

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 140 (11am) 103
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 47

General Offering Total for 2026: \$739,584.91
Total Expenses for 2026: \$813,968.06

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	8AM: Living Faith Leaving for Lutheridge (Butler St. parking lot) 8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 2PM: Corley (Social Hall)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:30PM: Adult Handbells (Choir Room)
Tuesday	7:15AM: Sr. High Breakfast (Social Hall) 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 5PM: Fowler (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 9:45AM: Prime Time Planning Meeting (Office Conference Room) 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) 6:30PM: Finance Meeting (Office Conference Room) 6:45PM: Wings of Worship (Gym) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 11AM: Prime Time (Julia's German Restaurant) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	No Preschool
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Discipleship Sunday School (Social Hall) 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 4 – October 11, 2026

Congregational Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **October -Newberry College.** Newberry College is 1 of 26 Lutheran (ELCA) colleges and universities in the US and the only Lutheran (ELCA) college in South Carolina. As members of the SC Synod, it has been and will continue to be a part of our mission to support Newberry College both with our prayers and our treasures. Donations this month will be designated to help fund the Wolves Pantry, established in September 2022 to address food insecurity on campus. Since its inception, the Wolves Pantry has expanded to offer several blessing stations across campus and has served over 1,500 students with food, personal hygiene products, and/or school supplies free of charge.

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, October 7th 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.

Building Maintenance Lunch: Join WELCA on Sunday, October 18 for lunch in the social hall. Chef Scott Nantz will be preparing smoked beef brisket, new potatoes, brown butter green beans, rolls, and homemade desserts. All proceeds go directly to the building maintenance fund. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services.

Nurture and Outreach will meet on Sunday, October 18 at 5:00pm in the office conference room to discuss our plans for the annual gift bag distribution. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Meal Ministry is a ministry designed to provide meals for individuals and families in our church who may be experiencing a season when a little extra help would mean so much. A meal may seem like a small thing, but when someone is tired, recovering, or adjusting to a new baby, that meal can communicate something much bigger. You are loved. You are remembered. Your church family is here for you. Meals can be homemade or purchased. If you are interested in helping please contact Kelley Mintz at 803-609-4971 or Kelley.mintzsc@gmail.com

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 4,472 lbs. of food collected toward a goal of 5,000 lbs. of food between now and Reformation Sunday, October 25. Our yearly donations are 6,047 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, October 19 at 6:30pm in the social hall. Please join us for a meal and a presentation by Historian Mike Burgess. The topic of his presentation will be "Strike the Tent: The Last Years of Robert E. Lee". Ron Redd - Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Music: There is a lot of great music making taking place on Wednesday evenings. If your child is not participating we'd love to have them 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** 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. It's not too early to save the date for the December music coming up! The **children's choirs** will present their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00pm. The **Adult Choir** will present their music of the season on December 20 at both services. **Women of the Adult Choir** will gather for dinner on Thursday, October 15 at 6:00pm. Please see Susan to make reservations. The handbell choir rehearsals at 6:15pm on Monday evenings in the adult choir room.

Family Night If you consider yourself a part of our Young Adult/Young Family/Living Faith groups we will have our Quarterly Family Night on Sunday, October 18 from 5-7pm. Parents will be going out to eat with Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph. Our Sr. High Youth and Mrs. Shannon will provide care and dinner for the older children and Mrs. Ree take care of the little ones. Please RSVP to Shannon by Oct. 11.

Chat & Chew: Join your church family for dinner on Thursday, October 15 at 5:30pm at Lakeside Seafood and Steak (3224 US 378, Leesville). Hosts: Danny and C-Anne Able Please sign up on the bulletin board and enjoy a fun night of food and fellowship.

Sr. High Youth: Looking forward to seeing everyone Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7:15am in the social hall for breakfast and devotions before school! Mrs. Shannon needs your CFA order **TODAY!** On Saturday, October 17, spend the day at Carowinds and enjoy an evening of fright at Scarowinds. Tickets cost \$35. Please bring money for food and drinks! We plan to leave the SSLC parking lot at 10am so you'll have lots of time to ride all the rides during the day and then time to do some of the Scarowinds mazes that night. We will leave Carowinds at 9pm and return home around 10:30pm. There are other options you can pay for at Scarowinds but this ticket will cover the basic mazes. Friends are always welcome. Mrs. Shannon needs an RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 14. Tickets will be purchased the next day!!

8th -12th Graders: ELCA Youth Gathering 2027 (June 28 - July 2, 2027): Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith and be part of something bigger than yourself. Youth participants must be in 8th to 12th grade at time of registration (Fall 2026). If you have someone that wants to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, please see Mrs. Shannon to get the interest form and return that form with \$100 to secure your spot. ****All interest forms must be returned by TODAY.** This is earlier than originally stated in the packet!

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:

- In honor of Oktoberfest, join us on October 8 for a fun outing to Julia's German Stammtisch in Columbia. When you visit Julia's German Stammtisch, you're in for a treat. This family owned and operated business has a reputation for serving the best schnitzel you will ever get, short of going to Germany! Experience the wonderful flavors of German Cuisine. We will leave the church at 11am.
- Join us as we head to Flatrock Playhouse to see Sister Act on Thursday, Oct. 22nd. We will 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!

Upcoming Events:

October 14: Blood Drive
October 18: Building Maintenance Lunch-WELCA
October 24: SC Bishop Installation
October 28: Trunk or Treat
December 1: Holden Evening Prayer Service