

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (6:30am) 66 (8:30am) 377 (11am) 301
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30pm) 65

General Offering Total for 2024: \$276,307.36
Expenses Total for 2024: \$236,919.20

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; New Members Class (Sanctuary) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:45PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Eudora Farms)
Monday	9AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6PM: Geary (Gym)
Tuesday	9AM: Preschool 5:30PM: Taylor (Gym)
Wednesday	9AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5PM: WNL Dinner (Social Hall) 5:25PM: Treble Choir (Adult Choir Room); Cherub Choir (Adult Choir Room) 6PM: Confirmation Class (Saints & Sinners Classroom); Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom); Talent Show Practice (Gym) 6:10PM: Choir Chimes (Adult Choir Room) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Sanctuary) 7PM: Adult Choir (Adult Choir Room); Play Practice (Gym) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	9AM: Preschool 5:30PM: Taylor (Gym) 6PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	9AM: Preschool
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages; New Members Class (Sanctuary) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:45PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Eudora Farms)

Living Last Supper performance is now available on St. Stephen's YouTube channel.

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for April 7 – April 14, 2024

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **April – Relay for Life.** At Relay for Life events, communities across the globe come together to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against a disease that has already taken too much. The funds you raise truly make a difference in the fight against cancer; just ask one of the nearly 14 million cancer survivors who will celebrate another birthday this year! Love offering donations made in the month of April will go towards the fundraising efforts of the St. Stephen's Relay for Life team.

Hospitalized: Paul Fattman, Lexington Extended Care; Gerald Burnett, Home

Christian Sympathy is extended to Dee Lide upon the death of his brother, Ted Lide, to Shirley Wessinger upon the death of her mother, Mildred Shull, and to the family of Janis Moore upon her death. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them and their families assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Congratulations to Shelby and Kyle Lovejoy on the birth of their daughter, Emersyn Rylee Lovejoy. We are so excited for you all!

Join us for our Eucharist Service Wednesday, April 10th at 12:30pm in the sanctuary to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word. Lunch will be served at 11:45am in the social hall.

St. Stephen's 101: For New Members (and Seasoned Ones Too!)

The Pastors and Staff at St. Stephen's will be offering a class for new members and anyone else who would like to attend. There will be three sessions. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary. The schedule is as follows:

TODAY– Welcome and History of St. Stephen's - Pastor Jason will lead this session that will focus on getting to know a little about each other and then learning some of the history of our congregation.

Sunday, April 14th – Lutheranism 101 - Pastor Ralph will lead this class that will focus on introducing the basics of Lutheranism and how that is lived out at St. Stephen's.

Sunday, April 21st – Getting Plugged In - Our church staff will team together to introduce you to all the basics of being a member of St. Stephen's and all the different opportunities you will find to be "People of Christ Making a Difference" within and outside the walls of our congregation.

Sunday, April 28th – Welcoming of New Members - On Sunday, April 28th we will welcome new members at both services as the culmination of our time together. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office. RSVPs are encouraged so we can know how many to plan for. We are looking forward to having a fun time of community building, learning, and fellowship! Hope to see YOU there!

Mission Lexington: Our Christmas to Easter food drive is underway with 2,383 lbs. donated towards our goal of 2,000 lbs. Our 2024 goal will be 11,000 lbs.! Mission Lexington needs the following items: Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Chili, Pork & Beans, Canned Soups, Canned Vegetables, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Pizza Sauce, Dog Food (Dry & Wet), Cat Food (Dry and Wet). Please place your food donations in the red food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrel in front of the Agape Sunday School Class. 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 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.

J-Crew (1st-5th): All 1st-5th graders are invited to go bowling at Anchor Lanes in Irmo next Sunday, April 14th. We plan to ride the bus and leave the church parking lot at 2:00pm. 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 4:30pm. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 11th! Parent chaperones are needed so please let me know if you're planning to go with us to help! Hope to see you there!

Jr. and Sr. High Youth (6th-12th): TODAY we head to Eudora Farms—a drive through safari park - for a wagon ride where we will get to feed the animals! Plan to leave the church at 12:45pm (grab lunch before you arrive!). Our wagon ride will be at 2pm. There is also a walk-through safari that we will enjoy! If you've never been, don't miss out! If you have been, you know how much fun it is!! Cost is \$10

Prime Time: Our monthly luncheon for April will be on the road! We will head to Blackville, SC on Friday, April 12th for a delicious lunch at Miller's Bread Basket. We will enjoy Amish-Mennonite home cooking (some with a Southern twist), made-from-scratch desserts, home-made bread, and salad bar. We plan to leave the church at 10:15am. We will also visit Healing Springs while we are in Blackville. We plan to be back in Lexington around 4pm.

Young Adult Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs Chapel. It is for adults (20's/30's) – yet all are welcome. In April we will look at the teachings of Jesus. Bible study and scenes from the “The Chosen” video series will be used to guide our discussion of faith and life. We gather to learn about God, grow in discipleship, and develop relationships. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ralph - Ralph@sslc.org. *‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’* – John 8:31b-32

Wednesday Night Live Adult Study Class meets each Wednesday at 6:00pm in the Agape Classroom just outside the narthex. Come early, at 5:00pm, for a meal in the social hall, and then walk over for class at 6. Each week beginning April 10, Pastor Ralph will lead sessions on the origin of our faith amid other religions and overviews of several books of the bible (Genesis, Luke, Galatians, Revelation). Together, with faith conversations, we will explore our relationship with God, and embrace how faith through Christ transforms our life view. All are welcome - hope to see you there!

Sunshine Circle will meet at the home of Jerrie Galardi, 1615 Counts Ferry Road, Lexington, at 6:00pm on Monday, April 8. All are welcome.

Music: Our next **Ladies Who Lunch** event will take place on April 16 at 12:30pm at Alodia's. The **ROMEO's** will meet on April 25 at Hudson's Smokehouse. RSVP for either lunch to Susan@sslc.org . April 18 at 7:00pm **Imani Milele Children's Choir** will be here to present a **FREE concert**. This children's choir is from Uganda and the choir's repertoire includes praise, worship, dance, and well-crafted drum routines, providing audiences with an immersive experience. There will be a reception after the concert, and you'll have an opportunity to purchase hand crafted items they have made. Please join us and bring a friend. **Music, Art, Faith Camp** takes place June 10-14 and is for children going into 5K in the fall – children going into 6th grade in the fall. Camp runs from 9:00am to 2:00pm each day. Registration fee is \$60 per child, and \$50 for a second child in the same family. Contact Susan Wilson for the registration form. The week will include the creation of an art project, drumming, singing, games, presentations from the SC Philharmonic musicians, and storytelling!

2024 Relay for Life: St. Stephen's will once again participate in the local 2024 Relay for Life which will be held on Friday, May 3rd from 6-11pm at Lexington High School. Please consider donating a luminary (\$10 suggested donation) in honor or memory of a loved one that has battled cancer. If you would like to be part of the SSLC Relay Team, please sign up on the clipboard outside of the AGAPE classroom.

Lutheran Men will meet Monday April 15th at 6:30pm in the social hall. Come join us for a meal, fellowship and a presentation by Matt Perron, Communications Director for Riverbanks Zoo. We look forward to seeing you! Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Join us April 17th from 2-7pm in the gym. Please consider giving the gift of life! Sign up at redcrossblood.org and put in sponsor code SSLC.

Crossroads is a group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults – will gather as a group on April 28th (Sunday) for the “Operation In-As-Much” work day at St. Stephen's (in lieu of our regular dinner meeting). We will meet for a light lunch following the 11:00 am Worship and work approximately from 1-4pm. Details to be announced as we get closer. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ralph through the office and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet located outside the narthex. *In as much as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.* Matthew 25:40

High school and college graduations are right around the corner! Please let Shannon know if you have a graduate and their future plans. They will be recognized May 12th!

2024 Talent Show: This year's talent show will be April 21st! Go ahead and mark your calendars now as it is always a wonderful night of fellowship! If you would like to participate sign up on the clipboard outside the Agape classroom. Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday, April 10th and Sunday, April 14th. Tickets go on sale today!

WELCA Mother-Daughter-Friend Luncheon will be held Saturday, April 27 at 12pm in the social hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Krista Hughes, Professor of Religion at Newberry College. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon.