

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

August 2025 Newsletter

Blessing of the School Year - August 3rd:

On August 3rd at both services, children, young adults, and teachers are encouraged to bring their book bags to church as we ask God to bless the 2025-2026 school year. We will also bless our preschool teachers, school staff, and administrators!



RALLY DAY - August 10th!

At our annual Rally Day, the kids can meet their Sunday School teachers, enjoy some activities, and eat a yummy breakfast!

There will also be sign-ups for those that are interested in Cherubs Choir, Carol Choir, Treble Choir, Tone Chimes, and Wings of Worship.



Please join us in the gym at 9:45 AM.

Fall Sunday School begins August 17th. Registration forms are available now.

Please help us plan for your child by clicking on this link! Let Shannon know if you have any problems!!

Sunday School 2025-2026 - Google Forms

2025 Mission Trip Presentation

Our youth and adults that participated in the mission trip to Western NC are excited to share our experiences with you!

Please join us Sunday, August 10th at 12:15 PM in the social hall for a spaghetti lunch and presentation. We ask that you RSVP by Thursday, August 7th so we know how much food to prepare. There is no cost for the meal as this is our way of saying thank you for supporting our fund raising efforts.



Life is busy and schedules are crazy but everyone has to eat!

If you consider yourself a part of our Young Adult/Young Family/Living Faith groups we are hoping we can get on your calendar for a Quarterly Family Night beginning in September.

On Sunday, September 21st from 5-7 PM we are going to have Moe's for dinner and then the kiddos will break off into different groups so the adults can have some time to fellowship. Our Jr. and Sr. High Youth and Mrs. Shannon will provide care for the children. Our littlest ones will be in the downstairs classrooms while our 1st-5th graders will watch a movie/do an activity in the Sr. High Room.

We will plan to meet again in January and April.

Our hope is to get these groups together and then offer other activities during the months in between. We know life is hectic and meeting weekly or monthly is nearly impossible! But we hope that by providing child care and dinner, this will alleviate some challenges. Please contact the pastors or Shannon if you have any suggestions or questions!

Weekly Men's Bible Study will return this Fall at a new time:
Tuesdays at 9:05 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us beginning September 2 @ 9:05 am. Pastor Ralph will lead a discussion time of "Table Talk" as we gather around the table to read and interpret together the Scripture from the previous Sunday's lessons.

Bring your bulletin & Bible.
Refreshments will be served.

The WNL Adult Class begins on September 3 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Agape Classroom. Join Pastor Ralph as we spend the Fall nurturing our faith through the study of Biblical books, characters, and themes using resources from The Bible Project. We will also use our time together to include topical faith challenges we see and experience as individuals and as a faith community. Our goal is to explore and engage through conversation regarding our relationship with God and highlight how faith through Christ transforms our life view. All are welcome - hope to see you there!

Preschool News

The summer break is wrapping up, and the preschool is buzzing with preparations for another wonderful school year! Teachers are planning, getting their rooms ready, participating in CPR trainings, and so much more! Preschool families have been invited in for a Meet the Teacher morning event on August 19th. It's almost time to get back to the fun!

We are ecstatic to have most of our staff returning from last year, and we are welcoming Amanda Taylor aboard! We are fortunate to have these awesome educators on our Preschool Team this year:

Parents' Morning Out: Paige Johnson & Gina Horton
TWOs: Katie Donaldson & Amanda Taylor,
Ashley Powell & Kym Hendrix
THREEs: Natalie Carter & Jenny Salado,
Suzanne Jebaily, Ashley White

FOURs: Katy Wood & Casey Liscinsky, Hilary Miller & Elese Cegelis, Elizabeth Goings & Ree Harper

On August 20th, we will open the preschool doors again to welcome 90 preschoolers to their First Day of the new school year! We welcome your prayers for a smooth start and another successful school year!

Training for Order of St. Stephen's

What? Learn how to serve St. Stephen's by being an acolyte (5th and 6th graders), crucifer (7th-10th graders), or banner bearer (11th graders)

Who? For anyone that needs to be trained

Where? Meet in the Sanctuary

When? August 3rd at 9:45 AM

There will be an additional training scheduled in September!



Summer Reading Program – There is still time for ages 18 months through the 6th grade to participate in the Summer Reading Program by reading 10 non-chapter books, five chapter books, or a combination from the Church Library! The program continues through August 10. Parents may read books to young non-readers. Prizes will be awarded on August 17 to each child completing the program. The library is located on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building down from the Balcony Choir. Hours are 9:30-11:00 each Sunday.

Please remember to return all books checked out during the summer and keep on READING!



First Responder Breakfast:

The 2nd annual St. Stephen's Lutheran Men First Responder Breakfast will be held Friday, September 12, 2025 from 6:30 am – 10:00 am.

We will need volunteers to help with this. More details to follow.

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



Sr. High Youth (9th-12th grade)

Attention all 9th-12th graders! It's time to kick-off our year! We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, August 3rd at Jon and Lauren Taylor's house for a fun afternoon on the lake! Bring a towel, wear your bathing suit, and enjoy some time with your church friends! We will plan to arrive at 4 PM and pick up will be at

6 PM. Once you RSVP to Shannon (by August 1st) she will get your preference regarding hotdogs or hamburgers as we will eat around 5:30 PM! Don't miss out on a great afternoon!!

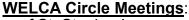


Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade)

Join us for our kick-off event Aug. 10th at 4 PM. We will gather at Michael and Suzanne Jebaily's house for food, games, and swimming! RSVP to Mrs. Shannon by August 7th.

Hey Parents!! Looking for some back-toschool fun?? Bounce on over to BigAir of Lexington for St. Stephen's Preschool Day on Thursday, August 14th,

all day! Be sure to mention the preschool and BigAir will donate a portion of the day's admission fees to the preschool!



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 Kick-off

Join Pastor Ralph on
Thursday, September 4 at
6:30 pm at the
Mediterranean Café as we
return for a new year
together! Join us each month



on the first Thursday for get-to-know discussions, a devotion and connection over a great meal (Dutch treat). Crossroads is comprised of folks in their 50s-70s. Contact Pastor Ralph with any questions. Sign up near the narthex.

Chat & Chew Date: August 21st

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Zorba's in Irmo

Hosts: Sammy and Janette Hendrix

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we have a head count and join your church family



for a fun night of food and fellowship.

Usable Glasses Give New Life

Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses to support the Lions Recycle For Sight Program. If you have usable glasses you'd

like to donate, please put them in the container in the office.





Lutheran Men:

Please join us Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall. Mr. Tom Ramsey, Executive Director of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission will be our guest speaker. We will also finalize our plans for Lutheran Men's Sunday on August 24, 2025. A special thank you to Allen Shealy and Lance Young for providing the meal. Point of Contact: Ron Redd Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.





Committee of 100:

How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? It could be really simple – by becoming a part of the Committee of 100 which is composed of members who contribute \$100.00 in a given year to help support newly organized mission churches in the SC Synod as they struggle to become self-supporting. St. Stephen's has led the way in this program since 1980 – having 82 members in 2024. All contributions are welcome. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Over \$17,000.00 was distributed to mission churches in 2024. Please make your check to: Committee of 100 – place it in the offering plate or give it to Ron Redd and he will handle the details.



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.

Notes from Aloft



Upcoming Music in Worship

August 3 Melissa Rawl, soloist August 10 Eric Gilfus, French Horn August 17 Stephen Lunsford, soloist

August 24 Hal McIntosh, soloist and Flute Ensemble

August 31 Matthew Jones, percussionist

Fall Children's Choir Schedule - Children's Choirs resume September 3.

2-4-year-olds	Cherub Choir	Wednesdays	5:00-5:30 p.m.
5-2 nd graders	Carol Choir	Wednesdays	5:25-6:10 p.m.
3rd-5 th graders	Treble Choir	Wednesdays	5:25-6:10 p.m.
1 st -6 th graders	Choir Chimes	Wednesdays	6:10-6:40 p.m.

Wings of Worship will resume this fall under the direction of Rhonda Marchant. This liturgical dance ensemble rehearses on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:30 p.m. Rehearsals will begin September 3.

Sign up for all choirs will take place on Rally Day, August 10.

This fall we will offer a beginner's handbell choir for those who would like to try handbells. The group will meet during the day on a day that works best for those interested. Give it some thought and if you are interested please contact Susan@sslc.org



Piano I

Piano lessons and organ lessons are offered all year round. Adult learners and young beginners are invited to learn. Contact Susan for more information.

Fall Hymn Sing is coming on Sunday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share for dinner. After dinner Camille Jones will lead us in singing your favorite hymns. If you have a hymn request let Susan know and plan on attending to sing along.





Ladies Who Lunch will meet on Tuesday, August 26 at 12:30 p.m. at The Bistro, 1085 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo. Please meet at church in the parking lot at noon if you'd like to carpool. RSVP to Susan if you plan to join us.

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Easter to Reformation Food drive is underway with 1,817 lbs. toward a goal of 6,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation. Year to date food is 3,887 lbs. Our 2025 goal is 12,000 lbs. of food.

Please note: **NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE!**

Mission Lexington needs the following items:

Canned Fruit Beef Stew Canned Chicken Peanut Butter & Jelly Mac & Cheese Chili Pork & beans Canned Fruit Canned Vegetables Rice Coffee Grits Flour Canned Soups Sugar Applesauce Oatmeal Breakfast Cereals Pasta Cornmeal mix Dog Food (Dry & Wet) Cat food (Dry and Wet) Laundry Detergent

Please place your food donations in the red food barrels next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrels 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 Food purchase 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.

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

Parents of high school and college age youth should plan to join us Aug. 28th at 6 PM. We will meet at Ike and Tonya Reynolds house and grill hamburgers. We will have time to catch up and plan for the upcoming year. Please RSVP to Tonya@sslc.org.

We will start Children's and Youth Sunday School back on August 17th!

Shannon is looking for teachers and any ideas on how to engage more of our children and youth in Sunday School. If you have any ideas, PLEASE reach out!





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 August Event

Date: Thursday, August 14th

Time: We will leave the church at 10:15 AM to have lunch at The Pump House in Rock Hill at 11:30 AM. After lunch we will drive 25 mins to the Catawba Cultural Center and visit the Trading Post

Cost: \$25 per person plus lunch (if we are able to schedule a program); if we can't have a program it will be \$10 plus lunch

Our WNL! programs are resuming September 3rd!

Dinner will be served at 5 PM in the social hall.

15:00 – 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – 2-4 year olds

5:25 - 6:10 p.m. Carol Choir - 5 year olds-2nd grade

5:25 - 6:10 p.m. Treble Choir - 3rd-5th graders

5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade)

(beginning September 10th)

16 p.m. Adult Bible Study; Confirmation meeting with I parents and youth

6:10 - 6:40 p.m. Choir Chimes -1st-6th graders

6:30-7:30 p.m. Confirmation (7th and 8th grade)

(beginning September 10th)

16:45 - 7:30 p.m. Wings of Worship

7:00 p.m. Adult Choir resuming September 10



Stewardship Moment

During the month of August we will be focusing on getting people "Plugged Back In" at St. Stephen's. By using the link below, you will find our Time and Talent form for 2025-2026! There are many opportunities to get involved at St. Stephen's! We know the more involved people are, the better our church runs! Please take some time to look over these opportunities and see where we can best use your gifts! If you already volunteer, please plan to continue (we NEED you



and APPRECIATE you)! We'd love for **everyone** to submit your Time and Talent form so we know your intent to serve! Please plan to fill out your Time and Talent form electronically by August 10th or you can pick up a paper copy and place your completed forms in the Time and Talent basket in the Narthex!

Time & Talent - Google Forms

Sunday School is gearing up for the Fall! We recognize the need for more adult opportunities and we are trying our best to provide options! If you want to go to a Sunday School class but you aren't sure what the options are, check out this info below!

<u>Pastor's Class/Saints and Sinners</u> - This year we will be watching and discussing fourth season episodes of *The Chosen*. We will meet in the Adult SS Class on the second floor. We will also participate in the *Second Sunday Discipleship* time on the second Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! *ALSO ...If you would like to begin a new Sunday school class or small group, please see the Pastors or Shannon. We would love to help facilitate that desire and support you with resources!*

Our <u>Social Hall</u> 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 **AGAPE Class** will continue to meet and is a Bible Study based class led by lay leaders of the congregation.

<u>Discipleship gatherings on 2nd Sundays starting in September—</u> <u>Less like a Hippo...More like a Honeybee</u>

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, all Sunday School classes (except 2'and 3's)will meet in the Social Hall. Our focus will be on being contributor oriented vs consumer oriented in our faith. Activities for our intergenerational audience will be provided by the pastors and Shannon as they will be leading these classes! It's sure to be a fun time and an opportunity to gather together as a community of faith!

Aug. 3rd Geary Family Aug. 10th Agnes Corley Aug. 17th Celeste Morgan Aug. 24th C-Anne Able Aug. 31st Greg Brewer

Aug. 3rd	The Head Family
Aug. 10th	The Taylor Family
Aug. 17th	Gary and Julie Angus
Aug. 24th	Sarah and G Kolb

Sarah and G Kolb

Recyclers

Aug. 31st

Ushers for August 3rd and 17th

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

<u>11:00</u> - Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin

Ushers for August 10th and 31st

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

Lutheran Men will provide ushers on August. 24th

Greeters

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Aug. 3rd	Sandy Shealy	Bonnie Long
Aug. 10th	Jodi McFarland	Marilyn Fattman
Aug. 17th	Jennifer Taylor	Mary Sesler
Aug. 24th	Lutheran Men	Lutheran Men
Aug. 31st	Shannon Burnett	Carolinda Getz

Lay Readers

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Aug. 3rd	Anna Browder	Cathy Mathias
Aug. 10th	Lacy Geary	Johnnie Peechatka
Aug. 17th	Brant Taylor	Jamie Early
Aug. 24th	Lutheran Men	Lutheran Men
Aug. 31st	Neil Brown	Shannon Burnett

Eucharistic Ministers

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Aug. 3rd	Paul and Lucy Austin	Cathy Mathias and Shannon Burnett
Aug. 10th	Sandy Shealy	Bill Cegelis
Aug. 17th	Bobby Martin	Jamie Early
Aug. 24th	Lutheran Men	Lutheran Men
Aug. 31st	Marty Nantz	Shannon Burnett

SSLC Confirmation Ministry Calling all Confirmands!

St. Stephen's Confirmation Orientation Date: Wednesday, September 3rd Time: 6:00 pm

Confirmation is just around the corner! If your child is a rising 7th or 8th grader we'd love to include them in our plans for our Confirmation ministry this year!

To make sure that we have an awesome start to the year please plan on attending an orientation for all parents and students.

Our gathering will take place in the Saints and Sinners Sunday School Classroom at 6pm.

If you have questions about whether your youth should be participating or any other questions about the program, please contact Pastor Jason. See you there!



Order of St. Stephen's	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
August 3rd	A – Luke Wenzel	A – Henry Jebaily
	C – Shaun Wessinger	C – Madelyn Burgess
	BB – Jaime Wessinger	BB – HELP NEEDED
August 10th	A – Katy Hooker	A – Audrey Lewis
	C – Cameron Moore	C – Madelyn Burgess
August 17th	A – Jackson Rawl	A – Ben Brunson
	C – Weston Hill	C – Thomas Brunson
August 24th	Lutheran Men	Lutheran Men
August 31st	A - Gracen Geary	A - Audrey Lewis
	C - Connor Geary	C - HELP NEEDED

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

<u>Pastor</u>

Ralph G. Hill Ralph@sslc.org

Director of Family Life Ministries

Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds <u>Tonya@sslc.org</u> 359-6562

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Julie Tworzyanski <u>preschool@sslc.org</u> 359-4369

Youth Director

Ben Bernstein Ben@sslc.org

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

<u>Congregation Council Officers</u> President - Chad Geary

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

29072 here

place

stamp

"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)

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

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

<u>Lutheran Men:</u> Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:30PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker

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

<u>Preschool</u>: 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

<u>Prime Time:</u> 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.

<u>Crossroads:</u> Compromised of adults between "This is Us" and "Prime Time" that get together for fellowship and service

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

<u>Living Faith</u>: 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.

<u>Young Adults</u>: 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 OI' Men Eating Out): Meets monthly for lunch