

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 117 (11am) 85
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 52

General Offering Total for 2026: \$553,037.95
Total Expenses for 2026: \$554,393.80

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)
Monday	8AM: LifeLine Screening (Gym) 12:30PM: AA Meeting (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/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Jr. & Sr. Youth (Carowinds) 5:30PM: Chat and Chew (Clara & Ray's)
Friday	
Saturday	8AM: Geary (Gym)
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for adults 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Office Conference Room) 2PM: Dr. Bowers Memorial Scholarship Concert (Gym)

Committee of 100: How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? It could be 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. Over \$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.

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for July 12 – July 19, 2026

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

Hospitalized: Agnes Corley, Lexington Rehabilitation Center; Beth Lowman, Lexington Rehabilitation Center

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, July 15th 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.

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 1 more child (ages 8 and up) so please RSVP to Shannon if you are interested!!

Dr. Ebony F. M. Bowers Memorial Scholarship Concert to be held in the gym of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church next Sunday, July 19 from 2-4pm. All proceeds will be used to set up a scholarship fund for a student or student to assist in their attending Midlands Technical College.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 1,952 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 3,597 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

Summer Reading Program: It is still time to participate in the Summer Reading Program by reading 10 non-chapter books, 5-chapter books, or a combination from the Church Library! The program continues through August 2. Library hours are 9:30-11:00am each Sunday. Check out the books in the library and make reading a part of your summer fun!

Our mission trip to Lake Traverse Reservation 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 12:30pm. 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 amongst the 3 non-profits we learned about in Sisseton. You really don't want to miss this presentation!!

Lutheran Men will not meet in July. Our next meeting is August 17 at 6:30pm in the social hall. Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Chat and Chew: Join your church family on Thursday, July 16 at 5:30pm at Clara and Ray's. Hostess: Marilyn Fattman. It's always a fun evening filled with fellowship! Sign up today!

Jr. & Sr. High Youth: On Thursday, July 16 let's head to Carowinds for a fun day of rides and time at the water park! We plan to leave the church at 8am. Eat breakfast before you arrive. We should be at the gates when they open (10am) and then the water park opens at 11am. 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 wristband. Food cost is not covered. Please RSVP by Sunday, July 12! Carowinds is cashless so you will need a card to purchase food.

Music: 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. Our **children's choirs** will resume September 9. Save Wednesday evenings for choirs! Cherub Choir is for 2-4-year-olds and they meet from 5:00-5:30pm. Carol and Treble Choirs meet from 5:30- 6:10pm. These choirs are for children in K-5th grade. Choir chimes will meet on Wednesdays as well from 6:10-6:40pm and is for children in 1st-5th grade. For more information contact susan@sslc.org

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 must teach more than one 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!

Prime Time Events: We will resume our activities in August!
August 13: Lunch at The Peanut Man: Gourmet Cafe and Gift Shop
August 22: A trip back to The Gallery Tea Room in Newberry
August 27: Lake Murray: Beneath the Surface (at Lexington County Library)

Upcoming Events:
July 26: Mission Trip Presentation
August 2: Blessing of the School Year
August 16: Order of St. Stephen's Training
August 19: First Day of Preschool
September 9: WNL Starts
September 11: First Responder Breakfast
September 13: God's Work Our Hands
September 20: Hymn Sing
September 27: First Communion Class; Blessing of the Animals