

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 168 (11am) 126

Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 59

General Offering Total for 2026: \$103,389.63

Total Expenses for 2026: \$92,019.72

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: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Youth Task Force Meeting (Office Conference Room) 2PM: Jr. High Youth (Lava Quest) 6PM: Sr. High Youth (Progressive Dinner)
Monday	Church Office Closed 8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6PM: McMurray (Gym) 6:30PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 5PM: Men's Bake-off/Shrove Pancake Dinner (Social Hall) 6PM: Shrove Tuesday Service (Social Hall)
Wednesday	6PM: Lackore (Gym) 8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5:30PM: Ash Wednesday Family Service (Sanctuary) 7PM: Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor) 8AM: Preschool 5:30PM: Chat-N-Chew (Old Mill Brew Pub) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for February 15 – February 22, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **February - Lutheran Homes of South Carolina** is one of the institutional ministries which owes its origins to the congregations of the SC Synod. Believing in the presence of God, the value of human life and the dignity of the individual, the mission of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, Inc. as a ministry of the church, is to promote the well-being of older adults by providing residential, health care and hospice services. There are five Lutheran Homes campuses, offering everything from independent senior living to skilled nursing and memory care. Lutheran Hospice is another ministry of Lutheran Homes, as are BeWell Services. The latter enables the ability to age in place, by offering support for daily tasks.

Hospitalized: Robert Shealy, Home; Christie Addy, Lexington Medical

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of David Smith upon his death and to Al Hornsby upon the death of his wife, Nell Hornsby. 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 Ash Wednesday Service, February 18th 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.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring last Sunday! Mission Lexington received **\$842.00!** The Patriots received \$159.00, Seahawks \$250.50, and the commercials/fans of Mission Lexington received \$432.50.

Building Maintenance Lunches are back! 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 Join the Sunshine Circle's Husbands (Sunshine Squares) for lunch **TODAY!** Menu: Capitol Bean Soup, Jim Bob's Chicken Soup, Corn Bread, Salad, and Desserts

Men's Fat Tuesday, February 17th Bake Off: Calling ALL St. Stephen's male bakers! You are invited to enter our 5th Annual Baking Competition. Come see if you can win the Golden Spatula! The judging will take place on Shrove Tuesday during the pancake supper. Everyone attending will get a chance to vote for their favorite entry. All entries need to be in the social hall by 4pm. Please let Tonya know if you plan to participate Tonya@sslc.org. The pancake dinner will start at 5pm.

Mission Lexington: Our Christmas to Easter food drive is underway with 325 lbs. collected. 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 **TODAY**. You can find more information on the Prime Time bulletin board or you can see Shannon with questions.

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.

Chat and Chew: Please join your church family on Thursday, Feb. 19th at 5:30pm at Old Mill Brew Pub. for a fun dinner filled with fellowship! Hosts: David and Stanette Brown Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

Preschool: It's time to register for the 2026-2027 preschool year! Registration is open to everyone. Please spread the word! 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.

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.

Women's Bible Study will not meet again until February 24th and 25th.

Music: The **handbell choir** rehearses on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. 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. Camp includes singing, drumming, recreation, art, and daily visits from symphony players to introduce children to instruments. This camp is open to the community. Today we welcome oboist Judi Shirley to worship. **Oh, Jonah!** is coming!!! Save the date for the children's choir musical on Sunday afternoon, April 26 at 3:00pm. There will be no **children's choir** rehearsals on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

WELCA Bake Sale: WELCA will host a Bake Sale next 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!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 8: Trivia Night Fundraiser for Mission Trip
Wednesday, March 11: Blood Drive
Tuesday, March 17: LifeLine Screening
Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday Services 12:30pm, 5:30pm, 7pm
Friday, April 3: Good Friday Services 12:30PM, 5:30pm, 7pm
Saturday, April 4: Easter Eggstravaganza 10am
Sunday, April 5: Easter Services 6:30am, 8:30am, 11am
Sunday, April 19: Young Family Night
Sunday, April 26: Children's Musical Performance 3pm