

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 142 (11am) 130  
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 68

General Offering Total for 2025: \$837,805.04  
Total Expenses for 2025: \$884,548.65

**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 <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 3PM: LM Executive Board Meeting (Social Hall)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Adult Handbell (Balcony)
Tuesday	7:30AM: Sr. Youth Breakfast (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men’s Bible (Social Hall) <b>6PM: Holden Evening Prayer Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b>
Wednesday	Gym Closed 8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 5PM: Cherub Choir (Children’s Choir Room) 5:25PM: Carol Choir & Treble Choir (Children’s Choir Room) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Gym) 7PM: Adult Choir (Adult Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	Gym Closed 8AM: Preschool 11:15AM: Prime Time (Flat Rock, NC) 6:30PM: Crossroads (Agape Classroom) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	Gym Closed 8AM: Preschool
Saturday	Gym Closed 9AM: Nurture & Outreach (Social Hall) 1PM: Agape Class (Social Hall) 6PM: Living Faith (Jebaily’s Home)
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 2PM: Petting Zoo and Cocoa (Front Lawn) 4:30PM: Pancakes with Santa (Gym)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for November 30 – December 7, 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:** Ebony Bowers, Home; Jeannette Neeley, Lexington Regional Rehab Hospital; Stephen Cox, Home

**Join us for our Wednesday Advent Service, December 3<sup>rd</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.

**Our 2026 Flower Calendar is available for sign up!** Please find the calendar in the narthex.

**Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service** will be on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 6pm in the sanctuary. Holden Evening Prayer is a beautiful, contemporary vespers service that was written by Marty Haugen in 1985-86 while at Holden Village. We hope you will join us!

**Volunteers Needed!** Please consider volunteering to cook, serve, or clean up WNL dinner scheduled to start back January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact [Tonya@sslc.org](mailto:Tonya@sslc.org) if you are willing to help!

**Pancakes and PJs with Santa:** Next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 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.1<sup>st</sup> ([Shannon@sslc.org](mailto:Shannon@sslc.org)) Ticket cost is \$20 per child (one adult admitted free per child); additional adults \$10

**Pecans Available!** Thank you to all who supported the pecan fundraiser! If you missed the opportunity to order or just want more, you’re in luck because we have extras on hand. Contact Julie for information and to get your pecans in time for the holidays. 803-359-4369 or [julie@sslc.org](mailto:julie@sslc.org)

**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 1,550 lbs. so far. Our year to date total collected is 7,474 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. 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:** Please join us Monday, December 15 at 6:30pm in the social hall for a meal and a Christmas message from Pastor Ralph. Ron Redd 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 each 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.

**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".

**Christmas Event!** Join us next Sunday, December 7 at 2pm on the front lawn by the Nativity for a petting zoo for all ages. This will take place before the Lexington Christmas Parade, and we will serve cocoa and cookies and play Christmas music for the community to enjoy!

**Crossroads** will meet on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the church for a meal and fellowship. Christmas Crossroad get-to-know-you questions will be on hand along with a Christmas themed devotion. Take a moment this Advent to consider with friends God's promise of light in the darkness. Please sign up just outside the narthex or contact Pastor Ralph through the office.

**Music:** There will be children's choir rehearsals on Wednesday, December 3. The Cherub Choir will meet at 5:00pm and the Carol and Treble Choirs will meet at 5:25pm. The choir chime ensemble will not rehearse on Wednesday. Parents, please save the date for December 13 at 10:00am dress rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant. **Family Night Christmas**, December 14, will begin with a potluck dinner at 5:00pm followed by our children's choir's Christmas program at 6:00pm. They will be presenting a traditional Christmas pageant. On December 19, at 2:00pm we will have **Carols, Cookies, and Cider** with piano duets of the season presented by Tammy Lorick and Susan Wilson, accompanied by Matthew Jones, percussionist. If you are willing to bake some homemade cookies for the event let Susan know. December 21 the **Adult choir** will present their music of the season at both worship services, accompanied by brass and percussion. **Ladies who Lunch** will meet on December 16. **Romeo's** will meet for the annual Christmas party on December 11 at the home of Billy and Sarah Huckabee.

**Staff Appreciation Sunday** will be next 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.

**St. Stephen's Angel Tree is up!** Please consider choosing an angel to make someone's Christmas brighter. We are asking that you prayerfully consider taking an angel (or two) from the tree, record your name next to the corresponding number on the log, and then purchase a gift card or gift for the recipient. Please wrap your gift, tape the angel outside of the box, and return it by next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>! Thank you in advance for your participation!

**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!

- **Lunch Belles**, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 12:30pm at the Country Club of Lexington. Peggy Sherman (sshe695063@aol.com)
- **Sunshine Circle**, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 6:30pm at rotating hostess home. Marty Nantz (no.1mimi@yahoo.com)
- **Circle 5**, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6pm in the church social hall or parlor. Kay Keener (the\_keeners@live.com)
- **Circle of Love**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm in the church social hall. Suzanne Robinson (robinsons1@yahoo.com)
- **Circle 9**, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 11am, at the church parlor or hostess' home. Drew Welch (DrewRoyWelch@gmail.com)