

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 115 (11am) 112
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 60

General Offering Total for 2026: \$793,192.22
Total Expenses for 2026: \$840,732.47

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 all ages 11:AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:30PM: Council Meeting (Office Conference Room) 5PM: Living Faith Family Night (Social Hall/Gym) Nurture & Outreach Meeting (Office Conference Room)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:15PM: Adult Handbells (Choir Room) 6:30PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	Gym Closed 8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall) 4:30PM: Altar Guild (Sanctuary)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 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 11AM: Prime Time (Flat Rock) 3:30PM: Brass Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 4:30PM: Altar Guild (Sanctuary) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	8AM: Preschool 4:30PM: Bishop Installation Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday	10:30AM: Bishop Installation Service (Sanctuary-Online)
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online)-Reformation 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)-Reformation

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 18 – October 25, 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.

Hospitalized: Carolinda Getz, Lexington Regional Rehab.

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, October 21st 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.

Christian Sympathy is extended to Shawn Graham upon the death of his mother, Sharon Graham and to Laura Henrickson upon the death of her father-in-law, Michael Henrickson. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with these families assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Building Maintenance Lunch: Join WELCA **TODAY** for lunch in the social hall. Chef Scott Nantz is 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.

It's time for Trunk or Treat which means we need your trunks! On Wednesday, October 28 we will have Trunk or Treat in the big parking lot next to the cemetery! We would love for you to decorate your trunks and/or dress up yourself and give out candy! Please let Shannon know if you plan to participate by Monday, October 26! Bully Dog Street Eats will be here by 5pm which is also when you can begin setting up your area! They offer hotdogs with lots of different toppings that look delicious! You can add a drink and chips to your hotdog order for \$3! You can begin eating at 5:30pm. Trunk or Treat will start at 6pm and should be done by 6:45pm. Thank you for making Trunk or Treat possible!!

Come one, Come all!! And hit the Trunk or Treat Trail! Join us for a terrific evening as we Trunk or Treat in the parking lot next to the cemetery at 6pm. Please keep the scary costumes to a minimum as we will have lots of little ones joining us! Let Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) know by Friday, Oct. 23 if your family plans to attend so we can have an idea of how many are coming!

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.

Ham and Turkey Donations: Nurture and Outreach is seeking donations of \$25 that will be used to buy gift cards for those in need. The gift cards will then be used to purchase a ham or a turkey for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section put "ham and turkey fund".

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. The Saxe Gotha Conference of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission will hold its quarterly meeting Monday, October 26 at 6:30pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Columbia. (2491 Emmanuel Church Road West Columbia, SC). Mr. Tom Ramsey, Executive Director of SCLMM will be our guest speaker. The cost of the meal will be \$10.00. Please respond to Ron Redd if you plan to attend. Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Music: Our children's choirs have started learning music for this year's Christmas Program. Your child is welcome to join us, and we'd love to see them on Wednesday night at choir. **Cherub Choir** is for 2–4-year-olds and they meet from 5:00-5:30pm. **Carol and Treble Choirs** meet from 5:30-6:10 pm. 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. 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. The **handbell choir** rehearsals begin at 6:15pm on Monday evenings in the adult choir room. We still need 2 or 3 more ringers. Please consider joining us. No prior experience is necessary!

A new Women's Bible study "The Names of God" on who God is and who He calls us to be will begin Wednesday, October 28 at 10:00am. Contact Kerri Brittingham at 803-318-4599 to sign up and to request a study book.

This is Us: Parents of high school and college aged youth will get together on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6pm at Hazelwood Brewing Company. Please let Shannon know if you will be there!

Jr. and Sr. High Youth: Come have fun at the Trunk or Treat Putt-Putt Course on Oct. 28 in the big parking lot at 6pm. Since you are a little too old to Trunk or Treat, come play a game or two of putt-putt! Bully Dog Street Eats will be here for dinner!

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: 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. Three tickets are available so sign up (and pay) as soon as you know you want to go! This is open to all church members!

It's time to start collecting items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! During the month of October, we will be collecting WOW items for the boxes such as Barbie dolls, stuffed small animals, toy cars, fidget toys, small musical instruments like harmonicas, sports balls, etc. These items will really make a difference in a child's life! Please place all donations in the bin in the hallway by the men's classroom. Also, we would love to have you and your family join us for our annual packing party in the social hall after WNL dinner at 6pm on Wednesday, November 11. We will be filling shoeboxes with the donated items that we receive and encourage everyone to bring additional items with them to help us fill as many boxes as we can so that children in need all over the world will receive these special gifts. If you have any questions, please email Ashely Lackore - ashlackore@yahoo.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

It's time for our annual Pecan Sale to benefit St. Stephen's Preschool! Once again, we are offering a delicious variety of Golden Kernel Pecan Co.'s finest pecans! These make excellent Christmas gifts, and they are perfect for baking or simply enjoying as a treat. Orders will be taken through October 29. Look for the pecan sales table after service today and 10/25 and before Wednesday services or contact Julie at preschool@sslc.org to order! Pecan orders will arrive mid-November. Thanks so much for supporting this annual fundraiser to fund exciting, hands-on activities for our preschoolers!

Nurture and Outreach will meet today 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.