

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 105 (11am) 111  
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 59

General Offering Total for 2025: \$641,126.17  
Expenses Total for 2025: \$713,517.81

**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	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages; Order of St. Stephen's (Sanctuary) <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 2PM: Sr. Youth (Sr. High Room) 3:30PM: Jr. Youth (Jr. High Room)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 6:30PM: WELCA Salad Supper (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 5PM: WNL Dinner (Social Hall); Cherub Choir (Children's Choir Room) 5:25PM: Carol Choir & Treble Choir (Children's Choir Room) 5:45PM: Jr. High Youth (Jr. High Room) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom) 6:10PM: Choir Chimes (Children's Choir Room) 6:30PM: Confirmation Class (Saints & Sinners Classroom) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Gym) 7PM: Adult Choir (Brittingham's Home) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Prime Time Luncheon (Social Hall) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	6AM: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Lutheran Men First Responders Breakfast (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool
Saturday	9AM: Quilt Guild (Social Hall)
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 9:45AM: Discipleship Sunday School & St. Stephen's 101 Class (Social Hall) <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 12:30PM: God's Work Our Hands (Social Hall)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 7 – September 14, 2025

**Congregational Council** approves causes to be featured monthly. **September – Music Fund**  
The Music Fund donations go to support the ongoing music ministry at St. Stephen's. Donations support such things as music scholarships, instrument purchases for children's choirs, community outreach programming such as May Music Midday, Music/Art/Faith summer camps, ALMS projects, and additional music needs that arise as the music program grows and expands.

**Hospitalized:** Rhett Sharpe, Lexington Medical; Christie Addy, Home

**Join us for our Wednesday Eucharist Service, September 10<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 us Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am for a fun game of BUNCO! Never played? No problem! Come and learn and enjoy some fellowship time before lunch.

**Congratulations** to Will, Brooke, and Hampton Cook on the birth of their daughter/sister, Mallorie Joy Cook on September 2 and to Jason, Anna, and James Yonge on the birth of their daughter/sister, Emily Jane Yonge on September 3. Your church family is so excited for you all!

**There is coffee available in the social hall between services. Enjoy!**  
**WNL! Schedule**

- 5:00pm-5:45pm: Dinner in the social hall
- 5:00pm – 5:30pm: Cherub Choir – 2-year-olds–4-year-olds
- 5:25pm – 6:10pm: Carol Choir – 5-year-olds-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- 5:25pm – 6:10pm: Treble Choir – 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 5:45pm - 6:30pm: Jr. High Youth 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6:00pm: Adult Bible Study
- 6:10pm – 6:40pm: Choir Chimes – 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Graders
- 6:30pm -7:30pm: Confirmation 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 6:45pm – 7:30pm: Wings of Worship
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir

**Training for Order of St. Stephen's** training **TODAY** at 9:45am in the Sanctuary for anyone interested in being an acolyte (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders), crucifer (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> graders), or banner bearer (11<sup>th</sup> graders).

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

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 2,404 lbs. collected towards the 6,000 lb. goal. Our year to date total collected is 4,474 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

**Prime Time:** Join us on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am for lunch provided by the church. We will serve hamburgers, chips, pasta salad, and dessert. Please sign up by Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> so we know how many to expect. We will have a special musical performance by The Called. A love offering will be collected and presented to The Called. Look forward to seeing you there!

**Lutheran Men:** Please join us in the social hall at 6:30pm on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> for a meal and presentation by Amy Reeves, Executive Director of Mission Lexington. Ron Redd Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

**Weekly Men's Bible Study** is every Tuesday at 9:05am in the social hall. Pastor Ralph leads a discussion time of "Table Talk" as we gather around the table and interpret together the Scripture from the previous Sunday's lessons. Bring your bulletin & Bible. Refreshments will be served.

**St. Stephen's 101: For New Members (and Seasoned Ones Too!)** The Pastors and staff of St. Stephen's will be offering a class for folks interested in learning more about St. Stephen's and how to get more involved. This class is for those who may be interested in joining and anyone else who would like to attend. This is meant to be a helpful tool. It is not a requirement to attend if you want to join. There will be three sessions. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour.

- **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>– Faith 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, September 21<sup>st</sup> – 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, September 28<sup>th</sup> – SSLC 101**  
Welcoming of New Members: We will welcome new members at both services as the culmination of our time together. Pastor Jason will also lead the last session that will focus on getting to know a little more about each other and learning some of the history of our congregation

**First Communion Class** will be offered by Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> so that we can know how much pizza to order. If you have any questions, please contact one of the pastors!

**Music: Children's Choirs** started this past week but it's not too late for your child to join us. 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. **Romeo's** will meet on Tuesday, September 16 at 12:30pm at Carolina Wings. The **adult choir** will meet on Wednesday, September 10, at the home of Mike and Kerri Brittingham at 7:00pm. Spouses are welcome to join us. Bring a dish to share. If you've thought about joining choir, come on Wednesday. We'll tell you all about how much fun we have singing!

**WELCA Joint Business Meeting:** All women of St. Stephen's are members of WELCA, and you are warmly invited to the annual joint meeting on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:30pm in the social hall. While we'll take care of some business items, most of our time together will be spent in fellowship and planning for the year ahead. And yes—there will be food! Please bring your favorite salad or dessert to share. If you have questions about this gathering or about WELCA, feel free to reach out to Marty Nantz (no.1mimi@yahoo.com) or Lenna Young (lenna.c.young@gmail.com).

**Chat & Chew:** Join your church family on Thursday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at The Blue Marlin for dinner. Hosted by Georgianna and Don Dukes. The cost is \$20 per person (cash) and a cash bar will also be available. 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.

**A new Sunday School opportunity: Women Digging Deeper:** This Sunday school class for women will begin September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will gather and discuss the scripture readings for that day. We will meet in the parlor. This class will be a group think for facilitating and discussing. Our hope is the Word will sink in deeper as we dig deeper in the Word!

**Young Adult/Young Family/Living Faith Group/J-Crew Groups** please join us for our Quarterly Family Night on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm. We are going to have Moe's for dinner and then the kids 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 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders will watch a movie/do an activity in the Sr. High Room. Please RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> to Shannon and let her know how many to expect!

**The Blessing of the Animals** will be September 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm on the front lawn at the corner of Butler St. and N. Church St. All animals are welcome! If you can't bring your pet, bring a picture! Please bring dog or cat food to donate to Mission Lexington!

**God's Work Our Hands Service Day:** This day has been reserved to participate in the ELCA's Annual "God's Work Our Hands" Day. Next Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> we will be working as a congregation to do some much-needed cleaning up in the basement. Volunteers are asked to meet in the social hall at 12:30pm with their own bag lunch. We will eat together before heading downstairs. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Jason know by TODAY so we can get organized.