

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 226 (11am) 182
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm)

General Offering Total for 2025: \$967,749.35
Total Expenses for 2025: \$970,600.88

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: No Sunday School 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Monday	Church Office Closed 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall)
Wednesday	11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	Church Office Closed – Happy New Year! 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) 2PM: Jr. Youth (Social Hall)

WNL! Starts January 7th

- 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-2nd grade
- 5:25pm – 6:10pm: Treble Choir – 3rd-5th grade
- 5:45pm - 6:30pm: Jr. High Youth 6th-8th grade
- 6:00pm: Adult Bible Study
- 6:10pm – 6:40pm: Choir Chimes – 1st -6th Graders (starts January 14th)
- 6:30pm -7:30pm: Confirmation 7th and 8th grade
- 6:45pm – 7:30pm: Wings of Worship
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir (starts January 14th)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for December 28, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **December - Lutheran Services Carolinas.** With the help of thousands of volunteers, donors, and faith partners, LSC helps veterans and others transition from homelessness to dignity; protects children at risk of abuse and neglect with foster care; improves the lives of those battling severe and persistent mental illness through innovative programs; encourages growth and independence for those with developmental disabilities; places children in loving adoptive homes; provides warmth and welcome to refugees seeking sanctuary; and enables many men and women with varying life challenges or disabilities to live proudly and independently with residential or supportive services. Please consider supporting this worthy organization and its cause with your love offering donations during the month of December.

Hospitalized: Brenda Bruner, NHC; Fred Douglas, Home; Ronnie Smith, Home; Ebony Bowers, Lexington Medical; Holly Wyman, Lexington Medical

Join us for our Wednesday Service, December 31st 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.

Thank you! The SSLC staff would like to express our most sincere appreciation for the love offering that was collected in October and November. Your generosity is a true blessing, and we are all so very fortunate to serve this congregation. St. Stephen's is a special place, and our members are what makes it that way!

Our 2026 Flower Calendar is available for sign up! Please find the calendar in the narthex. Available dates include January 4, 18, 25, February 1, 22, and March 8

Preschool: It's already time to register for the 2026-2027 preschool year! Priority registration, for church members and currently enrolled families, begins on January 19th. Registration will open to the community on February 2nd. Classes are limited, so please spread the word and register early! We would love to have you or your loved ones join our Preschool Family! Contact Julie@sslc.org if you have any questions.

Mission Lexington: For 2025 we collected 8,245 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, January 19th at 6:30pm in the social hall for a program presented by Dallas Shealy, Director of SC Lutheran Retreat Centers. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

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

- Jan. 4 from 2-3:30pm – Man Hunt, Steal the Bacon, S'mores
Please RSVP by Jan. 1st if you plan to come.
- Jan. 18th – Family Night from 5-7pm (Big kids take care of little kids)
Please let Mrs. Shannon know if you can help.
- Jr. High Youth will meet on the following Wednesdays before Confirmation at 5:45pm in the Jr. High Youth room: Jan. 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th.

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

- Jan. 6th – Sr. High Breakfast at SSLC Tuesday Truth: Join us as for a youth-led scripture sharing and breakfast on the 1st Tuesday of the month. We know this won't work for all our Sr. High Youth because not everyone drives, schools start at different times, and everyone is spread out. However, if you can, join us in the social hall at 7:30am. You will be on your way to school by 8:15. RSVP to Mrs. Shannon by Jan. 5th!
- Jan. 17th – Snow tubing! If we have at least 10 youth interested in going, we will head to Moonshine Mountain Snow Tubing Park in Hendersonville. We do have to make reservations in advance, so please RSVP as soon as you know you can go. Cost is \$40 (cash). The church will cover lunch/dinner depending on the time we tube.
- Jan. 18th – Family Night from 5-7pm (Big kids keep the little kids)
Please let Mrs. Shannon know if you can help.

Prime Time: Join us for our monthly luncheon on Thursday, January 8th at 11:45am for soup and cornbread. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect! Join us on Sunday, January 11 as we stroll through Wild Lights at Riverbanks Zoo and discover over 60 larger-than-life handcrafted wildlife lantern displays inspired by nature. This interactive event showcases stunning illuminations sure to dazzle guests of all ages. Don't miss this unforgettable experience! We will leave the church at 4:15pm, stop and have an early supper, and then visit the zoo. The zoo will cost \$25, and dinner is on your own. Tickets are limited so as people sign up, Shannon will purchase tickets.

Music: **Thank you** to all our volunteers for helping with the music events of Christmas. Enjoy your break following such a busy season! **Adult choir** will resume on January 14. **Children's choirs** will resume on January 7. **Choir Chimes** will resume on January 14. The **handbell choir** will resume on January 26.

College Age Gathering: Hopefully, you received a message from Mrs. Shannon, but if not, please mark your calendar for Saturday, January 3rd at 6pm. We will gather at the Old Mill Brew Pub for dinner and a time to catch up! Please let Mrs. Shannon know if you can make it by Jan. 2nd.

Young Adult/Young Family/Living Faith Group/J-Crew Groups please join us for our Quarterly Family Night Sunday, January 18th from 5-7pm. Parents will be going out to eat with Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph (dutch treat). 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. Please RSVP by January 11th to Shannon and let her know how many to expect! We will have pizza for the kids.

Crossroads is a group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults. Join us on January 8th at 6:30pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main). (dutch treat) If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ralph through the office and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet located outside the narthex.

Chat and Chew: Join your church family on January 15th at 5:30pm at Belli's House of Pizza (100 Old Cherokee Rd.) Hostess: Marilyn Fattman. We look forward to a fun dinner filled with fellowship! Sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

Women's Bible study will start a new Bible study "Numbers: Learning Contentment in a Culture of More" Tuesdays at 6:30pm and Wednesday mornings at 10:15am beginning January 13th and 14th. Contact Kerri Brittingham for details.

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**, 1st Tuesday, 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, 10:45am in the church parlor. Drew Welch (DrewRoyWelch@gmail.com)