



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission trip to Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota was an incredible experience and we can't wait to tell you all about it! Please join us for a spaghetti luncheon on Sunday, July 26th at 12:30 PM.

If you plan to attend, please let Shannon know so we can have a headcount. There will be no charge for lunch but we will take up a love offering that will be divided up and sent back to the 3 non-profits we learned about while in Sisseton. You really don't want to miss this presentation!!



Sunday School Update:

After taking the summer off, our children's Sunday School classes will resume in September. Shannon will need teachers!

PLEASE let her know if you are willing to teach.

Our goal is to have enough teachers to rotate so no one has to teach more than 1 Sunday a month. Curriculum is easy to follow and not much prep is needed.



Our 2nd Sunday Discipleship class (beginning Sept. 13th) will continue to meet in the Social Hall. Our focus this year will be Fruits of the Spirit. This class is intended to be for all ages, although little ones are welcome to go to the nursery and play with Mrs. Ree! Come join in the intergenerational fellowship, learning, and snacking!



July Love Offering: Lutheran Services Carolinas

With the help of thousands of volunteers, donors, and faith partners, LSC helps veterans and others transition from homelessness to dignity; protects children at risk of abuse and neglect with foster care; improves the lives of those battling severe and persistent mental illness through innovative programs; encourages growth and independence for those with developmental disabilities; places children in loving adoptive homes; provides warmth and welcome to refugees seeking sanctuary; and enables many men and women with varying life challenges or disabilities to live proudly and independently with residential or supportive services.

Please consider supporting this worthy organization and its cause with your love offering donations during the month of July.

Chat and Chew for July:

Date: Thursday, July 16th

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Old Mill

Hostess:
Marilyn Fattman

It's always a fun evening filled with fellowship! Sign up today!



SSLC Preschool News

We blasted off into space at Preschool Summer Camp and Fun Friday in June! Centered on Isaiah 40:26, "Lift up your eyes to the heavens; Who created all these?..." camp took the preschoolers on intergalactic adventures all week!

Preschoolers pretended to be astronauts exploring space and walking on the moon, manned mission control, enjoyed stargazing, dug in moon sand, created crafts, sang, danced, and even more! It was a blast, and it was so much fun having the preschool halls full of smiles and laughter. Many thanks to our teachers, helpers, and volunteers for helping make it all happen! We are looking forward to another Fun Friday this month!

Behind the scenes all summer, there's lots of magic happening in preparation for the new school year! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Preschool Advisory Board members for volunteering their time this past school year to attend monthly meetings. These members offer support to the preschool and help in decision-making for the good of our program. Sending a heartfelt "thank you" to Pastor Jason Antley, Tonya Reynolds, Emily Kean, Cathy Mathias, Kelley Mintz, Cortney Broadwell, Meghan Cegelis, and Holly Branham for your commitment to St. Stephen's Preschool and serving on our board! We appreciate you!!



Notes from Aloft

Summer Worship Music

July 5	Austin Means, soloist
July 12	Katy Hooker and Audrey Lewis, soloists Melissa Rawl, cantor
July 19	Austin Means, soloist/cantor Jack Jebaily, trumpeter
July 26	Stephen Lunsford and Madison LaFontan, soloists



Fall Choir Schedule – all choirs will resume in September

Monday	6:30 p.m.	Adult Handbell Choir
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Cherub Choir – 2 – 4 years old
	5:30 p.m.	Carol and Treble Choirs – K – 5 th grade
	6:10 p.m.	Choir Chime Ensemble – 1 st -5 th grade
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir – youth and adults

Piano lessons, anyone? If you are an adult learner or a child and would like to take piano lessons, please contact Susan@sslc.org. It's never too late to take lessons and there are a few spots open in the fall schedule for new students. Lessons take place once a week at the church. Let Susan know if you are interested.

Ladies Who Lunch will meet on Thursday, July 23 at 12:30 p.m. at Zorba's Greek Restaurant.
Romeo's will meet on Tuesday, July 28 at 12:30 p.m. at Carolina Buffet.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM—

Ages 18 months through the 6th grade are invited to participate in the Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Church Library through August 2. The theme is Old Testament Stories. Parents may read books to young non-readers. 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 Choir. Hours are 9:30-11:00 each Sunday. Check out all the books in the library, and rest, relax, and READ this summer!!

ADULTS—We have books for your summer reading too! Bible reference, commentaries, devotions, books on family living, and fiction are just some of the types of materials. Come up and explore what we have!



Committee of 100:

How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? It could be really simple – by becoming a part of the Committee of 100 which is composed of members who contribute \$100.00 in a given year to help support newly organized mission churches in the SC Synod as they struggle to become self-supporting. St. Stephen's has led the way in this program since 1980 – having 75 members in 2025. All contributions are welcome. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. \$18,267.00 was distributed to mission churches in 2025. Please make your check to: Committee of 100 – place it in the offering plate or give it to Ron Redd and he will handle the details. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Event:
Thursday, July 16th



Let's head to Carowinds for a fun day of rides and time at the water park! We will plan to leave the church at 8 AM. Eat breakfast before you arrive. We should be at the gates when they open (10 AM) and then the water park opens at 11 AM.

Mrs. Shannon will rent a cabana so you can leave your things with her at Carolina Harbor.

Cost is \$55 (if we have at least 15 go) and covers admission and a drink wrist band.

Food cost is not covered. Please RSVP by Sunday, July 12th! Carowinds is cashless so you will need a card to purchase food.

ORDER OF ST. STEPHEN'S

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>11:00 am</u>
July 5th	A: Caroline Hooker C: Jackson Rawl BB:	A: Ethan Kean C: Madelyn Burgess BB:
July 12th	A: Gracen Geary C: Connor Geary	A: C: Aaron Cegelis
July 19th	A: C: Luke Wenzel	A: Ethan Kean C:
July 26th	A: C: Connor Fink	A: Eli Maxheimer C: Madelyn Burgess

If you find that your family is in town and your child is willing to help one Sunday morning, please reach out to Mrs. Shannon or use the Sign Up Genius link!

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 Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 1455 lbs. of food toward a goal of 2,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday. Our yearly donations are 3030 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
Applesauce	Oatmeal	Breakfast Cereals	Pasta
Dog Food (Dry & Wet)		Cat food (Dry and Wet)	Laundry Detergent
			Sugar
			Flour
			Cornmeal mix

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 July

July 5th: Tom and Brenda Janson
July 12th: Georgianna and Don Dukes
July 19th: Paul and Gale Harman
July 26th: Lacy and Chad Geary

Recyclers for July

July 5th: The Head Family
July 12th: The Taylor Family
July 19th: Gary and Julie Angus
July 26th: Sarah and G Kolb

Ushers for July 5th and 19th

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 July 12th and 26th

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



LOVE & SERVE

July 2026 Lay Readers

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
July 5	Shannon Burnett	Bill Cegelis
July 12	Julie Gies	Ray Smith
July 19	Jane Kennedy	Jamie Early
July 26	Niane Szalwinski	Jessica Maxheimer



July 2026 Greeters



	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
July 5	Amy Shell	Marilyn Fattman
July 12	Jennifer and Brant Taylor	Bonnie Long
July 19	Jim and Marty Nantz	
July 26	Neil Brown	Mary Sesler

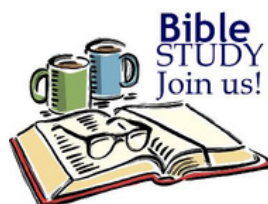
July 2026 Communion Assistants

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
July 5	Bobby Martin and Marty Nantz	Myra Strock and HELP NEEDED
July 12	Ann Clark	Peggy Sherman
July 19	Sandy Shealy	Jamie Early
July 26	Neil Brown	Bill Cegelis



Tuesday Bible Study @ 9:05 am continues over the summer. It is a meaningful way to connect with each other and with Scripture from the previous Sunday.

Led by Pastor Ralph (group led on July 7), each person gives input and contributes to the conversation. A sheet with the lessons will be provided or you can bring your bulletin from Sunday. All are welcome! Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want ... he restores my soul."



This is Us

We hope everyone enjoys the summer and we will get back together in August!!

My family and I are overwhelmed with the outpouring of prayers and love from our St. Stephen's family, not just since Harry's passing, but for quite some time. Special thanks to our remarkable staff, Benjie Rhoad, Lunch Belles Circle, St. Stephen's Thespians, and to everyone who has reached out in support. Our hearts are full and our grief is slightly less because of you.

Blessings in Christ,
Ninete Burns, Kathryn Nelson, Lauren Hodges
and Harrison Burns

Thank
you ❤️

Crossroads –

Our Crossroad group will be taking the summer months off. Look for details later about a start-up for the Fall!

SUMMER BREAK

Lutheran Men:
will not meet July 20, 2026.

Our next meeting is
August 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm
in the Social Hall.

POC: Ron Redd 803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com.



Summer Sunday School for Saints and Sinners:

Join Pastors Jason and Ralph for pastor-led faith conversation. We continue to view and discuss segments of Season Five of The Chosen. We will meet in the upstairs Adult SS Classroom at 9:45am each Sunday morning. All are invited. Come and share your presence and insight as we learn and engage in faith discussion together



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!

**Did you know that our church parking lot
is the PERFECT place to watch the fireworks
that the Town of Lexington shoot from
the Icehouse Amphitheater?**

It's true!!

**Feel free to bring a chair and
watch the magic Friday, July 3rd.**

**Fireworks begin at 9:20 PM and
remember parking is always FREE for all
members!!**

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

PRIME TIME PLANS:

**We will resume our activities in August! Be
on the lookout for the Fall 2026 schedule of
events!**

August events include:

**August 13th: Lunch at The Peanut Man:
Gourmet Cafe and Gift Shop**

**August 22nd: A trip back to The Gallery Tea
Room in Newberry**

**August 27th: Lake Murray:
Beneath the Surface**

(at Lexington County Library)

*Dive into an interactive presentation about the
Jewel of South Carolina. Explore Lake Murray's
layered history, discovering what still exists
beneath the water's surface, and uncover how
these treasures shape the gathering place it is
today, sharing your own experiences and stories.
Partnered with local diver William Roberts.*



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.



Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562

Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@ssl.org

Pastor

Ralph G. Hill Ralph@ssl.org

Director of Family Life Ministries

Shannon Burnett Shannon@ssl.org

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@ssl.org
359-6562

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@ssl.org

Preschool Director

Julie Tworzyanski preschool@ssl.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"

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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: Compromised 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