



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

May 2023 Newsletter

Relay for Life

Our annual Relay for Life Event will take place on May 5th from 6-11 PM at Pleasant Hill Middle School! That's right....it'll be Cinco de Mayo and our theme this year is Adios Cancer!

The survivor/caregiver lap will take place at 6:30 pm and the luminary ceremony will take place at 9:30 pm.

There will be a Mariachi Band, vendors, a kid zone, theme laps, and so much more! Mark your calendars and join our St. Stephen's team for a fun evening!!

If you are a cancer survivor, please check the Survivor List outside of the Agape Classroom to make sure that we have your name so we can recognize 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 Agape SS Classroom and return it to Shannon Burnett.



Thursday, June 1st St. Stephen's Night at the Blowfish

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on St. Stephen's Night at the Lexington County Blowfish Ballpark on Thursday, June 1st. Our choirs will be performing the National Anthem and God Bless America! Tickets are \$10 each. We will all be seated together in the Grand Stand area which is covered.

Deadline for tickets is Sunday, May 14th, but we may have some extra tickets for purchase. Please let Pastor Jason know if you are interested in purchasing a ticket or sign up on the clip board outside the Agape classroom. Information about the tailgate prior to the game will be forthcoming by email closer to event to all those who purchase tickets.





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.

We will gather for lunch on Thursday, May 11th at 11:45 AM 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. Sign up on the bulletin board so we can get a head count!



We will head to Harbison Theater for the 3:30 PM show on Saturday, May 13th to take a stroll down memory lane and enjoy the sounds of Hollywood's Walk of Fame presented by the S.C. Philharmonic. Tickets are \$35.

Ten tickets have been ordered and Shannon can order more if there is interest! Please sign up on the bulletin board ASAP if you'd like to go! Tickets are going fast so don't wait!! We will plan to get dinner after the show.

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 –

A group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults – will resume our monthly gathering on May 4 (the first Thursday) @ 6:30 pm at the home of Mike and Kerri Brittingham. They will provide the tacos and others are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Join us for a devotion, connection over a good food, and insights to the meaning of life through shared conversations. Please sign up just outside the narthex or contact Pastor Ralph through the office, or Ralph@sslc.org.

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 390 lbs. donated toward a goal of 5,000lbs. Year to date total is 3,898 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.

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.

Point of contact:

Ron Redd
803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com

Needed items:

Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese
Pork & beans
Chili
Rice
Canned Soups
Pasta Sauce
Pizza Sauce
Tomato Sauce

Dog food/Cat food
(wet & dry)



Lutheran Men

NFL Hall of Fame, Minnesota Vikings and University of South Carolina football great Bobby Bryant will be our guest speaker Monday, May 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the social hall.

Please note the time change.

Come and enjoy a meal prepared by Chef Andy Marchant and hear Mr. Bryant's presentation. The congregation is invited to attend.

Please let Ron Redd know if you plan to attend so we know how much food to prepare. POC: Ron Redd 803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com.



Chat N Chew for May

Date: May 18, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM

Restaurant: Blue Marlin in the Vista Room

Hosts: Don and Georgianna Dukes

Cost is \$20 per person.
Please bring cash.

Please join us for a fun night out!



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

Sunday, May 14th - Youth Sunday and Graduate Recognition

This will be a big day so don't miss out! The youth will be leading the service and all high school graduates will be recognized.

We will have a breakfast in between the services. Parents - please reach out to Shannon if you'd like to help with the breakfast!

We would love to have an end of the school year party (maybe Friday, June 2nd). Who wants to host?!? Live on the lake? Got a pool? Let Shannon know if this sounds like something that might interest you!!

JCREW (1st-5th grade)

Sunday, May 21st – Pool Party at the Fink's House

On Sunday, May 21st from 3-5:00pm, our 1st-5th graders will gather at the home of Deon and Courtney Fink for a time of swimming fun, fellowship, and food. In addition to your own towel/change of clothes, everyone is invited to bring 1) a snack or dessert to share and 2) a drink to share. Chaperones are welcomed and encouraged!

Hope to see YOU there!



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:

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May 7th – Easter Study on the Covenants – Abraham

May 14th – Easter Study on the Covenants – Moses

May 21st – Easter Study on the Covenants – David

May 28th – Easter Study on the Covenants – Jesus

SSLC Living Faith Group

This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a "young adult". The definition of "young adult" is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us!

Sunday, May 7th – Septo De Mayo at San Jose at 5pm

On Sunday, May 7th we will gather at 5pm at San Jose (4710 Augusta Road, Lexington, SC 29073) for a time of food and fellowship! This is an adult only event, so please make your own plans for childcare. RSVP by Thursday, May 4th so reservations can be made. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Jason. Hope to see YOU there!

Young Adults Sunday School:

Young Adults Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs Chapel (2nd floor above the gym). We are spending time to explore several expressions of the Christian faith. We are using Pastor Adam Hamilton's book/dvd resource, 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. *...the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father....* ***The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. – John 14:12

Our WNL! programs continue May 3rd and 10th!

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 – 6:45 PM - Confirmation and Adult Bible Study

6:45 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

**wednesday
night *LIVE!***

Notes from Aloft

Thanks to each of you for helping collect items for the music ministry Lenten ALMS project. Our original goal was to make 200 care bags. Because of your generosity, we were able to make 325 bags. Bags have been distributed to Mission Lexington and to others in the Lexington community in need of short-term help. Thanks to our choir members for stepping up and for assembling the bags. Thanks to the Thrivent company for providing our project with a gift of \$250 to help offset some of the expenses of the project. I am grateful that our congregation embraced this outreach project and look forward to our next venture in the future.

Susan Wilson
Director of Music/Organist

Upcoming Worship Music...

May 14 Children's Choirs and Choir Chimes
May 21 Kirsten Westberry, soloist @ 8:30 worship

May Music Midday with a Meal...!

We hope you will join us and bring your friends with you for our first ever May Music Midday Series. This series of concerts will take place on May 9, 16, and 23. Concerts begin at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. May 9 Dick Goodwin and friends will play jazz, May 16 our very own dynamic duo, Jim Ingram and Sylvia Looney, will play music for two pianos, and May 23 Hal McIntosh and Tina Stallard, accompanied by Susan Wilson, pianist, and Matthew Jones, percussionist, will perform. A salad and soup lunch will be provided for \$10.00 per person, prepared by Chef Andy Marchant of Cinnamon Hill Kitchen beginning at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will conclude at 12:30 p.m. when the concerts begin. While concerts are free, donations will be accepted to purchase drums and ORFF instruments for our children's choirs. The concerts will last approximately 30-40 minutes.

Ladies Who Lunch...

This is a new opportunity for ladies of the church to have fellowship and to hear about music ministry. The next lunch will be **Thursday, May 18 at 12:30 p.m.** The location will be announced in the weeks ahead. Please rsvp to Susan by phone 858 729 8672 or text, or by email Susan@sslc.org. All women are welcome!

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol Men Eating Out) is a new group for men of the church to eat breakfast together and hear about what's happening in music ministry. Come join Susan for this Dutch treat meal and enjoy some fellowship and fun. The next breakfast will take place on **Thursday, May 25 at 8:00 a.m.** The location will be announced soon but plan on joining us and bringing a friend with you!

SO WHAT IS AN ORFF INSTRUMENT?

You may have heard the word ORFF recently in conversations about our expanding music ministry. That's not something you hear about every day, and you may be wondering what in the world that means. The German music teacher Carl Orff designed a method of teaching children music that enriches students' lives through the development of their inherent musicianship. This method of teaching involves speech, movement, song, and instruments. The instruments used include unpitched instruments such as triangles, finger cymbals, hand drums, etc. The other instruments used are called bar instruments. This type of instrument includes glockenspiels, metallophones, and xylophones. You can only imagine how much children would enjoy playing these types of instruments. Currently we do not have any ORFF instruments, but our vision is that by fall we might have purchased a few. If you are interested in learning more or in contributing toward the instruments talk to Susan Wilson, Director of Music.

Children's Choirs and choir chimes...

Our choir season is about to conclude, but before that happens our children will sing and our choir chimes will ring on Youth Sunday, May 14. Rehearsals will continue through May 10 on Wednesday evenings. As part of our rehearsal time children are rehearsing the Star-Spangled Banner and God Bless America to sing at the Lexington Blowfish game on June 1. Children will need to gather at the ballpark that evening at 6:30 p.m. to warm up for singing. Tee shirts will be ordered for each child participating. If you haven't reached out to Susan about your child's tee shirt size, please do so immediately at susan@sslc.org.

Summer Music Camp with Ms. Constance...

Ms. Constance will be leading a weeklong music camp July 17-21 here at St. Stephen's. The camp is for children in 1st grade – rising 9th graders. Children participating must be able to perform at both services on July 23. The camp runs each day from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For registration forms contact Susan@sslc.org.

Summer plans for Children's Sunday School (2's-12th grade)

The last day for our regular Sunday School classes will be June 4th.

We will not be having traditional Children's Sunday School during the summer. Shannon is hoping that by taking the summer off, there will be more excitement and better participation when we start back in August.

Shannon is working on some possibilities of "take home" activities and will let you know as to what she comes up with!



Vacation Bible School June 25-28

Registration forms are now available! Don't miss out on

STELLAR: Shine Jesus' Light!

(Sunday-Wednesday)

Dinner at 5:30; VBS will begin at 6 and last until about 8:00

Cost: \$5.00/child with a \$20.00/family maximum. Submit payment with registration or pay on the first day of VBS, Sunday, June 25. *This cost does not include the music download card or meals.*

Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and note it for VBS.

We are trying something new this year with t-shirts. I know new is scary....but we are going to see how it works!

There will be an on-line store set-up where you will order your shirts and pay on-line. Shannon will be sending out the link and the store will be open May 22nd-June 1st. In the past, there have been extra shirts. That will not be the case this year.

Get registered early and let Shannon know if you'd like to help be a group leader or a station leader! We need lots of hands on deck to create a STELLAR experience!



St. Stephen's T-shirt

It's been a few years since we've put together a shirt for St. Stephen's so we thought it was time to get back at it! The staff took some feedback from our Council Retreat and got creative!

We partnered with Black Rock Branding and they have created an on-line store for us where we can purchase our shirts and choose from a variety of colors! There are unisex, ladies cut, and youth sizes available!

Outlining the church are all the groups and organizations that make St. Stephen's who we are.

Our on-line store will be open from May 1st– May 10th. Shannon will send a separate link to the store!

Visit to purchase your shirts and let Shannon know if you have any questions. If you would like a shirt but aren't savvy with a computer, let Shannon know and she will help you!

Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
May 7th	A – Luke Wenzel	A – Aaron Head
	C – Alaina Wenzel	C – Bryce Windham
	BB – Lauren Wenzel	BB – Zachary Head
May 14th	Youth Sunday	Youth Sunday
May 21st	A – Ryan Kennedy	A – Catherine Sadler
	C – Jack Kennedy	C – Susannah Howell
May 28th	A – Connor Fink	A – Madelyn Burgess
	C – Andrew Tworzyanski	C – Sam 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 May 25th!



Congregation Council Members:

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

Class of 2025

Christie Addy (803) 358-0120
 Lisa Catalanotto (803) 960-6132
 Deon Fink (803) 513-9041
 Chad Geary (803) 404-2554
 Myra Strock (803) 543-7130

Youth Representatives:

Lexie Taylor and Bryce Windham

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

Flowers for May

May 7th	Marie Juhl
May 14th	Alyssa and Blaine Richardson
May 21st	Jerry Redman
May 28th	Lance and Lenna Young

Ushers for May

May 7th and 21st

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,
Matt Martin

May 14th and 28th

(Youth will usher on the 14th but some oversight would be helpful)

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
May 7 th	Vernon Hester	Marilyn Fattman
May 14 th	<i>Youth Sunday</i>	<i>Youth Sunday</i>
May 21 st	Van Skipper	Sharon Paeth
May 28 th	Steve Fowler	Jamie Early

Communion Assistants

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
May 7 th	Paul Austin, Lucy Austin <i>Communion at the rail</i>	Jamie Early, Cathy Mathias <i>Communion at the rail</i>
May 14 th	<i>Youth Sunday</i>	<i>Youth Sunday</i>
May 21 st	Neil Brown	Myra Strock
May 28 th	Craig Wheatley	Eleanor Roberson

Recyclers

May 7th	The Head Family
May 14th	Jennifer Howell
May 21st	Gary and Julie Angus
May 28th	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 - Gregg Mills
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 in the Fall.

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.