

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 237 (11am) 145
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 68

General Offering Total for 2025: \$802,294.36
Total Expenses for 2025: \$847,341.38

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: Discipleship Sunday School (Social Hall) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Grief Group (Office Conference Room) 1PM: Executive Board Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Adult Handbell (Balcony)
Tuesday	Office Closed 8AM: Preschool 6:30PM: Circle of Love (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5PM: WNL Dinner (Social Hall) 6PM: Operation Christmas Child Packing Party (Social Hall) 7PM: Adult Choir (Adult Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 11:30AM: Prime Time (Social Hall) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	8AM: Preschool
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)-WELCA Sunday 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)-WELCA Sunday 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Office Conference Room) 2PM: Grief Group (Office Conference Room) 3PM: Jr. Youth (Gym)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for November 9 – November 16, 2025

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **November: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary** is 1 of 7 ELCA Seminaries and the only seminary found in the Southern region of the United States. LTSS has been educating and preparing leaders for the church since 1830 and continues that mission today. As members of the SC Synod of the ELCA it has been and will continue to be a part of our mission to support the seminary both with our prayers and our treasures. Please consider designating any donations over and above your regular giving to LTSS to help support the institution, the students, and their ministry present and future.

Hospitalized: Jeannette Neeley, Lexington Regional Rehabilitation Hospital; Ebony Bowers, Lexington Medical

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharist Service, November 12th 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.

Building Maintenance Lunch! Join Lutheran Men next Sunday, November 16th for lunch in the social hall. These luncheons are held once a month September – May. All proceeds go directly to the building maintenance fund. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services.

Poinsettia Sales! Poinsettias will be used for December worship services. They cost \$15.00 each and can be placed in honor of or in memory of your loved ones or friends. If you would prefer, gifts can be made to the Building Maintenance Fund in lieu of poinsettias. A minimum donation of \$15.00 to Building Maintenance is requested. Poinsettias will be on sale until November 16th.

Pancakes and PJs with Santa: On Sunday, December 7th from 4:30pm-5:30pm (immediately following the Lexington Christmas Parade) wear your Christmas PJs, fill your belly with pancakes, and get your picture made with Santa! Benefiting: Our youth that will be going to Lake Traverse Indian Reservation in South Dakota for our 2026 Mission Trip. Please RSVP to Shannon by Dec. 1st (Shannon@sslc.org) Ticket cost is \$20 per child (one adult admitted free per child); additional adults \$10

Thank you to all who supported the preschool pecan sale fundraiser! We will notify you when pecans arrive. Many thanks for your continued support.

Mission Lexington: Our end of the year food drive is underway with the goal of 1,500lbs between now and the end of the year. We have collected 400lbs so far. Our year to date total collected is 6,125 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. Holiday items needed: cranberry sauce, cornbread mix, candied yams, gravy mix, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, cake mix. 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 will meet Monday, November 17th at 6:30pm in the social hall for a meal and presentation by J. R. Fennell from the Lexington County Museum. It promises to be a great event. Come join us and bring a friend. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com

Ham and Turkey Gift Card Donations: Nurture and Outreach is seeking donations of \$25 that will be used to buy gift cards for those in need. The gift cards will then be used to purchase a ham or a turkey for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section put "ham and turkey fund".

St. Stephen's will be partnering with The Salvation Army again this year and serving as Red Kettle volunteers on Saturday, December 6th at Lowe's Foods on Augusta Highway (across from LHS). St. Stephen's is tasked with covering shifts from 10am-6pm. We need 2 volunteers (or more) per hour to ring the bell! This is a great way to earn service hours or just get out and enjoy the beginning of the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Please contact Shannon if you'd like to help

3rd Annual Turkey Trot: Join us on Sunday, November 23rd at 4pm! This is a family friendly 5K event and will be held in the parking lot! You can walk, run, stroll, or show up to cheer everyone else on! We just want our favorite turkeys to come out and enjoy a fun time together! We will have hot dogs and hamburgers for supper and just take the afternoon to be thankful for such an awesome church family!! No charge...Just RSVP to Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so we know how many turkeys to expect! Hope to see you all at 4pm on the 23rd!

Prime Time: Join us on Thursday, November 13th at 11:30am for our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. Turkey will be provided. We ask that you sign up and let us know what side you plan to bring. If you don't feel comfortable carrying your dish in, let us know and we will get it for you! Can't bring a side? Come anyway!! We will plan to eat around 11:45am but we will have some adorable turkeys and pilgrims visiting around 11:30am that you won't want to miss! Join us on Friday, November 21st for a chance to escape the craziness of life at Bee City Zoo in Cottageville, SC. They are a bee farm and an interactive zoo that prides itself on offering interactions that are good for the soul! Cost is \$20 plus lunch. There is a café on site where we will eat. You get a discount for paying cash at the café! We plan to leave the church at 8am which means we will arrive around 10am, enjoy a day at the zoo and have time to visit the gift shop! Please sign up by Wednesday, Nov. 19th if you plan to go!

Music: Do you enjoy singing Christmas music? Christmas is not that far off, and the adult choir has started working on the music of Advent and Christmas. Why not consider joining the choir for the season? Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. For more information contact Susan@sslc.org. The **Handbell Choir** meets on Monday at 6:30pm. We are searching for two additional ringers so if you are interested, please contact Susan@sslc.org. **Family Night Christmas**, December 14, beginning with dinner, followed by children's choirs Christmas program. Coming December 19, at 2:00pm Carols, Cookies, and Cider with piano duets of the season presented by Tammy Lorick and Susan Wilson, accompanied by Matthew Jones, percussionist. December 21 the Adult choir will present their music of the season at both services, accompanied by brass and percussion.

Operation Christmas Child, which is part of the Samaritan's Purse organization and a wonderful way to provide gifts for children in need, is now accepting donations! On November 12th at 6pm we will have our annual packing party. Now is a great time to bring in items that can go in these shoeboxes that will be delivered to children all over the world. Not only will they receive a shoebox, but they will also learn about the Gospel of Jesus, and you can help make this happen! This month we are asking for school supplies such as pens, pencils (with sharpener), notepads, journals, composition books, markers, crayons, coloring books etc! You can drop off all donations in the bin outside the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Ashely Lackore at ashlackore@yahoo.com.

Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade): Laser Tag at SSLC: Join us next Sunday, November 16th for a fun afternoon of laser tag in the gym. Be sure to wear sneakers and comfy clothes. Please RSVP by Nov. 13th so we have an idea of who is coming. Please arrive by 2:45pm so we can begin at 3pm! Cost is \$10.

Grief Group Are you dealing with grief? You are not alone! Grief is experienced by so many people and in so many ways -- physical, emotional, and spiritual. Do you need a place: to know that you are not alone, to affirm that what you are going through is a part of the journey of grief, to take a break from the loneliness, to be supported as you share your story and support others as they share theirs, and/or to find some hope in the midst of your struggle? If so, come **TODAY** to the office conference room at 12:30pm where we will provide a safe environment for you and others to come and share their stories, to find comfort and support, and to share the hope given to us by God.

J-Crew: All 1st- 5th graders are invited to meet at the church next Sunday, November 16th from 5-6:30pm to roast hot dogs and smores. Contact Pastor Jason by Wednesday, November 12th to RSVP! Hope to see you there!

Staff Appreciation Sunday will be Sunday, December 7. Envelopes are in the bulletin if you would like to contribute. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Martin 803-240-5938.