

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 221 (11am) 152
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 54

General Offering Total for 2025: \$575,153.64
Expenses Total for 2025: \$621,109.93

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: Adult Sunday School; Rally Sunday (Gym) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:15PM: Mission Trip Presentation/Lunch (Gym) 4PM: Jr. High Kick-off (Jebaily’s House)
Monday	12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	6PM: Lackore (Gym)
Wednesday	11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8:30AM: Gaskins (Social Hall) 10:15AM: Prime Time (The Pump House) 6PM: Lackore (Gym) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall) 2PM: Youth Task Force (Office Conference Room)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for August 10 – August 17, 2025

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **August - Lutheran Campus Ministry** is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others on college campuses around the nation, not just a ministry for Lutherans. Its mission is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. In South Carolina we have 17 ministry sites that reach out to over 20 different colleges and universities. In recent years funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry has declined substantially and they could use our support to help them continue their important mission.

Hospitalized: Caroline Bryson, Lexington Medical; Rhett Sharpe, Oakleaf Village

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharist Service, August 13th at 12:30pm in the sanctuary to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God’s Word. **Please join us this week for an extra special lunch as we welcome the preschool teachers back and celebrate our wonderful preschool!** We will start a little earlier this week at 11:30am to give time for everyone to meet the teachers.

Summer Reading Program - The Summer Reading Program ends today. Prizes will be awarded next Sunday, August 17, to each child completing the program. Library hours are 9:30am-11:00am. Please remember to return all books checked out during the summer and keep on reading!

Children’s and Youth Sunday School starts August 17th. Rally Sunday is **TODAY** at 9:45am in the gym! 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. Sunday School registration forms are available now online at SSLC.org. Let Shannon know if you have any problems registering.

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 **TODAY** at 12:15pm in the gym for a spaghetti lunch and presentation. There is no cost for the meal as this is our way of saying thank you for supporting our fund-raising efforts.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 2,097 lbs. collected towards the 6,000 lb. goal. Our year to date total collected is 4,167 lbs. Mission Lexington needs the following items: **Please No Glass Jars** – laundry detergent, canned fruit, beef stew, canned chicken, peanut butter & jelly, mac & cheese, chili, pork & beans, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, rice, coffee, grits, sugar, flour, oatmeal, applesauce, breakfast cereals, dog & cat Food (Dry & Wet), chicken/ turkey/beef broth, and pasta. If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's and in the remark section put Mission Lexington. Thank you again for your support. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com

Lutheran Men: Please join us Monday, August 18th at 6:30pm 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 24th. A special thank you to Allen Shealy and Lance Young for providing the meal. 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. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade): Join us for our kick-off event **TODAY** at 4pm. We will gather at Michael and Suzanne Jebail's house for food, games, and swimming!

Hymn Sing is coming up August 24 with Camille Jones, guest accompanist. We'll start at 5:00pm with a potluck supper followed by the hymn sing. Have hymn requests? Send them to Susan at susan@sslc.org and plan to come to the event.

Chat & Chew: Join your church family on August 21st at 5:30pm at Zorba's in Irmo. Hosts: Sammy and Janette Hendrix. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we have a head count. We are looking forward to a fun night of food and fellowship.

Summer Music: Today we welcome Eric Gilfus, French horn and Frances Webb, organist. Susan Wilson is attending the final day of the National Association of Lutheran Church Musicians conference in Raleigh/Durham. **Parents**, when planning your fall schedules, please save Wednesday nights for our children's choir. **Cherub Choir** for our 2-4-year-olds will rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:00pm- 5:30pm. The **Carol Choir** for children ages 5-2nd grade rehearses from 5:25pm-6:10pm. The **Treble Choir** for 3rd-5th graders rehearses from 5:25pm-6:10pm as well. **Choir chimes** for children in 1st grade through 6th grade rehearses from 6:10pm-6:40pm. **Wings of Worship**, under the direction of Mrs. Rhonda Marchant, will return this fall, taking place on Wednesday evenings from 6:45pm -7:30pm, beginning September 3. This liturgical dance group is for children in grades 1-6. For more information, reach out to Susan Wilson or Rhonda Marchant. Piano lessons are offered this fall. If you are interested contact Susan@sslc.org. Adult learners and children are welcomed. **An adult beginner's handbell/choir chime ensemble** will form this fall for those who are interested in making music and learning about handbells/choir chimes. The group will rehearse during the daytime, with a time and day selected by those interested in playing. Contact Susan to sign up. **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Tuesday, August 26 at 12:30pm 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.

Preschool Fundraiser: Hey Parents!! Looking for some back-to-school 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!

First Responder Breakfast: The 2nd annual St. Stephen's Lutheran Men First Responder Breakfast will be held Friday, September 12th from 6:30am-10am. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Prime Time: On Thursday, August 14th we will leave the church at 10:15am to have lunch at The Pump House in Rock Hill. After lunch we will drive 25 mins to the Catawba Cultural Center and visit the Trading Post. The cost is \$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. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the narthex.