

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 163 (11am) 125
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 52

General Offering Total for 2026: \$329,209.12
Total Expenses for 2026: \$353,348.68

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; New Member Class (Sanctuary) 11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Operation Inasmuch (Social Hall)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	7:30AM: Sr. High Breakfast (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 12:15PM: May Music Midday Lunch (Social Hall) 1PM: May Music Midday (Sanctuary) 6PM: Lackore (Gym)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5PM: Dinner (Social Hall); Cherub Choir (Choir Room) 5:25PM: Carol & Treble Choirs (Choir Room) 5:30PM: Jr. High Youth (Jr. High Room) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom); Confirmation Class (Saints and Sinners Classroom) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Prime Time Lunch (Social Hall) 6PM: Lackore (Gym) 6:30PM: Crossroads (Mediterranean Café) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	8AM: Preschool 6PM: Sr. High Lock-in (Gym)
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 May 3 – May 10, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **May - 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.

Hospitalized: Pat Caughman, Home; Paulette Shealy, Home

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, May 6th 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 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

Graduation Recognition Sunday: High school and college graduations are right around the corner! Please let Mrs. Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) know if you have a graduate and what their future plans are so we can honor them next Sunday, May 10th!

Please contact the Church Office (tonya@sslc.org) if you have recently sent the church a donation from LPL Financial. Please make sure to notify the church if you are sending a donation from a 3rd party. We don't receive any donor information. Thank you so much!

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 380 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 1,825 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, May 18 at 6:30pm 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

Sr. High Youth: On Saturday, May 8 we will have a run-through for Youth Sunday beginning at 6pm. 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 to Lexington, and come back to the church

Prime Time: On Thursday, May 7 we will have a picnic at SSLC at 11:45am in the social hall. 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) Join us for the Spirit of Lake Murray scenic history cruise on Thursday, May 21 from 12-2pm. Tickets are available now! You can purchase them online or Shannon will get them for you after you pay. Tickets cost \$50/person and lunch is included.

Crossroads: Join us Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm for our next gathering at the Mediterranean Cafe (327 W. Main). We are a group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults. Join us for a conversation starter, connection over a great meal (Dutch treat), and a devotion. Contact Pastor Ralph for details.

Living Faith and J-Crew: You are invited to the church on Sunday afternoon, May 17 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 13. Hope to see you there!

Our annual St. Stephen's Night at The Blowfish will be Friday, May 29th! Tickets are \$12 each. We will all be seated together in the grandstand area which is covered. Information about the tailgate prior to the game will be forthcoming by email closer to event to all those who purchase tickets. May 17th is the last day to purchase tickets. If you have any questions reach out to Pastor Jason (Jason@sslc.org).

Music: May Music Midday begins this Tuesday. 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. Lunch is \$15.00 per person, and reservations may be made by contacting Susan@sslc.org. Cash or checks are accepted. Credit cards will not be accepted. **Ladies Who Lunch** and **Romeo** lunches will be rescheduled for later this month. Thanks to everyone who attended "Oh, Jonah" and for the children who participated in presenting such a wonderful musical. Our last **children's choir** rehearsal of the season will take place this Wednesday, May 6. **Handbell choir** rehearsals have concluded for the season and will resume in the fall.

Operation Inasmuch Service Day: TODAY 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!

St. Stephen's Thespians: Many of you have asked why there were no performances of The Living Last Supper this Easter. There were several reasons. After three consecutive years, attendance was down. Several actors had asked to take a year off, and a few others were experiencing health issues. The decision was made to take 2026 off to regroup. The good news is that most actors are ready to start again in 2027. A few performers have retired due to health issues, thus creating opportunities for other members of the congregation to showcase their acting talents. We will be seeking six actors; three to replace Disciples and three for supporting roles. While we cannot promise that Hollywood scouts will be in attendance, you might want to hire an agent, just in case. Plans are to increase publicity, which may necessitate a third performance during Holy Week. Easter is early next year, so practice will begin in January. We usually practice twice a week for about 1 ½ hours. Please consider joining our group. Contact any member of St. Stephen's Thespians for more information. Jim Nantz 803-315-9003.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 23: Confirmation Banquet
Friday, May 29: St. Stephen's Night at the Blowfish
June 8-12: Music Camp
June 15-18: Preschool Camp
June 28-July 1: Vacation Bible School
July 6-10: Lutheridge Day Camp
August 2: Blessing of the School Year