

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for June 21 - 28, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **June- Novus Way (Lutheridge/Lutherock)** People of all ages need time away to build relationships, to connect with peers and co-workers, to rest and find refreshment for life, to re-connect with nature and God's creation, and to be equipped as a leader. NovusWay (a partnership of Lutheran Camps including Lutheridge and Lutherock in NC and Luther Springs in FL) campuses are places where you can attend programs or plan your own retreat where you will find staffers that are highly trained in team building, group process, and faith formation. Love offering donations in the month of June will go to support these camps and also help fund camp scholarships for underprivileged kids.

Hospitalized: Beth Lever, Lexington Regional Rehabilitation Hospital; Stephanie Davis, Palmetto Richland

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, June 24th 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 starts next Sunday, June 28! We look forward to an amazing week at Rainforest Falls where we will explore the nature of God! Join us June 28-July 1st! We will have dinner at 5:30pm in the social hall and VBS activities will begin at 6pm in the gym. Registration forms are on the table outside of the narthex (near the Agape classroom) and online at sslc.org.

Is your child interested in painting? We have an incredible opportunity for them on July 27th and 29th from 1-3pm. Come paint an impressionist summertime hydrangea or sunflower with Dawn Corley. Your painting will be done with acrylic paint so please wear old clothing or something you don't mind getting paint on-the paint will not come out of fabric. We will be painting over two days, starting on day 1 and completing the painting on day 2. Materials will be provided. You will learn how to appreciate the natural details that will give your paintings your own special touch. You will want to come in prepared to learn how to produce a painting you are proud of. There is space for 3 children (ages 8 and up) so please RSVP to Shannon if you are interested!!

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 1,170 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 2,745 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

Music: Romeo's will meet for lunch on Thursday, June 25 at Bellis House of Pizza. Please let Susan know if you plan on attending by email at susan@sslc.org. If you are considering piano lessons for you or your child contact Susan Wilson. There are a few spots open for the fall if interested. Lessons take place once a week at the church.

The Church Library is sponsoring its annual Summer Reading Program from June 28 to August 2 with the theme Old Testament Stories. It is open to ages 18 months through the 6th grade. Parents may read books to young nonreaders. Prizes will be awarded on August 9 to each child completing the program by reading 10 non-chapter books, five chapter books, or a combination. The library is located on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building down from the balcony. Hours are 9:30am-11:00am each Sunday and before and during Vacation Bible School, June 28-July 1. Check out the wide variety of children's books in the library and make reading a part of your summer fun!

Important Parking Lot Update: St. Stephen's Family, whether you are a relative newcomer to Lexington or have been here forever, you likely have seen the tremendous growth that our downtown and Main Street corridor have undergone. More people than ever are visiting downtown for the variety of restaurants, shopping and events that Lexington has to offer. As a church that is situated right in the middle of this activity, our parking lots are being used more frequently by individuals in community who are not affiliated with SSLC.

Our Church Council, Finance and Property Committees have been studying SSLC parking lot usage by non-church members and have an important announcement to share. Our Church Council has voted to make our large parking lot, bounded by Butler St. and Meetze Ave., a paid parking lot available to the public. To be clear, paid parking does NOT apply to SSLC members or other individuals visiting the church. Rest assured that you will continue to park in our church lots as you always have: freely! The intent of this decision is to generate a passive income stream with the goal of defraying the rising costs of property maintenance, especially parking lot paving and resurfacing.

We have installed signage in the large parking lot that directs vehicles not affiliated with SSLC to pay for parking using the ParkMobile app on their phone. (The small lot on Church Street will remain private for the time being.) ParkMobile is commonly used by municipalities and private businesses to manage parking and allows users to conveniently pay for parking using their license plate number. We rate will initially be ~\$5/day for non-SSLC vehicles but you do not need to worry about the app or the price as you will continue to park for free.

We are committed to being good neighbors in our community, and we believe that opening our main parking lot for broader use will be welcomed in a downtown with limited public parking. In the meantime, feel free to contact Council President Matt Martin (803-240-5938) or Parish Administrator Tonya Reynolds (803-359-6562) with any questions.

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 105 (11am) 116
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 56

General Offering Total for 2026: \$494,649.04
Total Expenses for 2026: \$500,046.27

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 adults 11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Office Conference Room)
Monday	12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 4PM: Citadel Club (Social Hall)
Tuesday	9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall)
Wednesday	11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	12:30PM: Romeo's (Bellis House of Pizza)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for adults 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 5:30PM: VBS Dinner (Social Hall) 6PM: VBS Starts (Gym)

Upcoming Events:

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
September 9: WNL Starts
September 20: Hymn Sing
September 27: First Communion Class; Blessing of the Animals