

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 202 (11am) 144  
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 73

General Offering Total for 2026: \$219,628.44  
Total Expenses for 2026: \$262,489.45

**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>6:30AM: Sunrise Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 7AM: Easter Breakfast (Social Hall) <b>8:30AM: Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> <b>11:AM: Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>
Monday	Church Office Closed 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 8PM: Taylor (Gym)
Tuesday	9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 6PM: Lackore (Gym)
Wednesday	11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) <b>12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Agape Classroom)
Thursday	10:15AM: Prime Time (Pauline's) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 9:45AM: Discipleship Sunday School (Social Hall); New Member Class (Sanctuary) <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 1PM: Addy (Social Hall) 5PM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Gym)

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for April 5 – April 12, 2026**

**Congregational Council** approves causes to be featured monthly. **April - Relay for Life**  
More than just a fundraising walk, Relay for Life brings together passionate supporters who embody the American Cancer Society vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. This volunteer-led experience unites communities to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and raise funds for advocacy, research, and patient support to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. Love offering donations made in the month of April will go towards the fundraising efforts of the St. Stephen's Relay for Life team. If you would like to join the team or find out more, please see Shannon Burnett.

**Hospitalized:** Billy Huckabee, Agape Hospice House; Bette Austin, Clinton Presbyterian Community; Carolinda Getz, Home

**Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, April 8<sup>th</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.

**Congratulations** to our young members who have completed their first communion: Olivia Hill and Marlee Rate. We celebrate with them and their families as they take this next step in their faith journey.

**Our 2026 Flower Calendar is available for sign up!** Please find the calendar in the narthex. Only 3 dates are still available August 23, September 6, December 20.

**Operation Inasmuch Service Day:** On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Stephen's will participate in a day of outreach called Operation Inasmuch. We are going to reach out to folks in the congregation who need some spring-cleaning yardwork. All skill levels are needed!! Anybody with yard equipment is encouraged to bring it with them! Please contact Pastor Jason if you are interested in serving those in need in our congregation!

**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

**Lutheran Men** will meet Monday, April 20 at 6:30pm in the social hall. Marshall Hurlbert, President of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission will be our guest speaker and will speak on his vision for SCLMM this year. Please join us. We would love to have you. Point of Contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com

**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. High 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!

**Family Night** If you consider yourself a part of our Young Adult/Young Family/Living Faith groups we will have our Quarterly Family Night on Sunday, April 19 from 5-7pm. Our Jr. and Sr. High Youth and Mrs. Shannon will provide care for the children. Please RSVP to Shannon or Pastor Jason by Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>!

**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.

**Thank you** to Brant Taylor, Ivan Black, Grant Black, Judy Koon, Drew Welch, Jenny Carter, Shannon Burnett, and Tonya Reynolds for helping to complete the renovation of the church parlor. The beautiful paintings were painted by our very own Drew Welch! Stop by the parlor and look at the lovely transformation.

**Music: May Music Midday** is fast approaching. 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. **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. **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@ssl.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. **Romeo's** will meet for lunch on Tuesday, April 21. **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Tuesday, April 28. All are welcome!

**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 26<sup>th</sup>– 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:**

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