

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (10:00) 94
Wednesday Service: (12:30) 33

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: \$131,700.00

General Offering Totals for 2020 \$536,425.60
Expenses to date 2020 \$560,340.90

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	10:00AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online) 9:15AM: Family, Faith, and the Father Sunday School (Social Hall)
Monday	Office Closed 12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	
Wednesday	12:30PM: Wednesday Worship Service (Gym and Online) 6PM: Confirmation Orientation (Zoom) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	10:00AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online) 9:15AM: Family, Faith, and the Father Sunday School (Social Hall) 11:30AM: God's Work Our Hands (Social Hall) 3PM: J-Crew (The Grove)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 6 – September 13, 2020

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **September: Music Program Scholarship Fund.** The Music Program Scholarship was founded in 2010 as an incentive to encourage St. Stephen's youth to participate in our various choirs. The scholarship is available to all high school aged members who participate in one of our adult choirs or adult handbells. Participants are required to be present for at least 75% of all rehearsals and performances, and they are awarded \$50 for each year of participation. The full amount that each student earns will be collected and given to them upon their graduation from high school. Love offering donations in September will go towards continuing these scholarships into the future.

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, September 9th** "Love Never Ends"

Christian Sympathy is extended to Dawn Corley upon the death of her mother, Merle Dean Morton. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her and her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Family Sunday School: Sunday School will look different this fall as we begin figuring out how to get back together but still stay safe! We are going to start by offering families (children and parents) the opportunity to gather in the Social Hall (each family at a different table) from 9:15 - 9:45 where we will have time for **Family, Faith, and the Father**. We look forward to seeing you there! Snacks will be provided.

Nursery News: A nursery will now be offered during the 10AM Sunday Worship Service. The adult keeping the nursery will wear a mask and we plan to have the same person keeping the nursery each week. We feel the consistency is important and we hope that this will allow parents with younger children to feel more comfortable returning to worship.

Meetings: Small groups can now begin meeting in the social hall but meetings MUST be scheduled through the office. The social hall can be used for meetings that do not exceed 34 people in attendance. Social distancing (2 people per round table) and mask guidelines (keep the mask on until you are seated) are still in effect. No food will be allowed during meetings.

St. Stephen's Preschool Ministry has immediate openings available for fall 2020. Preschool will begin on Monday, September 28. We have openings for all ages, 12 months up to 4 years. Please contact Beth at 803-359-4369 or email beth@sslc.org.

Mission Lexington Our Pentecost to Reformation Food Drive is underway with 3,252 lbs. donated. The goal is to collect 5,000 lbs. during this time. Our food donations for this year total **4,834.5 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.

J-Crew Sunday, September 13th – Games at 3:00 in “The Grove” You zoomed out? Need some time with friends and a little outside fun? 1st -5th graders are invited to come to the front lawn for some games and time for fellowship! Don't forget to bring a mask in the event that we need it. Please make sure to RSVP to Pastor Jason by Thursday, September 10th including how many kids you have coming. A few chaperones would be most helpful as well so please let Pastor Jason know if you can help in that capacity. Hope to see YOU there!

Jr. and Sr. Youth: We will be hosting an outdoor game night on Sunday, September 20th. Wear your mask, bring a chair, and come enjoy some outdoor games! We will have Giant Connect 4, Horseshoes, the Flying Disc game, Corn hole, and Giant JENGA! We will also be ordering pizza so please RSVP to Ms. Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) by Sept. 18th if you plan to attend. This is also our Relay for Life Luminary Night at the church so after we eat, we will plan to set up luminaries along the sidewalk! Plan to meet in the front yard on Main St. (The Grove) at 5:30pm. We should be finished by 7:30pm!

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. Our youth & Ms. 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.

Lutheran Men will resume monthly meetings Monday, September 21, 2020 @ 7:00 pm in the social hall. Pastor Pat will speak on the History of St. Stephen's. There will be no food, drink or dessert served. Attendees should wear a mask and sit two people per table. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Redd 803-360-0241

BINGO: On Thursday, September 17th, we will have a church wide BINGO night in the church parking lot! We will practice social distancing and you can either stay in your car or bring your own chairs and sit close to your car. We will provide BINGO sheets and PRIZES! We will also have Travelin' Dogs with us! They will have hotdogs with all the fixin's for \$3 each or you can get a combo with a drink and a bag of chips for \$5. We are excited to offer an outdoor event where we can socially space but still enjoy seeing each other! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Tonya (Tonya@sslc.org) or Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) Hotdogs will be available beginning at 5:30 and we will plan to play BINGO at 6PM.

God's Work Our Hands Service Day – NEXT Sunday, September 13th: This day has been reserved to participate in the ELCA's Annual "God's Work Our Hands" Day. We will be going out as a congregation to do yardwork for members of our congregation who need our assistance. If you would like to participate please let Pastor Jason know by **TODAY** so we can get organized. Also, if you have tools, mowers, trimmers, cutters, etc. that you can bring that would be greatly appreciated as we will be splitting up to hit multiple projects at once.

Join us for “Ask A Black Woman” Sunday, September 27th at 3pm in the gym. “Ask a Black Woman” is an informative, interactive, question and answer presentation by Dr. Ebony Flemming Bowers about her experiences as a woman of color. Please come with an open mind and an open heart.

First Communion Class will be offered by Pastor Jason and Pastor Pat on Sunday, October 11th at 12:30pm in the gym. Please bring a mask and plan to sit socially spaced with your parents during the class. If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, October 8th so that we can know how many to expect. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason!

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, Sept. 17 – BINGO Night
Sunday, Sept. 20 – Relay for Life Luminary Lighting
Monday, Sept. 21 – Lutheran Men Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 27 – Ask A Black Woman
Monday, Sept. 28 – Preschool Starts
Sunday, Oct. 11 – Blessing of the Animals