

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 149 (11am) 107

Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 66

General Offering Total for 2026: \$31,375.25

Total Expenses for 2026: \$33,147.44

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:

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| TODAY | 8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) |
| Monday | 6PM: Sr. High Youth (Progressive Dinner) 8AM: Preschool |
| Tuesday | 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool |
| Wednesday | 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Women's Bible (Sr. High Room) 8AM: Preschool 10:15AM: Women's Bible (Sr. High Room) 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharist Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5PM: Dinner (Social Hall); Cherub Choir (Choir Room) 5:25PM: Carol & Treble Choirs (Choir Room) 5:45PM: Jr. High Youth (Jr. High Room) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom) 6:30PM: Confirmation Class (Saints and Sinners Classroom) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Gym Stage) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor) |
| Thursday | 8AM: Preschool 6PM: Kean (Gym) |
| Friday | 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) |
| Saturday | 8AM: Preschool |
| Sunday | 8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary); Sunday School for children 2's – 8 th grade) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) |

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for January 25 – February 1, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **January - ELCA World Hunger.** More than 733 million — that's 1 in 10 people in our world today — are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Hospitalized: John Addy, Lexington Extended Care; Jerry Redman, Columbia Presbyterian Rehab; David Smith, MUSC Columbia; Fred Douglas, LMC; Martin Arant, LMC; Ashley Skipper, MUSC Charleston

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Ebony Bowers upon her death. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for our Wednesday Service, January 28th 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, February 1st at 9:45am in the sanctuary. Please plan to join us after the meeting for muffins and coffee in the social hall to welcome our new council members. We look forward to seeing everyone on February 1st!

Building Maintenance Lunches are back! Thank you to SSLC Thespian Group and Scott Nantz, Executive Chef at The Reserve at Lake Keowee Country Club, for a wonderful lunch last Sunday. \$1,661.03 was raised for the building maintenance fund.

Our 2026 Flower Calendar is available for sign up! Please find the calendar in the narthex. Available dates include March 29, April 5, 12, and 26

Mission Lexington: Our Christmas to Easter food drive is underway. Our goal is to donate 2,000 lbs. of food between now and Easter Sunday on April 5. Our 2026 goal is 8,000 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), laundry detergent, 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 Redd7848@gmail.com

Have you ever wanted to visit Daufuskie Island? Our Prime Time group is going and you are invited! Join us March 20-22, 2026. Daufuskie Island is home to one of the most well-preserved cultural communities in the Southeast. The residents are descendants of enslaved Africans who developed a unique cultural blending African traditions with American influences. Our plan is to visit the Daufuskie Island History Museum and First Union African Baptist Church to learn more about the remarkable culture that continues to thrive today. We will also worship at the church before we depart on Sunday. We will drive the bus but will then have to get on a ferry to get to Daufuskie. The only transportation on Daufuskie is by golf cart. We plan to stay at the condos on Daufuskie and rent golf carts for transportation. **Estimated cost: \$510 per couple.** Payment for the trip is due by Feb. 15th. You can find more information on the Prime Time bulletin board or you can see Shannon with questions.

Prime Time: Join us as we head to J. R. Cash's Grill and Bar for our February Prime Time lunch on Thursday, February 12th. Please sign up by Feb. 9th so we can make sure the restaurant can accommodate our numbers. We plan to leave the church at 11am. Join our Prime Time group as we go see **Some Enchanted Evening** at Broad River Arts Center on Friday, February 13th at 7:30pm. Tickets cost \$20. Dinner is not included in the ticket price. We are planning to eat at Ocean View Seafood Restaurant. We will leave the church at 4:45pm. Tickets are limited and Shannon will need to purchase them as people sign up. PLEASE (please, please) only sign up if you are sure, you are going so that we aren't wasting money on unused tickets. You can find more information about the show on the Prime Time bulletin board.

Lutheran Men will meet Monday, February 16th at 6:30pm in the social hall. Elizabeth Cote will speak on her experiences working with young adults in Africa through the Global missions Program. Point of Contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Redd7848@gmail.com

Music: Have you always wanted to learn to play the piano? It's never too late. If you are searching for a teacher contact Susan@sslc.org. Lessons are offered weekly at the church for children and adult learners. **Children's choirs** have resumed. All children ages 2- 5th grade are welcome to attend. We are working on our spring musical "Oh, Jonah". Cherubs (2 -4 year olds) meet from 5:00pm - 5:30pm on Wednesdays. The Carol and Treble Choirs (5K-5th graders) meet from 5:25pm - 6:10pm. If your child has not participated in children's choir but would like to be in the musical now's the time to join choir! Contact susan@sslc.org for information. The **handbell choir** will resume on January 26. We are searching for additional ringers. Please reach out to Susan if interested. No prior experience is necessary. **Music, Art, Faith Camp** will take place this summer June 8-12. Camp is for children going into 5K – those who are entering 6th grade. For registration forms contact Susan@sslc.org. Adults are needed to help so please let Susan know if you are willing.

Pre Super Bowl Bingo Party! Everyone is invited to come play Bingo in the social hall on Sunday, February 8th at 2pm. We will have bingo prizes for all ages and lots of snacks! Come enjoy a fun afternoon with your church family.

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! Register online at SSLC.org. We would love to have you or your loved ones join our Preschool Family! Contact Julie@sslc.org if you have any questions.

WELCA Bake Sale: WELCA will host a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 22nd. A variety of homemade baked goods will be available, with proceeds supporting WELCA ministries. Baked goods may be dropped off on Saturday, February 21st from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Thank you for your support!

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-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
- 6:30pm -7:30pm: Confirmation 7th and 8th grade
- 6:45pm – 7:30pm: Wings of Worship
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir