

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 172 (11am) 123
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 63

General Offering Total for 2026: \$665,401.56
Total Expenses for 2026: \$697,008.16

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: Sunday School Teacher's Meeting (Social Hall) 4PM: Sr. High Youth (Taylor's Home)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	7:30AM: Sr. Youth Breakfast (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 10AM: Women's Bible (Sr. High Room) 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 6:30PM: Crossroads (Mediterranean Café) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	9AM: Preschool Friday Friends
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for adults 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

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 August 30 – September 6, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **August-Lutheran Campus Ministry** is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others on college campuses around the nation, not just a ministry for Lutherans. Its mission is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. In South Carolina we have 15 ministry sites that reach out to over 20 different colleges and universities. In recent years funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry has declined substantially and they could use our support to help them continue their important mission.

Hospitalized: Stephanie Davis, Home; Carolinda Getz, Home

Christian Sympathy is extended to Sylvia Clyburn upon the death of her sister, Barbara Johnston, to Bette Austin upon the death of her sister, Connie Herbert, and to Thad Bruner upon the death of his brother, Don Bruner. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them and their families assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, September 2nd 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.

St. Stephen's Confirmation Orientation will be Wednesday, September 9 at 6:00pm in the Saints and Sinners Sunday School classroom. If your child is a 7th or 8th grader, we'd love to include them in our plans for our Confirmation ministry this year! To make sure that we have an awesome start to the year please plan on attending the orientation for all parents and students. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jason.

First Responder Breakfast: Lutheran Men is proud to sponsor the third annual First Responder Breakfast on Friday, September 11 from 7:00-9:30am in the social hall for all law enforcement officers, dispatchers, FBI, SLED, forest service, firefighters, and EMTs. If you would like to help us in serving the meal, helping with clean up etc., please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Our WNL! Programs Start September 9!

- 5:00-5:45pm Dinner in the social hall
- 5:00-5:30pm Cherub Choir (2–4-year-olds)
- 5:30-6:10pm Carol (5-year-olds-2nd grade) and Treble Choirs (3rd-5th grade)
- 5:30-6:00pm Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade) (beginning September 16)
- 6:00pm Adult Bible Study; Confirmation meeting with parents and youth
- 6:10-6:40pm Choir Chimes (1st-5th grade) (beginning September 16)
- 7:00pm Adult Choir

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 3,597 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 5,172 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

Sr. High Youth (9th-12th Grade): It's time to make plans and kick off the year at Sophie and Sam Taylor's house. Join us **TODAY** at 4pm. You can play in the lake, ride on the pontoon, and possibly grab a ride on the jet ski! We will provide food and drinks. You provide your own bathing suit, a towel, and fun ideas for this year's activities! Mark your calendars for the 1st Tuesday of each month as we will have breakfast at the church at 7:30am. First meeting will be Sept. 1st!

Sunday School Update: We have teachers!! Shannon is SO APPRECIATIVE to the following people who have stepped up to serve as Sunday School teachers for the 2026-2027 year.

- 2's-5K - Emily Kean, Whitney Egan, Anna Browder, Brittany Moran
- 1st-5th grade - Christy Hooker, Ryan Johnson, Nicole Stoudemire
- 6th-8th grade - Matt and Celeste Schnabel, Jackson Burgess, Stacey Summerall
- 9th-12th grade - Shannon Burnett

If you are still interested in teaching, reach out to Shannon.

Sunday School classes will resume on September 13 with our 2nd Sunday discipleship class in the social hall.

Lutheran Men will meet Monday, September 21 at 6:30pm in the social hall. Please Join us for a meal and a presentation by J.R. Fennel, Lexington County Museum Curator. Ron Redd Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Music: 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 however this ensemble will resume on September 16. For more information contact susan@sslc.org. Please join us on Sunday, September 20, for a potluck dinner followed by a **hymn sing** led by Ken Renfrow. Ken played on our May Music Midday series this year and is a fabulous musician. The event begins with dinner at 5:00pm. The **Adult choir** will gather on Wednesday, September 9 at the home of Debbie and Vernon Hester for a fall kick off dinner. Bring a dish to share! The **Romeo's** will meet on Tuesday, September 22 at Grecian Gardens and the **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Thursday, September 24 at Belli's House of Pizza. RSVP to Susan@sslc.org.

WELCA Salad Supper and Business Meeting: Calling all St. Stephen's Ladies! Please mark your calendars and come to the social hall on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00pm for a potluck salad supper. We will have a brief business meeting. Dawn Corley will share storied pieces of silver related to South Carolina from the 18th and early 19th centuries. Please bring your favorite salad to share.

Crossroads: Join Pastor Ralph on Thursday, September 3 at 6:30pm at the Mediterranean Café! Each month we gather on the first Thursday for get-to-know discussions, a devotion, and connection over a great meal (Dutch treat). Crossroads is comprised of folks in their 50s70s. Contact Pastor Ralph with any questions. Sign up near the narthex.

Prime Time Event:

- Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19: Trip to Myrtle Beach/Luau and Polynesian Dinner. Discover the sizzling spectacle of an authentic Polynesian Fire Luau in Myrtle Beach. Enjoy dinner and a show brought to you by a Samoan family from the village of Nu'uuli on the island of Tutuila in American Samoa. Cost per person: \$235 for a double room; \$335 for a single room. What is included: Luau with Polynesian Dinner and Live Show at St. John's Inn, Room at Grande Shores Ocean Resort, transportation, snacks, and Ripley's Aquarium entrance. Additional costs: Friday lunch, Saturday breakfast and lunch. **Sign-up deadline is Sept. 1st!** Please plan to pay the total amount when you sign up. Shannon has to buy tickets and secure rooms. You can find more details and the sign-up sheet on the Prime-Time bulletin board. See Shannon with questions

Upcoming Events:

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

October 24: SC Bishop Installation

October 28: Trunk or Treat