



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SSLC Night at The Blowfish

Our annual St. Stephen's Night at The Blowfish will be Friday, May 29th!

Mark your calendars now for a fun outing with the church!

Tickets are \$12 each. We will all be seated together in the Grand Stand area which is covered. Deadline for tickets is Sunday, May 17th.

Tickets may be purchased on-line by [clicking here](#).

Information about the tailgate prior to the game will be forthcoming by email closer to event to all those who purchase tickets.

2026 Relay for Life

St. Stephen's will once again participate in the local 2026 Relay for Life which will be held on Friday, May 1st.

Please consider donating a luminary (\$10 suggested donation) in honor or memory of a loved one that has battled cancer.

If you are a cancer survivor, please check the Survivor List outside the AGAPE classroom as we want to honor you with a luminary given by the church.

If you would like to be part of the SSLC Relay Team, please sign up on the clipboard outside of the AGAPE classroom. Team members are encouraged to raise/donate \$100. If you don't want to raise money but would like to participate by coming out on May 1st and hanging out with some really cool people, please also sign up on the clipboard outside the AGAPE classroom so that Shannon knows who to expect and can keep in touch with information as we get closer to the event.

May Love Offering:

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers

Since 1972, South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers (SCLRC) has been a ministry of the SC Synod. With their 501(c)(3) non-profit status, SCLRC partners with church groups, professional organizations, and many others to provide holy places for retreats, camps, and conferences. SCLRC has two sites (Camp Kinard in Batesburg-Leesville and Coastal Retreat Center in Isle of Palms) that annually serve hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals. While approximately 85% of funding comes from hosted events and synodical funding, the remainder comes from the financial support of congregations and individuals.

SSLC Preschool News

How is it already May?! We've been busy having so much fun that this year has zoomed right past us, and the month of April was no exception!

It was a month of excitement, as we enjoyed Easter celebrations and welcomed local heroes to the preschool for Community Helper Day! The 3s' classes welcomed around 75 family members for a fashionable ABC Parade and Donuts with Grownups Event. During Spring Break, we had 80+ friends (preschoolers and their families and friends) enjoy a morning at Clinton Sease Farm together. We picked strawberries, enjoyed a hayride, visited the farm animals, and had a blast on the playgrounds! We finished the month celebrating the beautiful world God has given us and learned the importance of taking care of it! We got up close and personal with creepy crawlies and cared for ladybugs, ants, and caterpillars. We are anxiously awaiting the emergence of our butterflies. The life cycle of the butterfly, beginning as a tiny caterpillar needing nurturing, parallels the growth that we have witnessed with our preschoolers, and our 4K friends will soon be ready to "fly" off to Kindergarten!

Our final month of this preschool year will be a time to celebrate families, reflect on all that we have learned this year, and get excited about the summer fun ahead! Everyone will end the year with a splash on our Water Days, and then a very special group of 4-year-olds will be honored with a graduation ceremony in the gym on May 14th!



Our church staff will provide a year-end lunch to thank the preschool team for the love and energy poured into our preschoolers this year. This team of ladies makes our preschool an amazing place to learn and grow, and we can't thank them enough!

May's Spotlight Fruit of the Spirit: GOODNESS

Bible Verse of the Month: "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

Thank you, church family, for your love and support this school year!



Chat and Chew for May:

Date: Thursday, May 21st

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Clara & Ray's

Host: Shirley Ebert

Please consider joining your church family for a fun dinner filled with fellowship!

Sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

Summer 2026 Dates:

Music, Art, and Faith Camp (Susan Wilson)
June 8th-12th

Preschool Camp (Julie Tworzyanski)
June 15th-19th

Confirmation Camp (Pastor Jason)
June 21st - 26th

VBS (Shannon Burnett)
June 28th-July 1st

Lutheridge Day Camp (Shannon Burnett)
July 6th-10th

**Day Camp is full but we can add you to a wait list!

Notes from Aloft

Oh, Jonah! was a hit...



Well, the tale of the whale was a whale of a tale and our children made us all proud! Thank you to everyone for your support!! We appreciate our families and our children who told us so well the story of the prophet of Jonah.

Congrats to our cast: Cole Cegelis, Parker Rate, Evan Douglas, Peyton Antley, Elizabeth Lunsford, Caroline Hooker, Ann-Reece Lever, Carsyn Antley, Presley Sherman, Marlee Rate, Olivia Hill, Miriam and Madalyn Stoudemire, Faye Paradise, Asher and Ethan Kean, Luke Crapps, Landon Cegelis, Bryce Sherman, James Egan, Josh Call, Sam and Eli Maxheimer, Lincoln Rate, Grayson Herring, Harrison Paradise, Charlotte Kean, Charlotte Martin, Samantha Hooker, Lacey Brock, Charlie Browder, Thomas Gillis, Addie Grace Herring, Hampton Cook, Amelia Harper, Lib Call, Benna and Coraline Johnson, Ella and Banks Cleary, and Tripp and Piper Valadez.



Save the Date for Music, Art, Faith Camp
June 8-12, 2026

It's time to register!! It will be here before you know it! Camp is a great week of making crafts, singing, ringing choir chimes, drumming, and recreation. It's also a time to meet symphony players and learn about instruments. Camp is open to church members and the community and is for children going into Pre-K – Rising 6th graders. Contact susan@sslc.org for more information and registration forms.

May Music Midday returns on Tuesdays in May! We are thrilled to announce that Andy Marchant will be preparing our lunches before each of the concerts. Lunch reservations are \$15.00 per person. Our series begins on May 5 and we'll welcome soloist Tina Stallard, accompanied by pianist Sharon Rattray. This is a great way to hear some wonderful music and to meet some of our community friends who attend our concerts. May 12 we welcome harpist John Wickey. May 19 Kenon Renfow from Bob Jones University will present a piano concert. Our season ends on May 26 with Category V Brass and Matthew Jones, percussionist. To make lunch reservations contact susan@sslc.org



Sr. High Youth Events:

May 1st - Come out to LHS for **Relay for Life!** Bring money for dinner as we will support other organizations that are raising money. St. Stephen's will have a spot so find Mrs. Shannon and say "Hi!"

May 8th - We will have a run through for Youth Sunday beginning at 6 PM. If you have a speaking part, please plan to attend! Sr. High Youth will have a lock-in after our practice. We will go to The Big Mo, enjoy a movie or 2, stop at Waffle House on our way back in to Lexington, and come back to the church.

May 10th - Youth Sunday

Please plan to stay during the Sunday School hour to have breakfast!

May 24th - Mission Trip Meeting

If you are going to Lake Traverse Reservation this summer, this is a mandatory meeting you can't miss! We will go over final logistics for the trip!



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.

Dawn Corley (charlestonsilverlady6@gmail.com)

Circle of Love, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm in the church social hall.

Suzanne Robinson (robinsons1@yahoo.com)

Circle 9, 1st Wednesday, 10:45 am in the church parlor.

Drew Welch (DrewRoyWelch@gmail.com)



MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Christmas to Easter food drive is underway with 1,395 lbs. of food toward a goal of 2,000 lbs. of food between now and Easter Sunday on April 05. Our yearly donations are 1,395 lbs. toward a goal of 8,000 lbs.

Please note: NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE!

Mission Lexington needs the following items:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Canned Fruit | Beef Stew | Canned Chicken | Peanut Butter & Jelly | | |
| Mac & Cheese | Chili | Pork & beans | Canned Vegetables | | |
| Canned Soups | Rice | Coffee | Grits | Sugar | Flour |
| Applesauce | Oatmeal | Breakfast Cereals | Pasta | Cornmeal mix | |
| Dog Food (Dry & Wet) | Cat food (Dry and Wet) | Laundry Detergent | | | |

Please place your food donations in the red food barrels next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrels in front of the Agape Sunday School Class.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's. In the remarks section write for Food purchase Mission Lexington

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.

Thank you again for your support. Point of contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Flowers for May

May 3rd: Christie and Heyward Addy
May 10th: Marie Juhl
May 17th: Steve and Mickey Owens
May 24th: Don Chappell
May 31st: Lance and Lenna Young

Recyclers for May

May 3rd: The Head Family
May 10th: The Taylor Family
May 17th: Gary and Julie Angus
May 24th: Sarah and G Kolb
May 31st: Sarah and G Kolb

Ushers for May 3rd and 17th

8:30 - Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, Chad Geary
11:00 - Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin, Heyward Addy

Ushers for May 24th and 31st

8:30 - Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, Rick Logging
11:00 - Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Roy Windham, George Mathias



May 2026 Lay Readers



| | <u>8:30 AM</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u> |
|--------|------------------|-----------------|
| May 3 | Mike Brittingham | Ronnie Head |
| May 10 | Youth Sunday | Youth Sunday |
| May 17 | Jamie Early | Ray Smith |
| May 24 | Janice Buff | Gay Clark |
| May 31 | Van Skipper | Becky Sons |

May 2026 Greeters



| | <u>8:30 AM</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u> |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| May 3 | Brant and Jennifer Taylor | Marilyn Fattman |
| May 10 | Youth Sunday | Youth Sunday |
| May 17 | Ginger Macaulay | Brittany Herring |
| May 24 | Bill and Jerrie Galardi | Myra Strock |
| May 31 | Julie & Adam Tworzyanski | Rick & Suzanne Swaffield |

May 2026 Communion Assistants

| | <u>8:30 AM</u> | <u>11:00 AM</u> |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| May 3 | Ryan McCall and Paul Austin | Myra Strock and Ed Smith |
| May 10 | Youth Sunday | Youth Sunday |
| May 17 | Sandy Shealy | Peggy Sherman |
| May 24 | Bobby Martin | Cathy Mathias |
| May 31 | Ryan Johnson | Jamie Early |



Tuesday Bible Study @ 9:05am:

On Tuesdays in May, join Pastor Ralph and others for an hour of “Table Talk” as we gather around the table to read and interpret together the Scripture from the previous Sunday. We’ll engage in a faith conversation stirred up by the previous Sunday’s lessons laced with some in depth commentary.

Bring your bible – or a Sunday bulletin - and a friend. Coffee will be served.



This is Us

This group will plan to meet May 28th at 6:00 PM. We will meet at Matt and Celeste Schnabel's house. More details will be emailed out! Please let Shannon know if you plan to attend!

THANK YOU SO MUCH, church family! I am blown away by your generosity, words of encouragement, and outpouring of love! Your contributions will enable me to cover the costs of my 2-month mission to Bolivia this summer! I am also excited to be able to further contribute, on behalf of St. Stephen's, to the needs of the boys at the Bolivia Life Center by supplying them with toiletries, vitamins, and first aid supplies. I am so incredibly grateful for each of your gifts and cannot wait to serve God's children in Bolivia. I look forward to sharing so many stories of His faithfulness with all of you when I return! Thank you for supporting me in this journey and helping me see it through!

Sincerely, Carlee Tworzyanski

Crossroads –

Have you ever had meaningful conversation with friends over a delicious meal? The Crossroads group does each month! We are comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime-Time adults. Our next gathering on May 7 (Thursday) @ 6:30 pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main). Join us for a conversation starter, connection over a great meal (Dutch treat), and a devotion. We will take a break in June and July. Contact Pastor Ralph for details.



Lutheran Men:

will meet Monday, May 18 at 6:30 in the social hall.

Mr. Mike Burgess will be our guest speaker. His topic will be "A Strong and Active Faith: The American Revolution at 250."

Please join us. We would love to have you.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com



Saints and Sinners Sunday School –

It has been a year of watching *The Chosen* series. We have had great discussion regarding the bible and faith. As a reflection of our time together – and according to Google – the top five take aways are: 1-Jesus is relatable and personal, 2-Grace meets you in the 'mess,' 3-The importance of community, 4- Humanizing biblical characters, and 5-Following involves active trust. Come share your thoughts as we view more episodes of Season Five together! All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Live
Adult Study Class -

Our final WNL class will be held May 6. We have had an engaging time talking about Iran and its people and government, our SC Synod as it recently produced its ministry site profile (MSP) in getting ready for the June 2026 Bishop election, and a viewing & discussion of the short award-winning film "The Butterfly Circus." We will conclude our year on May 6 with a session on Spirituality and Spiritual practices.

To the SSLC Congregation -
Thank You!!

I want to thank each of you for the prayers, cards, phone calls, texts and your love and support you gave me during my recent back surgery and through the recovery process which continues. God Bless You all.

Ron Redd

Online Pictorial Directory

Did you know we have one?
Do you know how to
access it?

If you answered no to
either of these questions,
reach out to Shannon
and she will help!

If you are already using the directory and want to
update
your picture, Shannon can help with that as well!

PRIME TIME PLANS:

Thursday, May 7th - Picnic at SSLC at 11:45 AM –
Sign up and bring a side to share; fried chicken will
be provided
(Please note a change in the date.
Preschool Graduation will be the 14th so we are moving
our luncheon up one week)

Thursday, May 21st - Spirit of Lake Murray cruise -
Tickets available now! You can purchase them
online or Shannon will get them for you
after you pay.

Join us for a 2-hour scenic history cruise from
12 PM to 2PM (boarding begins at 11 AM)!
We will leave the church at 10:30 AM

What You'll Discover:

The story of Bomb Island and the famous
Purple Martins;
The legend of The Spirit of Lake Murray;
Hidden history and landmarks around Lake Murray

Lunch is included!

Enjoy delicious bites and refreshing drinks from
Spirits Bar & Grill while you cruise!

Tickets: \$50 per person



**If you are a new member at St. Stephen's we
would love to have you join your church staff for
lunch on Sunday, May 31 at 12:15pm in the social
hall. This is for anyone that has joined SSLC in the
last year. It will be a time for us to answer any
questions you may have and just get to know you
and your family a little better. Please let
Tonya@sslc.org know if you are able to attend by
May 27.**

Order of St. Stephen's

| | 8:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
|----------------------|---|--|
| May 3rd | A - Shannon Burnett C - Luke Wenzel BB - Jaime Wessinger | A - Henry Jebaily C - Craig Lunsford BB - Elizabeth Kolb |
| May 10th | Youth Sunday | Youth Sunday |
| May 17th | A - Caroline Hooker C - Katy Hooker | A - Ben Brunson C - Thomas Brunson |
| May 24th | A - Ethan Kean C - Shannon Burnett BB - Help Needed TB - Help Needed TB - Help Needed | A - Ethan Kean C - Jackson Rawl BB - Help Needed TB - Help Needed TB - Help Needed |
| May 31 st | A - Jaime Wessinger C - Weston Hill | A - Merritt Jones C - Catherine Sadler |

SSLC J-Crew

Potluck and a Movie –
Sunday, May 17th
You are invited to the church on
Sunday afternoon, May 17th at
5pm to be a part of a potluck meal
and movie Cinco de Mayo style!
“The Book of Life” will be playing
in the gym for this group to watch
while the adults eat and
fellowship. RSVP to Pastor Jason
by Wednesday, May 13th. Hope to
see YOU there!

SSLC Living Faith Group

This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a “young adult”. The definition of “young adult” is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us!

Potluck and a Movie – Sunday, May 17th

You are invited to the church on Sunday afternoon, May 17th at 5pm to be a part of a potluck meal and movie Cinco de Mayo style! Bring your favorite Mexican dish or dessert to share. “The Book of Life” will be playing in the gym for the kiddos while the adults eat and fellowship. RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, May 13th. Hope to see YOU there!

Other Events to Put on Your Calendar:

Friday, May 29th – SSLC Night at the Blowfish

Jr. High Youth

May 1st - Come out to LHS for Relay for Life! Bring money for dinner as we will support other organizations that are raising money. St. Stephen's will have a spot so find Mrs. Shannon and say "Hi!"

May 8th - We will have a run through for Youth Sunday beginning at 6 PM. If you have a speaking part, please plan to attend!

May 10th - Youth Sunday



May 31st - Let's play paint ball! We will plan to go to Lexington Paintball and have some fun! Mrs. Shannon needs a headcount by May 20th so we can reserve our spots! Cost is \$20.



WE! Lunch

A light lunch is offered in the Social Hall at 11:45 AM on Wednesdays.

The cost of the lunch is \$5. Come enjoy lunch and then worship with us at our 12:30 Eucharist Service.

Operation Inasmuch Service Day Sunday, May 3rd

On Sunday, May 3rd, 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 are in need of 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!



High school and college graduations are right around the corner! Please let Mrs. Shannon (Shannon@ssl.org) know if you have a graduate and what their future plans are. They will be recognized May 10th!

Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2026

Neil Brown (803) 238-6998
Matt Martin (803) 231-3047
Betsy McCall (803) 730-0570
Sarah Kolb (803) 931-2022
Stephen Lunsford (843) 343-5161

Class of 2027

Lucy Austin (803) 917-5757
Kerri Brittingham (803) 318-4599
Bill Galardi (803) 530-8418
Roy Windham (803) 507-7951
Lance Young (864) 557-0182

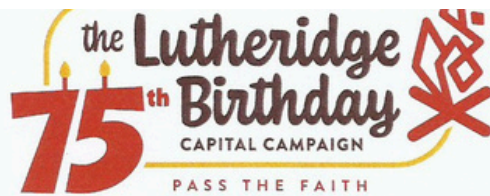
Class of 2028

Gail Felton (803) 312-2960
Christy Hooker (803) 429-3287
Nick Kean (843) 819-9558
Bobby Martin (803) 873-8404
Richard Shealy (608-3492

Youth Representatives:

Sophie Taylor, Margaret McCurdy

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155



March 5, 2026

The Rev. Jason Antley
St. Steven's Evangelical Lutheran Church
119 N Church St
Lexington, SC 29072-2807

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift of \$5,000.00 received on March 4, 2026 for the **Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign**. We are so grateful that you are helping us *light a candle* in celebration of 75 years of ministry and *pass the faith* to new generations of God's people.

Through this campaign we are seeing inspiring generosity from so many people who love camp. To date we have received over \$3,000,000 in gifts and commitments! This outpouring of support means that we are making significant progress on updates to our camp facilities. We know you will be excited to hear about the renewal and renovations that are taking place. You can visit Lutheridge.org for all the latest news.

For 75 years, Lutheridge has been a place where faith grows, leaders are formed, and people of all ages experience the blessings of Christian community. We are excited to see how this campaign will continue, and enhance, this work of the Lord.

Thank you again for being a part of the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign. Together, we are moving camp ministry at Lutheridge into a new era. Your gifts are making great things happen!

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lauri SoJourney'.

Lauri SoJourney
CEO

P.S. You can send gifts for the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign by mail to Lutheridge, PO Box 830, Arden, NC 28704. You can also give a one-time gift or set up recurring payments by clicking the Donate button at Lutheridge.org/Campaign. Please call (828) 209-6317 for further assistance.

*Please keep this acknowledgement letter as record of your gift
Year-end statements are available by request. NovusWay Ministries acknowledges that
you have not received any tangible goods or services in exchange for this contribution.*

LUTHERIDGE
PO Box 830
Arden, NC 28704
828.684.2361
www.lutheridge.org
www.novusway.org

Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562

Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@sslc.org

Pastor

Ralph G. Hill Ralph@sslc.org

Director of Family Life Ministries

Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Julie Tworzyanski preschool@sslc.org
359-4369

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Matt Martin
Vice President - Stephen Lunsford
Secretary - Sarah Kolb
Treasurer - Mary Keisler

Mission Statement:

Gathering all generations to nurture
Christ-like discipleship

Our Vision:

To be a place of hope



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
119 North Church Street
Lexington, SC 29072

"Return Service Requested"

=====

For our guests our Ministries includes. . .

Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): A time for fellowship over dinner and then faith development through Confirmation and Adult Bible Study; Jr. High Youth (5:45-6:30 PM); Musical groups for children - Cherubs (5:00-5:25 pm), Carol Choir (5:25-5:55); Treble Choir (5:25-6:10 pm) and Choir Chimes (6:10-6:40 pm); Wings of Worship Liturgical Dance (6:45 -7:30 pm)

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grades): meet regularly for planned activities

J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly for planned activities

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:30PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker

WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.

Preschool: An extension of the ministry for our church & the community for children 15 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon Early bird drop-off available

Prime Time: Adults 60 and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips. A monthly luncheon is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Crossroads: Comprised of adults between "This is Us" and "Prime Time" that get together for fellowship on the first Thursday of the month and for service projects throughout the year

This is Us: This group has children in high school and college and gets together the last Thursday of the month for fellowship and food.

Living Faith: This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. High Youth and our This is Us group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. Activities alternate between adult only and family friendly.

Young Adults: This group is for young adults (college age and up) and newly married couples just starting out that will gather together to build community and offer opportunities for fellowship.

Ladies Who Lunch: Meets monthly for lunch

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol' Men Eating Out): Meets monthly for lunch