
 Sheridan Perry (803) 808-0534

Youth Representatives:

Abby Burnett and Carlee Tworzyanski

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155
 Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

Flowers for February

February 5th	Ron Redd
February 12th	OPEN
February 19th	Janette Shealy
February 26th	Pat and Harold Tuma

Ushers for February

February 5th and 19th

8:30 - Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl,
Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, Chad Geary

11:00 - Randy Huber, Alon Cox, James Renwick, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper

February 12th and 26th

8:30 - Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Ron Redd, Steve Fowler, Jim Nantz,
Daryl Hooker, Adam Tworzyanski

11:00 - Otis Rawl, Gregg Mills, Hunter Mills, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock,
Manning Burgess, Roy Windham

Lay readers

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Feb. 5 th	Neil Brown	Stephanie Jones
Feb. 12 th	Lacy Geary	Lisa Catalanotto
Feb. 19 th	Eric Dickey	Johnnie Peechatka
Feb. 26 th	Bobby Martin	Becky Sons

Communion Assistants

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Feb. 5 th	Paul Austin, Lucy Austin <i>Communion at the rail</i>	Cathy Mathias, Myra Strock <i>Communion at the rail</i>
Feb. 12 th	Steve Fowler	Eleanor Roberson
Feb. 19 th	Jane Kennedy	Peggy Sherman
Feb. 26 th	Neil Brown	Benjie Rhoad

Recyclers

February 5th	The Head Family
February 12th	Jennifer Howell
February 19th	Gary and Julie Angus
February 26th	Sarah Kolb

Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562
FAX: 803-951-0738
Crisis Care Line: 803-808-6471
Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@sslc.org

Pastor

Ralph G. Hill Ralph@sslc.org

Director of Family Life Ministries

Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org
359-4175

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562/808-6489

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Kimberly Peterson Kimbely@sslc.org
359-4369

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Michael Jebaily
Vice President - Mike Brittingham
Secretary - Allison Van Cleef
Treasurer - Mary Keisler
Treasurer Emeritus - Bill Mathias

Mission Statement:

Gathering all generations to nurture
Christ-like discipleship

Our Vision:

To be a place of hope

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

119 North Church Street

Lexington, SC 29072

place

stamp

here

"Return Service Requested"

For our guests our Ministries includes. . .

Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): A time for fellowship over dinner and then faith development through Confirmation and Adult Bible Study; Our musical groups for children (Cherubs and Treble Choir (5:25-5:55 pm) and Choir Chimes (5:55-6:25 pm) and our liturgical dance group, Wings of Worship (6:30-7 pm), meet as well

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:45 PM

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM

Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grades): meet regularly for planned activities

J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly for planned activities

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:00PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker

WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.

Preschool: An extension of the ministry for our church & the community for children 12 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon Early bird drop-off available

Prime Time: Adults 60 and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Crossroads: Comprised of adults between "This is Us" and "Prime Time" that get together for fellowship and service

This is Us: This group has children in high school and college and gets together once a month for fellowship and food.

Living Faith: This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. High Youth and our This is Us group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. Activities alternate between adult only and family friendly.

Young Adults: This group is for young adults (college age and up) and newly married couples just starting out that will gather together to build community and offer opportunities for fellowship.