

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 160 (11am) 127  
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30pm) 68

General Offering Total for 2024: \$295,693.55  
Expenses Total for 2024: \$265,322.51

**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:**

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| TODAY     | <b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)-Building Maintenance Lunch</b><br>9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages; New Members Class (Sanctuary)<br><b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)-Building Maintenance Lunch</b><br>12:30PM: Church Council Meeting (Office Conference Room)<br>5:30PM: Talent Show Dinner (Gym)<br>6PM: Talent Show (Gym)  |
| Monday    | 9AM: Preschool<br>12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)<br>6PM: Geary (Gym)   |
| Tuesday   | 9AM: Preschool<br>5:30PM: Taylor (Gym)  |
| Wednesday | 9AM: Preschool<br>11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall)<br><b>12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b><br>5PM: WNL Dinner (Social Hall)<br>5:25PM: Treble Choir (Adult Choir Room); Cherub Choir (Adult Choir Room)<br>6PM: Confirmation Class (Saints & Sinners Classroom);<br>Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom)<br>6:10PM: Choir Chimes (Adult Choir Room)<br>6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Sanctuary)<br>7PM: Adult Choir (Adult Choir Room); Finance Meeting (Office Conference Rm)<br>7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor) |
| Thursday  | 9AM: Preschool<br>12:30PM: ROMEO's (Hudson's Smokehouse)<br>5:30PM: Taylor (Gym)<br>6PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall); This Is Us (British Bulldog Pub)   |
| Friday    | 9AM: Preschool  |
| Saturday  | 12PM: Mother/Daughter/Friend Luncheon (Social Hall)   |
| Sunday    | <b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)-Welcome New Members</b><br>9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages<br><b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)-Welcome New Members</b><br>12:30PM: Operation Inasmuch (Social Hall)<br>4PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Sr. High Room)  |

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

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for April 21 – April 28, 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.

**Join us for our Eucharist Service Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Join Worship and Music** for lunch **TODAY** to benefit the building maintenance fund. Meals will be ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services. Menu: Greek Chicken, String Beans, Brown Rice, Coleslaw, Rolls, and Desserts. You won't want to miss it!

**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 one more session. It will be held during Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary.  
**TODAY** – 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 28<sup>th</sup>** – Welcoming of New Members - On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 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!

**2024 Talent Show** is TODAY! Dinner will start at 5:30pm and the show will start at 6pm. Tickets include dinner and the show are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 5-12). Children under 5 are free. This is our main fundraiser for our ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Raffle tickets will be sold, and we will also have some great silent auction items to bid on! You don't want to miss this fun evening with your church family!

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 277 lbs. donated towards our goal of 6,000 lbs. Total collected this year is 2,660 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 redd7848@gmail.com.

**Jr. and Sr. High Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>):** Join us TODAY for the talent show. It's sure to be a great time! We will also be gathering on **April 28<sup>th</sup>** to help with **Operation Inasmuch** and then meeting at 4pm to begin planning for **Youth Sunday** (May 12<sup>th</sup>). Mrs. Shannon would LOVE to get a Youth Choir together (I know there are some great singers out there) so please let her know if you'd be willing to sing or play an instrument on Youth Sunday. If you can't make it on the 28<sup>th</sup>, let Mrs. Shannon know that you want to participate, and we will find a spot for you!

**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 12<sup>th</sup>!

**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; <sup>32</sup>and 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. Pastor Ralph leads 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!

**Our annual St. Stephen's Night at The Blowfish** will be Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>! Mark your calendars now for a fun outing with the church! More details will follow closer to the event!

**Living Faith:** You are invited to the church on Sunday afternoon, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm to be a part of a potluck meal and movie Cinco de Mayo style! Bring your favorite Mexican dish or dessert to share. Encanto will be playing in the gym for the kiddos while the Adults eat and fellowship. RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there!

**Music: ROMEO's** will meet on April 25 at Hudson's Smokehouse. RSVP for lunch to Susan@sslc.org. **May Music Midday** lunches and concerts will take place on Tuesdays in May – May 7, 14, 21, 28. Lunch will begin at 12:15pm with the concert beginning at 1:00pm in the sanctuary. Chef Andy Marchant will be cooking! Make your lunch reservation by contacting Susan@sslc.org. Lunch, with a reservation, is \$14.00 plus tax and lunch without a reservation is \$16.00 plus tax. May 7 our performers will be the USC Jazz Trio featuring Matt White. **Music, Art, Faith Camp** takes place June 10-14 and is for children going into 5K in the fall – children going into 6<sup>th</sup> 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! This camp is for our church children and children of the community.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Operation Inasmuch Service Day** next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, St. Stephen's will participate in a day of outreach called Operation Inasmuch. We are going to reach out to folks in the congregation who need some spring-cleaning yardwork. All skill levels are needed! Anybody with yard equipment is encouraged to bring it with them! Please contact Pastor Jason if you are interested in serving those in need in our congregation!

**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 28<sup>th</sup> (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 11:00am Worship and work approximately from 1-4pm. 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

**WELCA Mother-Daughter-Friend Luncheon** will be held next 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.

**This is Us** is a group that meets once a month (the last Thursday) at a local restaurant. This group is made up of parents of high school and college aged kids. We will meet on April 25 at 6pm at the British Bulldog Pub on Harbison Blvd. Please let Tonya@sslc.org or Shannon@sslc.org know if you can come. We are looking forward to a fun night!