

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for August 16 – August 23, 2020

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **August: Lutheran Campus Ministry** Lutheran Campus Ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others on college campuses around the nation, not just a ministry for Lutherans. Its mission is to invite people in academic settings to engage more deeply with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so that they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. In South Carolina we have 17 ministry sites that reach out to over 20 different colleges and universities. In recent years funding for Lutheran Campus Ministry has declined substantially and they could use our support to help them continue their important mission.

Join us for the Wednesday Eucharist Service held at 12:30PM in the gym to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word in a unique, shortened, but spiritual time of worship. **Wednesday, August 19th** "Love Believes All Things"

St. Stephen's Preschool Ministry has immediate openings available for fall 2020. Preschool will tentatively begin on Monday, September 28, as long as Lexington School District One continues with the plan to conduct in person learning. We have openings for all ages, 12 months up to 4 years. Please contact Beth at 803-359-4369 or email beth@sslc.org.

St. Stephen's T-shirts Since demand was so high (and some folks missed the earlier deadline), we will be placing another order August 31st. Shirts are \$12. If you would like to order a shirt, please email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) with your preferred size and you can mail a check to the church or drop payment by during office hours!! The shirts will be blue and the image and words will be white. There are examples outside the gym for you to see!

Ms. Shannon can't stand it anymore!!! She has planned an event! On Saturday, August 29th, we will have a **Sidewalk Chalk Art Show** at the church! Sidewalk chalk will be provided – you bring the family and the inspiration for whatever you would like to create! The sidewalk will be marked off so that each family can have their own square. We will make sure that families are social distanced to keep everyone safe. Please let Ms. Shannon (shannon@sslc.org) know if you would like to reserve a square. Since this is the day before our Back to School Blessing, we are hoping this can be a fun way to get the school year started (since we won't have a Youth Kick-off this fall). Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 26th so that we know how many families to expect! Plan to "chalk the sidewalk" anytime between 8 AM and noon on the 29th!

2020 Relay for Life was cancelled due to COVID. However, the luminary lighting will still happen! Neighbors Uniting Against Cancer-Let's Shine On will take place on September 20th. Shannon will be putting out luminary bags on the sidewalk around the church and honoring all those that have faced cancer head on! All of our members, who are cancer survivors, will have a luminary given by the church in their honor. If you are a cancer survivor, and don't think we have you on our survivor list, please email Shannon and let her know. If you would like to purchase a luminary in honor or memory of a loved one or friend, please email Shannon. The luminary donation of \$10 will go to the American Cancer Society to help continue the fight to find a cure! Checks for luminaries can be made out to St. Stephen's.

A class for adults will be offered in the gym on Wednesday evenings in August at 6PM. Pastor Pat will be teaching the class titled The New Testament in Its World, An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians.

August 19: The Jews Between the Persian and Roman Empires

August 26: The Study of the Historical Jesus

Blessing for the School Year—August 30th As school gets started at the end of August, we will have a Blessing for the School Year to help get things started in the right direction! Students can bring their book bag if they'd like but they don't have to! We know God will pour out his blessings upon them no matter where they are!

Mission Lexington Our Pentecost to Reformation Food Drive is underway with 2,012 lbs. donated. The goal is to collect 5,000 lbs. during this time. Our food donations for this year total **3,594.5 lbs.** Please place your food donations in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing. All food items and pet food are being accepted. The following items are the most needed: Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Corn, Chili, Pork & beans, Canned Soups, Rice, Dog & Cat Food. **Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.** Mission Lexington is also in urgent need of plastic bags. Bring your used plastic grocery bags to the church and leave them in the food barrel. Thank you again for your support. Point of contact: Ron Redd Cell 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (10:00) 86

Wednesday Eucharist (12:30) 32

Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2020 and Debt Retirement:

Total Owed on Principal: \$1,742,000.00

Amount Paid on Principal for 2020: \$290,000.00

Total Received Building Fund 2020: \$126,244.00

General Offering Totals for 2020: \$496,919.10

Expenses to date 2020 \$495,965.78

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 **10AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online)**

Monday 12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)

Tuesday

Wednesday **12:30PM: Wednesday Worship Service (Gym and Online)**

6PM: Adult Class (Gym)

7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 7PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)

Friday

Saturday

Sunday **10AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online)**