

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 135 (11am) 103
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 66

General Offering Total for 2026: \$689,750.76
Total Expenses for 2026: \$740,489.97

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	No Preschool – Office Closed 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men’s Bible (Social Hall) 6PM: WELCA Salad Supper (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 10AM: Women’s Bible (Sr. High Room) 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5PM: Dinner (Social Hall); Cherub Choir (Choir Room) 5:30PM: Carol & Treble Choirs (Choir Room) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom); Confirmation Orientation Meeting (Saints and Sinners Classroom) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 10:45AM: Prime Time (Liberty on the Lake) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	7AM: First Responders Breakfast (Social Hall) 9AM: Preschool Friday Friends
Saturday	10:30AM: J-Crew (Pastor Jason’s House)
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: 2 nd Sunday Discipleship Sunday School (Social Hall) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:15PM: Order of St. Stephen’s Training (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: God’s Work Our Hands (Social Hall)

Upcoming Events:

September 20: Hymn Sing
September 27: First Communion Class; Blessing of the Animals
October 14: Blood Drive
October 24: SC Bishop Installation
October 28: Trunk or Treat

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 6 – September 13, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **September -Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)** shares God’s hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world. Domestically, LDR uses a model of collaboration that is grounded in the principle of accompaniment, working in coordination with local synods, ecumenical partners, tribal nations and community-based organizations to provide disaster and crisis support through the disaster cycle. Internationally, LDR works at the request of and in coordination with local partners to connect companion churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and other ecumenical partners to strengthen communities’ ability to respond and recover. A donation to LDR, designated for a specific response, will be used entirely (100%) for those whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters, famine, war or violence.

Congratulations to Parker and Maddy McInnis on the birth of their daughter, Lennon Kate McInnis on September 1. Congratulations to new grandparents Courtney and Jennifer McInnis and to great granddaddy, Roscoe Caughman!

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Vickie Ettenger upon her death. May the peace and comfort of God’s Word be with her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, September 9th 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.

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 Wednesday!

- 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)
- 6:45-7:30PM: Winds of Worship (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

Sunday School classes will resume next Sunday, September 13 with our 2nd Sunday discipleship class 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!

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 this week, September 9. **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. The **adult handbell choir** will resume rehearsals on Monday, September 14 at 6:30pm in the adult choir room. 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 this 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.

St. Stephen's Confirmation Orientation will be this 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.

WELCA Salad Supper and Business Meeting: Calling all St. Stephen's Ladies to join us in the social hall this 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. All ladies are invited to attend the WELCA Fall Saxe-Gotha Conference at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church, West Columbia, on Sunday, September 20 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

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.

God's Work Our Hands service day will be next Sunday, September 13. We will be going out as a congregation to do yardwork for members of our congregation who need assistance. Volunteers are asked to meet in the social hall that Sunday at 12:30pm with their own bag lunch. We will eat together before mobilizing our different work sites and projects. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Jason know so we can get organized. Also, if you have tools, mowers, trimmers, cutters, etc. that you can bring that would be greatly appreciated as we will be splitting up to hit multiple projects at once.

Wings of Worship will be happening thanks to Addie Brock! She will be leading this group of dancers, and we couldn't be more excited! Mrs. Rhonda started Wings of Worship 20 years ago and is thrilled to see it continue. If your daughter is interested in participating, please reach out to Addie at awbrock22@gmail.com or 843-301-6425 They will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:45pm starting September 16.

Order of St. Stephen's training next Sunday, September 13 at 12:15pm in the sanctuary. All 5th graders and up who are interested in serving as an acolyte, crucifer, or banner bearer please plan to attend.

Actors and Actresses Needed: Plans are underway for our Easter season production of The Living Last Supper. There is a need for two men to portray Disciples and two or three more men for minor roles. We also have a need for two additional actress roles. No experience is necessary for any role. If interested please contact Jim Nantz, 803-315-9003, or any cast member.

Prime Time is heading back to Flatrock Playhouse to see Sister Act on Thursday, Oct. 22nd. When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a crime, she hides out in the last place anyone would look — a convent. Suddenly, the sequins are swapped for habits, and the nightclub turns into a nave. But when Deloris brings her unholy amount of soul to the choir loft, heaven gets a whole new groove. Sister Act is a holy-rolling, soul-lifting celebration of sisterhood, second chances, and songs that raise the roof. As Deloris helps the sisters find their voices, they just might change her heart in return. Part divine comedy, part disco revival, it's proof that a little funk — and a lot of faith — can turn any sanctuary into a showstopper. We plan to leave the church at 10:45am as the show begins at 2pm. Please bring a sandwich/lunch to eat along the way. We will have dinner after the show at Blue Ocean Seafood in Clinton. Total cost is \$75 per person. This covers your show ticket and transportation. The meal after the show is not included. 15 tickets have been reserved so sign up (and pay) as soon as you know you want to go!