

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30am) 178 (11am) 173  
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 48

General Offering Total for 2026: \$397,461.81  
Total Expenses for 2026: \$380,707.94

**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>11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b> 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Social Hall) 5PM: Living Faith/J-Crew (Gym)
Monday	12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 12:15PM: May Music Midday Lunch (Social Hall) 1PM: May Music Midday (Sanctuary) 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/Parlor)
Thursday	10:30PM: Prime Time (Spirit of Lake Murray) 5:30PM: Chat-N-Chew (Clara & Ray's) 6PM: Lackore (Gym) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	6PM: Confirmation Banquet (Gym)
Sunday	<b>8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)</b> 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages <b>11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for May 17 – May 24, 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:** Edward Bernard, Home

**Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, May 20<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.

**VBS 2026 is right around the corner!** We look forward to an amazing week at Rainforest Falls where we will explore the nature of God! Join us June 28-July 1<sup>st</sup>!! We will have dinner at 5:30pm in the social hall and VBS activities will begin at 6pm in the gym. We need station leaders, group leaders, and participants so register now! Registration forms are on the table outside of the narthex (near the Agape classroom) and online. Visit [sslc.org](http://sslc.org) to complete the online form. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Mrs. Shannon know!

**New Members Luncheon:** 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](mailto:Tonya@sslc.org) know if you are able to attend by May 27.

**Please contact the Church Office** ([tonya@sslc.org](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> party. We don't receive any donor information. Thank you so much!

**Mission Lexington:** Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 845 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 2,420 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

**Chat and Chew:** Join your church family on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm at Clara & Ray's. Host: Shirley Ebert. It is sure to be a fun night filled with fellowship! Sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

**Prime Time:** 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.

**Living Faith and J-Crew:** You are invited to the church **TODAY** 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. Hope to see you there!

**Our annual St. Stephen's Night at The Blowfish** will be Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>! 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. **TODAY** is the last day to purchase tickets. If you have any questions reach out to Pastor Jason (Jason@sslc.org).

**Music: May Music Midday** continues this Tuesday, May 19 with harpist John Wickey. John is the principal harpist with the SC Philharmonic, and his music will be gorgeous. The concert begins at 1:00pm following the 12:15pm lunch, prepared by Chef Andy Marchant. This Tuesday's menu will be Chilled Avocado Soup, Garden Salad, Chicken Fajitas over Spanish Rice with sour cream, salsa, and fresh cilantro, fresh fruit, and an Ice Cream Sundae bar. For lunch reservations contact Susan@sslc.org. **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 still have a few spaces available. **Romeo's** will meet for lunch on Thursday, June 4. Please plan on coming so we can plan our summer gathering. The **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Tuesday, June 16.

**This is Us** will get together on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Matt and Celeste Schnabel's house. More details will be emailed out! Please let Shannon know if you plan to attend!

**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:**

May 29: St. Stephen's Night at the Blowfish  
May 31: New Member Luncheon  
June 8-12: Music Camp  
June 15-18: Preschool Camp  
June 17: Blood Drive  
June 28-July 1: Vacation Bible School  
July 6-10: Lutheridge Day Camp  
August 2: Blessing of the School Year  
August 19: First Day of Preschool