



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

May 2025 Newsletter

We are continuing to sell niches and/or memorial plaques for the Memorial Garden and Columbarium.

Process for Purchasing Niches and Memorial Plaques

To secure your niche(s) and/or memorial plaque(s) you will need to complete a contract and submit payment to the church office. You can pick up a copy of the contract at the church office or contact Mrs. Tonya Reynolds and she will email you one. As members complete this process, we will accrue an ordered list, which will be used to reserve the actual location of your niche and/or memorial plaque once we receive our niche/memorial plaque registry.

Introductory Pricing

Our introductory pricing is in place for a limited time. Niches are \$4,200 each and memorial plaques are \$750 each. Remember all niches are double occupancy spaces, meaning you can house two cremated remains in each niche.



Mark Your Calendars—

Our annual St. Stephen's Night at The Blowfish will be
Friday, May 30th!

Mark your calendars now for a fun outing with the church!

Our children's choir will be performing God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch! Tickets are \$12 each. We will all be seated together in the Grand Stand area which is covered. Deadline for tickets is Sunday, May 11th. Tickets may be purchased on-line by [clicking here](#).



If your child is singing, make sure Susan knows as those tickets are being covered by the music program.

Information about the tailgate prior to the game will be forthcoming by email closer to event to all those who purchase tickets.

Operation Inasmuch Service Day Sunday, May 4th

On Sunday, May 4th, 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 are in need of some spring cleaning yardwork. All skill levels are needed!!

Anybody with yard equipment is encouraged to bring it with them! Please contact Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) if you are interested in serving those in need in our congregation!



WELCA Circle Meetings:

All women of St. Stephen's are members of WELCA and warmly invited to engage with one of our five circles. Each circle offers wonderful opportunities centered around faith, fellowship, and service. Below are the monthly meeting times and key contacts for each circle. Please don't hesitate to reach out, we would love you to join us in May!

Lunch Belles, 1st Monday, 12:30pm at the Country Club of Lexington. Peggy Sherman (sshe695063@aol.com)

Sunshine Circle, 1st Monday, 6:30pm at rotating hostess home. Marty Nantz (no.1mimi@yahoo.com)

Circle 5, 1st Tuesday, 6pm in the church social hall or parlor. Kay Keener (the_keeners@live.com)

Circle of Love, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm in the church social hall. Suzanne Robinson (robinsons1@yahoo.com)

Circle 9, 1st Wednesday, 11am, at the church parlor or hostess' home. Drew Welch (DrewRoyWelch@gmail.com)

Crossroads

Have you ever had meaningful conversation with friends over a delicious meal? The Crossroads group does each month! We are comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime-Time adults.

Our next gathering on May 1 (Thursday) @ 6:30 pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main).

Join us for a conversation starter, connection over a great meal (Dutch treat), and a devotion. We will take a break in June and July. Contact Pastor Ralph for details.



Men's Tuesday Bible Study @ 7:30 AM

Tuesday Bible Study @ 7:30am:

On Tuesdays in May, join Pastor Ralph and others for an hour of "Table Talk" as we gather around the table to read and interpret together the Scripture from the previous Sunday. We'll engage in a faith conversation stirred up by the previous Sunday's lessons. Bring your bible and a friend. Coffee will be served. We will take a break after May for the Summer.



2025 Relay for Life

St. Stephen's will once again participate in the local 2025 Relay for Life which will be held on Friday, May 2nd from 6-10 PM at Lexington High School.

If you are a cancer survivor, please check the **Survivor List** outside the AGAPE classroom as we want to honor you with a luminary given by the church.


If you would like to be part of the **SSLC Relay Team**, please sign up on the clipboard outside of the AGAPE classroom. Team members are encouraged to raise/donate \$100. If you don't want to raise money but would like to participate by coming out on May 2nd and hanging out with some really cool people, please also sign up on the clipboard outside the AGAPE classroom so that Shannon knows who to expect and can keep in touch with information as we get closer to the event.



Summer 2025 Dates:

June 9th-13th: Music, Art, and Faith Camp (Susan Wilson)
June 15th - 20th: Confirmation Camp (Pastor Jason)
June 22nd-25th: VBS (Shannon Burnett)
June 30th-July 3rd: Lutheridge Day Camp (Shannon Burnett)





**COME JOIN
SCLMM TO
TUBE DOWN THE RIVER!**

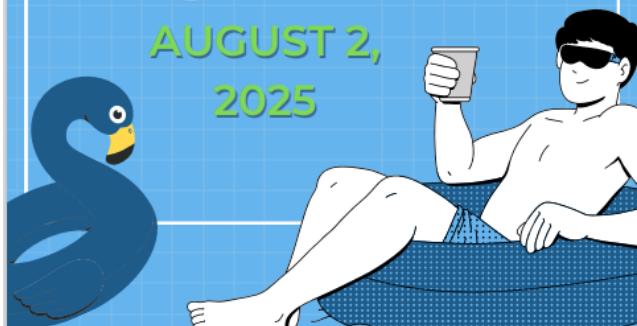
**Meet at the River Walk Amphitheater
109 Alexander Rd. West Columbia, SC**

9:00AM---\$20 PER PERSON

**If you have questions please
Contact Philippe @
(803) 269-5711 or
leapcote@gmail.com**

Bring a friend or two!

**AUGUST 2,
2025**



SKEET SHOOT

Sponsored by South Carolina Lutheran Men & partnering with Scooter Scott of Lex 2

Saturday, May 17 @ 9:00am
Lunch will be provided.
Contact Jimmy Smith @803-730-4637

18 and under will get one free box of shells to shoot. All others will need to pay for their box of shells.

Palmetto State Armory Outdoors
Shooting Facility Complex
1201 Redmond Mill Rd
Swansea, SC 29160



Lutheran Men:

Please Join us Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the social hall for a presentation by Mr. Phillip Jones, Department of Natural Resources Photographer.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd Rredd7848@gmail.com. 803-360-0241.

Wednesday Night Live Adult Class –

Our final WNL class will be held May 7. We will conclude our look at the Vatican, the Catholic (vs. Lutheran) faith, and the Pope's election process.

**wednesday
night *LIVE!***



High school and college graduations are right around the corner! Please let Mrs. Shannon

(Shannon@sslc.org)

know if you have a graduate and what their future plans are. They will be recognized May 4th!



Greeters stand at the back doors of the Sanctuary and welcome guests, visitors, and members to the service. You usually arrive by 8:15 AM for the first service and 10:45 AM for the 2nd service. You will wear a nametag, and Shannon will create a schedule that of course can be tweaked if you are assigned a date you are not available.

If you would like to serve as a Greeter, please reach out to Shannon.

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:

Sunday, May 4th – 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, May 11th – 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, May 18th – Welcoming of New Members

On Sunday, May 18th 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. RSVP's 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!

Order of St. Stephen's

May 4th	Youth Sunday	Youth Sunday
May 11th	A – Katy Hooker	A – Aaron Cegelis
	C – Connor Fink	C – Hampton Smith
May 18th	A – <i>Help needed</i>	A – Hudson Taylor
	C – Kaidyn Glover	C – Sam Taylor
May 25th	A – Ryan Kennedy	A – Audrey Lewis
	C – Jack Kennedy	C – Craig Lunsford

Notes from Aloft

REGISTER NOW.... for Music, Art, Faith Camp – June 9-13, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. daily, for children going into 5K in the fall through 6th graders. Camp includes bucket drumming, art, recreation, storytelling, singing, and choir chimes. This year we will learn about the harp, bassoon, French horn, violin/viola, and the tuba. Our theme this year is "All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!". For registration forms contact Susan Wilson. The cost of camp is \$80 per camper. If you'd like to help with camp, please contact Susan. Adult and youth helpers are needed each day.



May Music Midday returns for a Third Season...

Our May Music Midday series will continue this coming May on Tuesdays May 6,13,20, and 27. The free concerts begin at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Donations for the cost of the musicians are appreciated. Our line up this year is as follows:

May 6	Palmetto Pans
May 13	Johnnie Felder, tenor
May 20	Katie Gatch, soprano
May 27	Category V Brass Patriotic Program



Lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. and will be catered by Private Property. Chef Trip Chalk has a wonderful menu in store for us each week. Lunch is \$18 per person per week and can be paid with checks made out to Private Property or with cash. CREDIT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.



The children's choirs will be singing in worship on Youth Sunday, May 4, at both services. The choir chimes will be ringing as well.

A great big thank you to all those that participated in The Living Last Supper! This was another incredible performance and we are so grateful to all those that gave of their time and energy!

The Columbia Parkinson's Support Group was designated as the cast project. The Columbia Parkinson's Support Group is incorporated in South Carolina as a 501(c)3 non-profit. The mission of the Columbia Parkinson's Support Group is to provide the Parkinson's Community with a safe environment to obtain SUPPORT, INFORMATION, EDUCATION, create AWARENESS about Parkinson's Disease, and FUND RAISING to further research for the cure of Parkinson's Disease.

Steve Fowler (Thaddeus) Paul Austin (Simon the Zealot) Jim Nantz (High Priest Caiaphas)
Cathy Mathias (Joanna/Disciple/Narrator) Edward E. Smith, Jr (Matthew)
Chappell Lackore (Mary Magdalene)
Bill Galardi (Jesus) Mike Burgess (James the Elder) Otis Rawl, Jr. (Simon Peter)
George Mathias (John) Danny Robinson (Judas) Ben Strock (Nathanial)
Pastor Ralph Hill (Thomas) Harry Burns (Andrew)
Mrs. Marty Nantz (Assistant Director; Chief Lighting Engineer) Glenn Neeley (Ananias/Set Painter)
David Brown (James the Lesser) Glenn Hayes (Philip) Mrs. Ninette Burns (Costumes)
Mr. Walter Klimek (Sound) Mrs. Angela Black (Costumes) Mr. Daryl Hooker (Videographer)
Mr. Mike Brittingham (Spotlight) Mr. Ivan Black (Set Construction) Ms. Sarah Nantz (Make-up)
Mrs. Stanette Brown (Make-up and Costumes) Mrs. Janette Hendrix (Make-up and Costumes)
Mrs. Lacy Geary (Publicity) Mrs. Tonya Reynolds (Accountant)

Chat N Chew for May

Date: Thursday, May 15th

Host: Marilyn Fattman

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Bellis House of Pizza

Please join your church friends for a fun night out!



MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Christmas to Easter Food drive collected 2,070 lbs. toward a goal of 2,500 lbs. of food.
Our 2025 goal is 12,000 lbs. of food.

Please 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!

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,
Canned vegetables, Pasta, Grits, Sugar, Flour, Coffee, Oatmeal, Applesauce, Breakfast cereals,
Flour, Rice, Sugar, Grits, Applesauce, Cornmeal Mix
Dog food/Cat food (wet & dry)

Congregation Council Members:

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

Class of 2026

Neil Brown (803) 238-6998
Matt Martin (803) 231-3047
Betsy McCall (803) 730-0570
Sarah Kolb (803) 931-2022
Stephen Lunsford (843) 343-5161

Class of 2027

Lucy Austin (803) 917-5757
Kerri Brittingham (803) 318-4599
Bill Galardi (803) 530-8418
Roy Windham (803) 507-7951
Lance Young (864) 557-0182

Youth Representative:

Andrew Tworzyanski
Elizabeth Kolb

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155

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.

This is Us

This is Us (parents of high school and college
age kiddos) will be meeting
Thursday, May 29th!

We are still looking for a host! Please reach
out to Shannon or Tonya if you'd like to plan
out last event until we meet again in
August!!

A graphic with the words "JOIN US" in a stylized, colorful font. The letters are thick and blocky, with "JOIN" in blue and "US" in purple. The background is a light beige color.

Preschool News

How is it already May?! We've been busy having so much fun that this year has zoomed right past us, and the month of April was no exception!

It was a month of excitement, as we welcomed local heroes to the preschool for Community Helper Day and later enjoyed egg hunts and Easter parties. During Spring Break, we had around 70 friends (preschoolers and their families and friends) enjoy a morning at Sease Farm together. We picked strawberries, enjoyed a hayride, visited the farm animals, and had a blast on the playgrounds! We returned to school and celebrated the beautiful world God has given us and learned the importance of taking care of it! Our preschool family and many SSLC members joined together to support our shoe recycling project to finish out the month! Thanks to all who joined in those efforts!



Our final month of this preschool year will be a time to celebrate families, reflect on all that we have learned this year, and get excited about the summer fun ahead! The 3s' team will welcome families in for an alphabet parade and "Donuts with Grownups." Everyone will end the year with a splash on our Water Days, and then a very special group of 4 year olds will be honored with a graduation ceremony on May 15th!

We have been incredibly blessed with wonderful preschool team members! Preschool parents will join together to celebrate them with fun treats during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9). Our church staff will provide a year-end lunch to thank the preschool staff for the love and energy poured into our preschoolers this year. This team of ladies makes our preschool an amazing place to learn and grow, and we can't thank them enough!



Bible Verse of the Month: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!" – Psalm 150:6

Thank you, church family, for your love and support this school year!

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- **Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)**
 - **Atrial Fibrillation**
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening**
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)**

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at [Life Line Screening](#)

Ask Shannon for a coupon!!

Adult Sunday School is in full swing. If you want to go to a Sunday School class but you aren't sure what the options are, check out this info below!

Saints and Sinners Sunday School

Saints and Sinners Sunday School – Have you ever used the negative to think about something positive? Join the Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class as the pastors lead a discussion about living by faith – using an article by psychologist Cloe Madanes titled “14 Habits of Highly Miserable People!” We'll use the misery to discuss and discover joy and peace. We will conclude the series in May, and we will attend the final May second Sunday Discipleship Class in the Social Hall.



Our **Social Hall** will be used for a space for parents that don't want to go to SS but want to send their kids! It will also be for parents that teach SS and don't want to commit to another class and for folks that aren't parents that just want the opportunity to enjoy fellowship. This is a great opportunity to build community! No curriculum—unless one is desired!

Our **Mom's Class** will continue in the Parlor. There is no curriculum for this class. Just moms coming together to share their lives and perspectives! Also a great place to build community!

Our **AGAPE Class** will continue to meet and is a Bible Study based class led by lay leaders of the congregation.

Our final Discipleship gathering before summer will be May 11th — Grow to Go: Disciples on a Mission

If you feel there is a need for additional Adult Sunday School classes and would like to facilitate one, the staff would be happy to support these efforts!! Just let us know!



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.

Prime Time Luncheon and Movie: Thursday, May 8th

Join us for an indoor picnic (fried chicken will be provided—you bring the sides) at 11:45 AM! We will enjoy lunch (without the mosquitoes) and then watch ***Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin*** - As the world teeters on the brink of annihilation, Dietrich Bonhoeffer is swept into the epicenter of a deadly plot to assassinate Hitler. With his faith and fate at stake, Bonhoeffer must choose between upholding his moral convictions or risking it all to save millions of Jews from genocide. Will his shift from preaching peace to plotting murder alter the course of history or cost him everything? Please sign up so we know how much chicken to get! And if you want to eat lunch but don't want to stay for the movie, that's perfectly fine!

Prime Time Outing: Thursday, May 22nd

Join us as we take a trip to Eudora Wildlife Safari Park in Salley, SC as we get an up close and personal tour to learn about and feed the wildlife. We will plan to leave at 8:45 AM and our tour will begin at 10 AM. We will be in a covered wagon for our tour of the animal sanctuary and some of the terrain is bumpy but it's so much fun!! We will enjoy lunch after our tour. Cost is \$10 plus lunch is on your own. Lease sign up so we know who to expect.



Flowers for May

May 4th	Marie Juhl
May 11th	Shannon Burnett
May 18th	Jerry Redman
May 25th	Lance and Lenna Young

Recyclers

May 4th	The Head Family
May 11th	The Taylor Family
May 18th	Gary and Julie Angus
May 25th	Sarah and G Kolb

Ushers for

May 4th: 8:30 and 11 AM

Youth Sunday

May 18th

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

11:00 - Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin

May 11th and 25th

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

11:00 - Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Roy Windham, George Mathias

Layreaders

	8:30 service	11:00 service
May 4 th	Youth Sunday	Youth Sunday
May 11 th	Bobby Martin	Julie Harper
May 18 th	Van Skipper	Gay Clark
May 25 th	Steve Fowler	Heyward Addy

Communion Assistants

	8:30 service	11:00 service
May 4 th	Youth Sunday	Youth Sunday
May 11 th	Lacy Geary	Bill Cegelis
May 18 th	Bobby Martin	Myra Strock
May 25 th	Ann Clark	Jamie Early

Greeters

	8:30 service	11:00 service
May 4 th	Youth Sunday	Youth Sunday
May 11 th	Brant and Jennifer Taylor	Rick and Suzanne Swaffield
May 18 th	Marty and Jim Nantz	Myra Strock
May 25 th	Ginger Macaulay	Cathy Mathias

VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!

Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562
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

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Julie Tworzyanski preschool@sslc.org
359-4369

Youth Director

Ben Bernstein Ben@sslc.org

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Chad Geary
Vice President - Gregg Mills
Secretary - Sarah Kolb
Treasurer - Mary Keisler

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; Musical groups for children - Cherubs (5:00-5:25 pm), Carol Choir (5:25-5:55); Treble Choir (5:25-6:10 pm) and Choir Chimes (6:10-6:40 pm)

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

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 6:30PM 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 15 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: Compromised 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.

Ladies Who Lunch: Meets monthly for lunch

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol' Men Eating Out): Meets monthly for lunch