

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30am) 130 (11am) 117
Wednesday Service: (12:30pm) 63

General Offering Total for 2026: \$803,256.83
Total Expenses for 2026: \$849,567.30

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)
Monday	8AM: Preschool 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall) 6:15PM: Adult Handbells (Choir Room)
Tuesday	8AM: Preschool 9:05AM: Men's Bible (Social Hall)
Wednesday	8AM: Preschool 11:45AM: Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Wednesday Eucharistic Service (Sanctuary-Online) 5:30PM: Bully Dog Street Eats (Butler St. Parking Lot) 6PM: Trunk or Treat (Butler St. Parking Lot) 7PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room) 7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	8AM: Preschool 6PM: This is Us (Hazelwood Brewing Company) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	8AM: Preschool
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary-Online) 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages 11AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

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.

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for October 25 – November 1, 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: Carl Koon, Home; Carolinda Getz, Home; Dee Lide, Lexington Medical

Join us for our Wednesday Eucharistic Service, October 28th 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 Lee Cousins on the death of his mother, Virginia Cousins and to Julie Gies on the death of her mother, Jeannie Weese. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with these families assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Congratulations to Matt and Dana Martin on the birth of their daughter, Penelope Rose Martin, born October 20. We celebrate with big sister Charlotte, big brother Oliver and grandparents Alon and Kim Cox!

Thank you to WELCA for a wonderful building maintenance lunch last Sunday! Everything was wonderful and over \$1,000 was raised.

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 tomorrow! 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!

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.

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. Holiday Items: canned sweet potatoes, candied yams, stuffing mixes, gravy mix, cake mix, and cranberry sauce. 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: 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: **Children's choirs** will start working on the Christmas program music and script this week. If your child would like to participate in the December 13 pageant please start bringing them to choir this week. **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. 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! **Ladies Who Lunch** will meet on Thursday, October 29 at 12:30pm at Old Mill. Please rsvp to Susan.

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!

Private Tour at Williams Brice on Thursday, November 13. We will depart the church at 9:45am. This tour is approx. 1 -1 ½ hours and includes a good bit of walking. We will see behind the scenes of the locker room, media room, press box, and other luxury boxes. Cost: \$10 per person (if we have 15 people). We plan to eat lunch at J's Corner after our tour. Sign up by Thursday, Nov. 2nd **This tour is open to all congregational members.**

Our Oct. 14th blood drive was a success!! It was questionable going in as we only had 21 appts. and our goal was to collect 22 units! Thanks to the help of these folks, we exceeded our goal with 24 units: Brant Taylor, Benda Janson, Tom Janson, Brooks Bennett, Ralph Hill, Myra Strock, Jason Antley, Elese Cegelis, Bill Cegelis, Debbie Hester, Gay Clark, and Shannon Burnett. 3 of our members were able to give Power Red which counts as 2 units!! Thanks to all who gave the gift of your time and the gift of life!

Be part of something bigger! LHS Students in Action (SIA) is a group of leaders who unite the school in charity work. Healing Hearts Drive, which supports kids and teens facing mental health struggles and hospital stays at Prisma Health, is being sponsored by Brooklyn Davenport. Her wish list includes fidgets, stress balls, stuffed animals, pajamas, blankets, fuzzy socks, card games, puzzles, and coloring books. All items need to be new! Please drop off any donations by Nov. 29th in the social hall. Please contact Brooklyn with any questions! (803) 849-2322; Bpd0628@gmail.com

Our Fun Pasta Fundraiser is in full swing! This fundraiser will help raise money to offset costs for the 16 youth attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering which will be held in MN next summer! There are so many types of fun pasta available! Great gifts for friends, neighbors, teachers, co-workers, etc. that you just need a little something for! There are gift sets/boxes, pasta sets, soups, chili, sauce, and mac & cheese available not to mention all the fun pasta shapes you can order! A link was sent out via email to order online. If you need that link, feel free to reach out to shannon@sslc.org with any questions and thank you in advance for your support! Online orders accepted through Oct. 30th.

Don't miss 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 before Wednesday's service 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!

Columbarium Memorial Garden Update: The front lawn has been a busy place for the last couple of months. It is exciting to see! The masons have installed the cabinets but unfortunately the granite has been unexpectedly delayed in shipping. The granite is expected to arrive in the early part of 2027. Feel free to walk over and look at the beautiful memorial garden being created.

Prime Time Thanksgiving Luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 17 at 11:45am in the social hall. The turkey will be provided...just bring a side to share! Shannon will check with the preschool to see if they can come share their Thanksgiving songs. Please plan to bring a side and sign up so we know how many are coming and what sides are being provided. If you can't bring a side, sign up anyway!!