

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 106 (11am) 79
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 59

General Offering Total for 2026: \$699,501.30
Total Expenses for 2026: \$747,295.56

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: 2 nd Sunday Discipleship Sunday School (Social Hall) 11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:15PM: Order of St. Stephen's Training (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: God's Work Our Hands (Social Hall)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Adult Handbells (Choir Room)
Tuesday	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) 5PM: Dinner (Social Hall); Cherub Choir (Choir Room) 5:30PM: Carol & Treble Choirs (Choir Room); Jr. High Youth (Jr. High Room) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Agape Classroom); Confirmation Class (Saints and Sinners Classroom) 6:10PM: Choir Chimes (Choir Room) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Gym) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	9AM: Preschool Friday Friends
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12PM: Catalanotto (Gym) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Office Conference Room) 5PM: Hymn Sing (Social Hall)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 13 – September 20, 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.

Hospitalized: Danny Able, MUSC-Charleston

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Daisy Jeanette Floyd 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 16th 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.

Sunday School classes resume **TODAY** 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!

God's Work Our Hands service day is **TODAY!** 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 at 12:30pm with their own bag lunch. We will eat together before mobilizing our different work sites and projects. 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.

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

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** began with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. It's not too late for your child to join us. **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. **Wings of Worship** will meet at 6:45pm-7:30pm. The **adult handbell choir** will resume rehearsals tomorrow, 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 resume rehearsals in the adult choir room Wednesday at 7:00pm. All are welcome! 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.

First Communion Class will be offered by Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph on Sunday, September 27th at 12:30pm. We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities! If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, September 24th so that we can know how much pizza to order. If you have any questions, please contact one of the pastors!

Our WNL is back!

- 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)
- 6:00pm Adult Bible Study; Confirmation
- 6:10-6:40pm Choir Chimes (1st-5th grade)
- 6:45-7:30PM: Wings of Worship
- 7:00pm Adult Choir

The Blessing of the Animals will be on September 27th at 3pm. All animals are welcome! If you can't bring your pet, bring a picture! Please bring dog or cat food to donate to Mission Lexington!

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 **TODAY** 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.

Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues at 9:05am in the social hall. Pastor Ralph will lead a discussion time of "Table Talk" as we gather around the table to read and interpret together the scripture from the previous Sunday's lessons. Bring your bulletin and/or bible. Bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

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! This is open to all church members!

Second Annual Community Worship Service will be held at the Lexington Amphitheater on Sunday, September 27 at 5:00pm. All are invited. We will gather with Scripture, singing, and a special message. St. Stephen's and Lexington United Methodist churches will help. Offering collected will support Mission Lexington.

This is Us: Parents of high school and college aged youth join us on Thursday, Sept. 24th at 6pm at Flight Deck. Please let Shannon know if you will be there!