ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SSLC 2026 Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

Sundays in Advent
8:30 am and 11:00 am
Nov 29, Dec 6, Dec 13, and Dec 20

Our Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 13th in the Sanctuary at 3 pm

Our Adult Choir will present "Music of the Season" on Sunday, December 20th at both worship services

Holden Evening Prayer Advent Services
Tuesdays at 6 pm
Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15, and Dec 22

Advent Wednesday Eucharist
Lunch - 11:45 am; Worship - 12:30 pm
Wednesdays Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16, and Dec 23

Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 pm

The Nativity of our Lord / Christmas Eve - Dec 24
11:45 am - Preservice Music with Strings
12 pm - Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion
3 pm - Family and Children's Service
5:45 pm - Preservice Music with Strings, Handbells, and Adult Choir
6 pm - Candlelight Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
10:45 pm - Preservice Music with Strings
11 pm - Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27
1st Sunday after Christmas - Lessons and Carols
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Christmas Wednesday Eucharist
Lunch - 11:45 am; Worship - 12:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec 30

Sunday, January 3
2nd Sunday after Christmas
8:30 am and 11:00 am

St. Stephen's will be ringing the bell again this year for Salvation Army.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12th. We will be serving at Lowes Foods on Augusta Highway (across from Lexington High School) from 10 AM-6 PM.

Please consider signing up to ring the bell! It's always a lot of fun and it's a great way to give back!

Contact Shannon if you have questions!

Click here to sign up.



Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols

Join us Sunday, Dec. 6th at 2 PM on the front lawn for a petting zoo for all ages.This will take place before the Lexington Christmas Parade and we will serve cocoa (or lemonade depending on the temperature) and cookies and play Christmas music for the community to enjoy.



December Love Offering

Helping Hands

In the Spring of 2015, it came to the church staff's attention that St. Stephen's had no funds available specifically for helping members of our own congregation who might fall into financial hardship of any kind.It was this conversation that led to the establishment of the Helping Hands Fund. Moneys donated to this fund will be dispensed at the discretion of a group of staff, council, and financial leadership representatives, appointed by the Congregational Council, who will assess each special circumstance and evaluate the best use of the funds to assist in the most helpful way possible.

Saints and Sinners
Sunday School –

Ever wondered how the disciples might have lived and adapted to their new lives as followers of Jesus?

Join us each Sunday (except 2nd Sunday Discipleship).

Don't have a Sunday School class that feels like home? We'd love to have YOU with us!

This is Us

This group is parents of high school and college aged youth

If anyone would like to host a Christmas get together, please let Shannon know and she will get the details out to the group!

SSLC Blue Christmas Worship
Sunday, December 20th at 2pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas can be a painful time for some. The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or never had. If you have suffered the anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the loss of a loved one, or anything else that makes this holiday season difficult, St. Stephen's invites you to a special Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 20th at 2pm in the Sanctuary to give space and time to acknowledge your sadness and to let you know that you are not alone. Come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and acknowledgment that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.



Lunch is offered each Wednesday beginning at 11:45 AM in the social hall prior to our WE! Worship service .

The cost of lunch is $5. Join us for food and fellowship before we worship at 12:30 PM.



Sr. High Youth Breakfast - Tuesday, Dec. 1st

See everyone Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 7:15 AM for breakfast and devotions before school! Don't forget to send Mrs. Shannon your CFA order!

Sr. High Lock-In - Friday, Dec. 18th

Join us for our Christmas Lock-in!! We will head to Winter at White Water and enjoy a new area called Wildwoods. The plan is to leave the church at 3 PM, enjoy a bonfire at 5:30 pm, dinner, and an evening of fun playing in the woods surrounding the Canyon following an illuminated trail featuring suspension bridges and activities for all ages. We will leave around 11 PM and head back to church to wach Christmas movies. Cost will be $30. If you want to ice skate, it will cost extra. Please RSVP to Mrs. Shannon by Monday, Dec. 14th. We need at least 10 youth to make the trip.





JCREW, Jr. Youth, and Sr. Youth

(and any family or congregational members that would like to participate!)

It's time to bring Christmas joy to those we love! Join us for caroling on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 3 PM. We would love for anyone - not just youth - to contact Pastor Jason or Mrs. Shannon by Sunday, December 13th if you are interested in participating. Don't let anything stop you from coming to make a joyful noise! Once we know how many folks are willing to sing, we will form groups that will travel to member's houses to spread Christmas cheer!



Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 6th	A – Gracen Geary	A – Eli Maxheimer
	C – Shaun Wessinger	C – Henry Jebaily
	BB – Connor Geary	BB – Gavin Gaskins
Dec. 13th	A – Shannon Burnett	A – Carsyn Antley
	C – Luke Wenzel	C – Merritt Jones
Dec. 20th	A – Caroline Hooker	A – Stone Lewis
	C – Jackson Rawl	C – Audrey Lewis
Dec. 27th	A – Ethan Kean	A – Ben Brunson
	C – Jaime Wessinger	C – Thomas Brunson

If you have a child interested in helping with Christmas Eve Worship, please reach out to Shannon.

12 PM : *A - Help needed; C - Gracen Geary; BB - Connor Geary; TB - Help needed; TB - Help needed*

6 PM: *A - Parker Rate; C - Help needed; BB - Help needed; TB - Help needed; TB - Help needed*

WELCA Circle Meetings: All women of St. Stephen's are members of WELCA and warmly invited to engage with one of our five circles. Each circle offers wonderful opportunities centered around faith, fellowship, and service. Below are the monthly meeting times and key contacts for each circle. Please don't hesitate to reach out, we would love you to join us!

Lunch Belles, 1st Tuesday, 12:30pm at the Country Club of Lexington.
Peggy Sherman (sshe695063@aol.com)

Sunshine Circle, 1st Monday, 6:30pm at rotating hostess home.
Marty Nantz (no.1mimi@yahoo.com)

Circle 5, 1st Tuesday, 6pm in the church social hall or parlor.
Dawn Corley (charlestonsilverlady6@gmail.com)

Circle of Love, 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm in the church social hall.
Suzanne Robinson (robinsons1@yahoo.com)

Circle 9, 1st Wednesday, 10:45 am in the church parlor.
Drew Welch (DrewRoyWelch@gmail.com)

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our End of the Year food drive is underway with 435 lbs. toward a goal of 1,500 lbs. of food between now and December 18, 2026. Year to date totals are 7,161 lbs. toward a goal of 8,000 lbs. for the year.

Please note: NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE!

Mission Lexington needs the following items:

Canned Fruit Beef Stew Canned Chicken Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese Chili Pork & beans Canned Vegetables
Canned Soups Rice Coffee Grits Sugar Flour
Applesauce Oatmeal Breakfast Cereals Pasta Cornmeal mix
Dog Food (Dry & Wet) Cat food (Dry and Wet) Laundry Detergent
Canned sweet potatoes Cranberry Sauce Cornbread mix Gravy mix Stuffing

Please place your food donations in the red food barrels next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrels in front of the Agape Sunday School Class.
If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's. In the remarks section write for Food purchase Mission Lexington

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.

Thank you again for your support.
Point of contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Flowers for December	***Recyclers for December***
December 6th: Dottie Slocomb	December 6th: The Head Family
December 13th: Kay Keener	December 13th: The Taylor Family
December 20th: Cynthia Douglas	December 20th: Gary and Julie Angus
December 27th: Pat Bank	December 27th: Sarah and G Kolb

Ushers for December 6th and 20th

8:30 - Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, Chad Geary
11:00 - Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin, Heyward Addy

Ushers for December 13th and 27th

8:30 - Ron Redd, Sandy Shealy, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, Rick Loging
11:00 - Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Roy Windham, George Mathias

LOVE & SERVE

December 2026 Lay Readers



	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 6th	Mike Brittingham	Marilyn Fattman
Dec. 13th	Janice Buff	Bill Cegelis
Dec. 20th	Choir Performance	Choir Performance
Dec. 27th	Lessons and Carols	Lessons and Carols



December 2026 Greeters

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 6th	Julie & Adam Tworzyanski	Chuck & Dawn Corley
Dec. 13th	Craig & Jodi McFarland	Rick & Suzanne Swaffield
Dec. 20th	David Able	Myra Strock
Dec. 27th	Ginger Macaulay	Cathy Mathias

December 2026 Communion Assistants

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Dec. 6th	Lacy Geary and Ryan Johnson	Jamie Early and Ed Smith
Dec. 13th	Jim Nantz	Bill Cegelis
Dec. 20th	Lucy Austin	Cathy Mathias
Dec. 27th	Marty Nantz	Peggy Sherman



Tuesday Bible Study @ 9:05am:

Join Pastor Ralph to read and interpret together the Scripture from the previous Sunday's lessons. Conversations incorporate the theme of the Season, background for the lessons, and shared questions & personal gleanings. Bring your bible and a friend and nurture your faith as we ponder God's Word together. Coffee will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Mark your calendars for TRIVIA NIGHT!

Make plans to join us Sunday, January 24th at 5:30 PM for trivia, food, and fun!

More details to follow but get your teams together today!!



I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the SIA Healing Hearts donation drive. Your generosity and willingness to give truly mean so much, and I am incredibly grateful for everyone who took the time to donate.
The reason I wanted to organize this drive was because I wanted to find a way to give back to our community and help people who may be going through difficult times. I believe that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life, and I wanted to create an opportunity for us to come together and make that happen. Sometimes we don't realize how much something we have can mean to someone else, and I hoped this drive would be a reminder of how important it is to look out for one another.
Seeing so many people willing to contribute and support this cause has been so encouraging. Every donation, no matter how big or small, is appreciated and will go toward helping someone who needs it. Thank you for making this possible and for reminding me how much good can come from a community willing to help others. I am truly grateful for all of your support!

Brooklyn Davenport

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY DONATING CHILDREN'S BOOKS! YOUR KINDNESS WILL MAKE A REAL, LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG CHILDREN IN LOCAL SCHOOLS. WE AIM TO FOSTER A LOVE FOR READING AND LITERACY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THESE DONATIONS ARE BEYOND HELPFUL IN THIS CAUSE. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS MISSION. THANK YOU!

SOPHIE TAYLOR AND CONNER CRUMPTON

Dear Rev. Antley, Rev. Hill, and the people of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,

Please accept our sincere gratitude for hosting the installation of Bishop Roof. Your congregation's warm hospitality and dedicated service made a joyful day even more special.

We are grateful for the beautiful space to worship God, the outstanding music, and the livestream that allowed people across the country to join us. Special thanks to Craig Wheatley and all the ushers, greeters, acolytes, altar guild, nursery attendants, and logistics volunteers who helped this momentous event run smoothly.

We would also like to thank Tonya Reynolds, along with the cooks, decorators, servers, setup and cleanup crews, and other volunteers who prepared a wonderful reception to cap off the day.

Your congregation and staff has much to be proud of in its contribution to Christ's mission in the community, the synod, and the wider church. May God bless you and the ongoing ministry of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

In Christ's Service, The SC Bishop Election Committee

Dear St. Stephen's Church Family -
I am so thankful for our Meal Ministry. The dinners were delicious and very appreciated when I got home after my hip surgery! I'm so blessed to be a small part of a loving and caring congregation. Also, thank you for your prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards. I'm getting stronger every day. I'm lookingforward to seeing you in church soon.

Yours in Christ -
Carolinda Getz

Lutheran Men:

Please join us Monday, December 21, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Social Hall for a meal prepared by Chef Odie Rawl and a Christmas presentation by Pastor Ralph.
Cost of Meal is $10.00.

Note: Committee of 100 forms are in the Narthex by the front door. If you have not donated, please consider doing so.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Live Adult Study Class – will resume in January. In December, we shift our class time to Tuesdays at 6:00 pm to attend the Advent Holden Evening Prayer Worship. This year's special themed messages will focus on the precious gift of life and the 3-phase "Wisdom Pattern" (Order, Disorder, Reorder) we experience – according to Franciscan Friar, Richard Rohr.

Ham and Turkey Gift Card 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 Christmas. Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's and in the remarks section put "ham and turkey fund".

Outreach Ministry

Committee of 100:

How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? It could be really 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. $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.



Pancakes and PJs with Santa

Wear your Christmas PJs, fill your belly with pancakes, and visit with Santa! Take personal pictures with Santa and each child will make a Christmas craft.

When: Friday, December 11th from 5:30–6:30 PM
Where: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Gym

Ticket cost is $20 per child (one adult admitted free per child); additional adults $10

To purchase tickets online click here or contact Shannon.

Notes from Aloft:

Children's Christmas Program…
Come join our Cherub, Carol, and Treble choirs, along with our Choir Chimes, as they present their Christmas program on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. There will be sheep, angels, stars, along with all the other characters who were part of the story of Jesus and his birth. Come join us and bring a friend.

Parents are reminded of the dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. for the Carol and Treble choirs. The Cherub choir is rehearsing briefly at 11:45 a.m. that day.



December 6	***8:30 a.m. Adult Choir***
	11:00 a.m. Cherub, Carol, and Treble Choirs, Choir Chimes
December 13	***8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Wings of Worship***
	11:00 a.m. Adult Choir
	3:00 p.m. Children' s Choir Program
December 20	***8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Adult Choir with Trumpets and Percussion***
December 22	***2:00 p.m. Carols, Cookies and Cider***
	Piano Duets of the Season with Sharon Rattray and Allison Hilbish
	Matthew Jones, Percussionist
December 24	***Noon Tina Stallard and Austin Means, soloists with strings***
	3:00 p.m. Constance Flemming, pianist
	6:00 p.m. Adult Choir with strings, percussion, and handbells
	11:00 p.m. Austin Means, soloist, with strings



The Romeo's annual Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 10 at the home of Sarah Huckebee at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your spouse.

Ladies who Lunch will meet for a Christmas party on Thursday, December 3 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Lu Bickley (815 Old Chapin Rd.) Bring your gift cards for Sister Care with you if you'd like to contribute. Bring a savory or sweet treat to share.

The Adult Choir Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Odie and Melissa Rawl. Bring a wrapped ornament.

PRIME TIME PLANS:

Thursday, December 3rd - Soda City Tour of Lights (6 PM)

Leave the driving to us this holiday season on our Soda City Tour of Lights! This 75-minute tour around the Midlands showcases the best Christmas light displays and shows. Not only will you see the best Christmas lights, but there will also be Christmas trivia, games, contests, prizes, and other surprises on this Tour of Lights.

Cost will be $15 per person. The bus only holds 14 people so sign up today if this interests you! The tour bus will leave our parking lot at 6 PM.

Our **annual Christmas luncheon** will be held on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9th at 11:30 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin board as we celebrate this special time of the year together! If you would like to participate in the cookie swap/sweet swap, please bring your sweet treats to the luncheon. Participation is not required to come to the luncheon!

Upcoming ticketed events include:

Friday, Feb. 5th - Doo Wop Project at Harbison Theater

Saturday, March 6th - Peking Acrobats at Harbison Theater

Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2026

Neil Brown (803) 238-6998
Matt Martin (803) 231-3047
Betsy McCall (803) 730-0570
Sarah Kolb (803) 931-2022
Stephen Lunsford (843) 343-5161

Class of 2027

Lucy Austin (803) 917-5757
Kerri Brittingham (803) 318-4599
Bill Galardi (803) 530-8418
Roy Windham (803) 507-7951
Lance Young (864) 557-0182

Class of 2028

Gail Felton (803) 312-2960
Christy Hooker (803) 429-3287
Nick Kean (843) 819-9558
Bobby Martin (803) 873-8404
Richard Shealy (608-3492

Youth Representatives:

Sophie Taylor, Margaret McCurdy

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155

Chat & Chew

Chat & Chew will meet again in January. Please consider signing up to host!

All you have to do it choose the restaurant and contact them to make sure the date is available and with the number attending once people have signed up!

Tax Efficient Charitable Giving:

St. Stephen's is blessed to have Neil Brown, CPA, CFP as a member of our church! Neil will be offering a free information session on Wednesday, December 2 at 1:15pm in the social hall regarding charitable giving. Everyone is invited. If you aren't able to attend the meeting but would like some information, please reach out to Tonya@sslc.org and she will email you the information.

Crossroads

We will meet on Thursday, December 3rd @ 6:30pm at St. Stephen's Agape Classroom!



Everyone is to bring a dish to share. Beverages and chicken fingers will be provided. Christmas Crossroad get-to-know-you questions will be on hand along with a Christmas themed-devotion.

Take a moment this Advent to consider with friends God's promise of light in the darkness.

Please sign up just outside the narthex or contact Pastor Ralph through the office.

SSLC Preschool News

We have SO MUCH for which to be thankful at our Preschool!
We are blessed with wonderful teachers, supportive parents, precious children, and a church family who supports and prays for us!
We spent most of November remembering and celebrating our many blessings and learning to be a blessing to others! We were excited to fill a Mission Lexington red bin with food for our neighbors in need, perform Thanksgiving songs for our Prime Time friends, and welcome over 100 preschool family members in for the 4s' Thanksgiving celebration!
December will be a shorter school month, full of all things Christmas! We will enjoy Chapel sessions in the sanctuary where we'll learn all about Advent, and Christmas carols will replace our favorite preschool songs! Our 3s' classes will welcome their families in for a special Christmas program and all classes will celebrate together before we leave for the Christmas holiday break (Dec. 21-Jan. 4). It is sure to be a month of excitement!
December's Spotlight Fruit of the Spirit: PEACE
Bible Verse of the Month: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
– Luke 2:14
Nursery Rhyme of the Month: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Thank you to our church family for supporting the pecan sales to benefit the Preschool! Thank you also for supporting our Community Cares event with Chick-fil-A!
We appreciate our St. Stephen's family for your continued love, support, and prayers throughout the school year! We wish you all a very merry Christmas!



Office Hours:
8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:
Phone: 803-359-6562
Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor
Jason T. Antley Jason@sslc.org

Pastor
Ralph G. Hill Ralph@sslc.org

Director of Family Life Ministries
Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org

Parish Administrator
Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562

Director of Music/Organist
Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director
Julie Tworzyanski preschool@sslc.org
359-4369

Organist Emeritus
Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers
President - Matt Martin
Vice President - Stephen Lunsford
Secretary - Sarah Kolb
Treasurer - Mary Keisler

Mission Statement:
Gathering all generations to nurture Christ-like discipleship

Our Vision:
To be a place of hope

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
119 North Church Street
Lexington, SC 29072

"Return Service Requested"

==========

For our guests our Ministries includes. . .

Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): A time for fellowship over dinner and then faith development through Confirmation and Adult Bible Study; Jr. High Youth (5:30-6 PM); Musical groups for children - Cherubs (5:00-5:30 pm), Carol and Treble Choirs (5:30-6:10 pm) and Choir Chimes (6:10-6:40 pm); Wings of Worship Liturgical Dance (6:45 -7:30 pm)

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:15 PM

Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grades): meet regularly for planned activities

J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly for planned activities

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:30PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker

WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.

Preschool: An extension of the ministry for our church & the community for children 15 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon Early bird drop-off available

Prime Time: Adults 60 and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips. A monthly luncheon is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Crossroads: Compromised of adults between “This is Us” and “Prime Time” that get together for fellowship on the first Thursday of the month and for service projects throughout the year

This is Us: This group has children in high school and college and gets together the last Thursday of the month for fellowship and food.

Living Faith: This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. High Youth and our This is Us group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. Activities alternate between adult only and family friendly.

Young Adults: This group is for young adults (college age and up) and newly married couples just starting out that will gather together to build community and offer opportunities for fellowship.

Ladies Who Lunch: Meets monthly for lunch

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol’ Men Eating Out): Meets monthly for lunch