

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 138 (11am) 124  
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 65

General Offering Total for 2026: \$206,037.00  
Total Expenses for 2026: \$218,449.90

**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> 12PM: Harman (Social Hall) 4PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Gym)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6PM: McMurray (Gym) 6:30PM: Adult Handbells (Balcony)
Tuesday	8PM: Taylor (Gym) 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 6PM: Lackore (Gym)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Lenten Wednesday Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 5PM: Cherub Choir (Choir Room) 5:25PM: Carol & Treble Choirs (Sanctuary) 7PM: Adult Choir (Sanctuary) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Agape Classroom)
Thursday	Gym Closed 8AM: Preschool <b>12:30PM: Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary/Online)</b> <b>5:30PM: Maundy Thursday Family Service (Sanctuary)</b> <b>7PM: Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)</b> 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	Gym Closed <b>12:30PM: Good Friday Service (Sanctuary/Online)</b> <b>5:30PM: Good Friday Family Service (Sanctuary)</b> <b>7PM: Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)</b>
Saturday	10AM: Easter Eggstravaganza (Gym)
Sunday	<b>6:30AM: Sunrise Easter Service (Sanctuary)</b> 7AM: Easter Breakfast (Social Hall) <b>8:30AM: Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> <b>11AM: Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for March 29– April 5, 2026**

**Congregational Council** approves causes to be featured monthly. **March - Operation Inasmuch** is a national nonprofit that employs proven models to motivate, train, and equip churches to move more congregants out of the sanctuary seats and into the streets to serve the neediest in their communities. A day is selected each year by the SC Synod in the month of April on which to mobilize Lutherans around the state in completing projects that will serve the "least of these" around us. All love offering donations in March will go towards helping to finance the projects we undertake on that special workday. To find out more please see Pastor Jason.

**Hospitalized:** Paulette Shealy, Home; Martin Arant, Home; Becky Robinson, Home; Carolinda Getz, Home; Billy Huckabee, Agape Hospice House

**Join us for our Lenten Wednesday Service, April 1<sup>st</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. Available dates include August 23, 30, September 6, October 25, December 20, & 27.

**Easter Eggstravaganza** (aka our Easter Egg Hunt) will be Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the gym. If your child/children plan to attend, please email Mrs. Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so we can have an estimate of how many children will be coming! Toddlers-5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to hunt eggs!

**Holy Week Worship Services:**

- Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar 12:30pm, 5:30pm (Family Service) & 7 pm
- Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Tenebrae 12:30pm, 5:30pm (Family Service) & 7pm

**Mission Lexington:** Our Christmas to Easter food drive is underway with 1,275 lbs. collected. Our goal is to donate 2,000 lbs. of food between now and Easter Sunday on April 5. Our yearly donations are 1,275 lbs. toward a goal of 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 Rredd7848@gmail.com

**Jr. & Sr. High Youth:** TODAY we will have a seminar on Trafficking with Detective Sherban at 4pm in the gym. Parents are encouraged to come.

#### **Summer 2026 Dates**

- Music, Art, and Faith Camp (Susan Wilson) June 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>
- Preschool Camp (Julie Tworzyanski) June 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>
- Confirmation Camp (Pastor Jason) June 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>
- VBS (Shannon Burnett) June 28<sup>th</sup> -July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Lutheridge Day Camp (Shannon Burnett) July 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (Camp is full)

**Chat and Chew:** Join your church family on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Ocean View Seafood (1000 Knox Abbott Dr.). Hosts: Heyward and Christie Addy. It is sure to be a fun dinner filled with fellowship! Sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

**Jr. & Sr. Youth:** Join Mrs. Shannon on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the gym for some ice cream yumminess and help plan Youth Sunday. Please RSVP by April 9 if you plan to attend! We may tie dye t-shirts, but that plan isn't finalized yet!

**Prime Time:** Join us on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> as we visit Pauline's Dining Room in Orangeburg. Located in the heart of Orangeburg, SC, Pauline's Dining Room brings you authentic Southern soul food in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. From their all-you-can-eat buffets to their mouthwatering daily specials, they offer a dining experience that feels like home. The buffet is \$16.99 + beverage + tax. Please sign up on the bulletin board by April 6 so we have a head count! We will leave the church at 10:15am.

**Music: Easter Sunday** is fast approaching. Please plan on arriving for worship early for the 8:30am and 11:00am services. Category V brass will begin playing music at 8:15am and at 10:45am. **Oh, Jonah!** is coming!!! Save the date for the children's choir musical on Sunday afternoon, April 26 at 3:00pm. You'll hear from the sailors, the angels, the captain of the ship, the King of Nineveh, and of course Jonah and the whale. A reception will follow the production. **May Music Midday** is right around the corner. Join us on May 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 12:15pm for a catered lunch prepared by Chef Andy Marchant, followed by a free concert in our sanctuary. We'll start the season with soloist Tina Stallard and pianist Sharon Rattray presenting "Sacred and Sublime", featuring a variety of solo pieces for soprano. More information will be forthcoming regarding lunch reservations. **Music, Art, Faith Camp** will take place this summer June 8-12. Camp is for children going into 5K – those who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. For registration forms contact Susan@sslc.org. We are searching for adults and youth helpers so please let Susan know if you are willing and able. Camp includes singing, drumming, recreation, art, and daily visits from symphony players to introduce children to instruments. This camp is open to the community.

**St. Stephen's 101: For New Members and Prospective Members:** The Pastors and Staff at St. Stephen's will be offering a class for new members and anyone else who would like to attend. There will be three sessions. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary. The schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, April 12– History of St. Stephen's

Pastor Jason will lead this session that will focus on getting to know a little about each other and then learning some of the history of our congregation.

- Sunday, April 19– Lutheranism 101

Pastor Ralph will lead this class that will focus on introducing the basics of Lutheranism and how that is lived out at St. Stephen's

- Sunday, April 26th– Getting Plugged In

Our church staff will team together to introduce you to all the basics of being a member of St. Stephen's and all the different opportunities you will find to be "People of Christ Making a Difference" within and outside the walls of our congregation.

- We will welcome new members on April 26<sup>th</sup> at both services as the culmination of our time together.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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; Lutheran Men's Breakfast 7am

Sunday, April 19: Young Family Night

Sunday, April 26: New Member Sunday; Children's Musical Performance 3pm

Tuesday, May 5, 12, 19, 26: May Music Midday 1pm

Sunday, May 10: Graduation Recognition & Youth Sunday

Saturday, May 23: Confirmation Banquet

Friday, May 29: St. Stephen's Night at the Blowfish