

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 99 (9:45) 19 (11:00) 84
Lenten Service: (12:30) 47

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$194,693.72
Expenses to date 2021: \$212,365.09

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	6:30AM: Sunrise Easter Service (Sanctuary: Singing) 8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online: Singing) 9:45AM: Worship Service (Gym: No Singing) 11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary: Singing) 1PM: Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary: Singing)
Monday	Church Office Closed 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tuesday	
Wednesday	11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall) 12:30PM: Lenten Service (Sanctuary & Online: No Singing) 2-7PM: Blood Drive (Gym) 6PM: Adult Bible Study (Social Hall) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor) 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online: Singing) 9:30AM: Family, Faith, and the Father Sunday School (Social Hall) 9:45AM: Worship Service (Gym: No Singing) 10:15AM: Family, Faith, and the Father Sunday School (Social Hall) 11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary: Singing)

SSLC Blood Drive THIS Wednesday, April 7th from 2-7pm in the gym. Please go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code SSLC to sign up.

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for April 4 – April 11, 2021

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **April - Relay for Life**
At Relay For Life events, communities across the globe come together to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against a disease that has already taken too much. The funds you raise truly make a difference in the fight against cancer; just ask one of the nearly 14 million cancer survivors who will celebrate another birthday this year! Love offering donations made in the month of April will go towards the fundraising efforts of the St. Stephen's Relay for Life team. If you would like to find out more, please see Shannon Burnett.

Hospitalized: Bill Mathias, Wellmore

Join us for the Wednesday, April 7th Eucharist Service held at 12:30PM in the sanctuary to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word in a unique, shortened, but spiritual time of worship.

Wednesday Lunches are returning! Beginning this Wednesday, April 7th a light lunch will be offered in the social hall starting at 11:45am. We hope to see you there!

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Vonetta Arrants upon her death. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Preschool Registration 2021-22 has begun for age 18 month to 4-year-old. Please contact Beth Haggard if you have any questions or want to enroll your child!

Congratulations to those who participated in the **First Communion Class** this year; Ben Brunson, Hannah Hill, Henry Jebaily, and Jackson Rawl. We celebrate with them and their families upon this momentous occasion in their life of faith!

"Come Away" Story Sermon Books Available! This Lent we all had the pleasure of experiencing the story sermon series "Come Away" by Pastor Barry Antley, which shared the way that faith touched the lives of the fictitious residents of Revelation, SC. These sermons, and the characters and experiences depicted, were a beautiful, sometimes comical, always meaningful, and unbelievably powerful expression of the gospel. Now you have the opportunity to own the whole series in a bound book! Pastor Antley has graciously donated a box of bound copies of the "Come Away" series. These books will be available during the Easter season with all proceeds benefitting the Music Fund. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated. Additionally, Pastor Antley will be available on Sunday, April 18th in the hallway outside the church narthex for conversation and a book signing if you so desire. We thank Pastor Antley for his willingness to share these incredible stories with us! The books will be available in the office. Pastor Antley will also have them available on the 18th!

Mission Lexington: We have collected 2,825 lbs. Our Easter to Reformation food drive begins next Sunday, April 11 with our goal of 6,000 lbs. Please place your food donations and plastic or paper bags in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing or in the box in front of the men's class room. 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, Coffee, Dog & Cat Food. Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry. Thanks again for your support! Ron Redd Cell 803-360-0241 Redd7848@gmail.com.

JCREW (1st-5th grade): On Sunday, April 25th from 1-3pm we will meet up with the J-Crew group from St. David's Lutheran to enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun. More details will be available closer to the event, but we look forward to having a good group to participate! Go ahead and mark the date on your calendars. You won't want to miss it!

Jr. and Sr. Youth Event: Let's go to the movies! Join us April 11th at 2:45 when we will head to the AMC theater at Dutch Square to see the movie "42"! We will be the only ones in the theater but only 20 people total can go!! If you want to be part of that 20, RSVP ASAP! If we have more than 20, we may look at an additional date and time to take another group! The movie starts at 4 PM. Please bring money for whatever snacks you want!

All high school and college graduates will be recognized on Sunday, May 9th! Please get in touch with Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) and let her know if you are graduating so you can be recognized!

Lutheridge Day Camp: This will be our 20th year hosting camp at SSLC. Join us for camp on June 28- July 2 with limited space available. Registration for campers entering 1st – 6th grade for next school year (2021-2022) is now open. The cost for one week of camp is \$150.00 for the 1st child and \$130.00 for siblings. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon!

Chat N Chew: Georgianna and Don Dukes have made arrangements for us to have the private dining room at the Blue Marlin on Thursday, May 20th at 5:30pm. Social distancing will be observed and if you feel the need to wear a mask that will be perfectly fine. Please sign up on the sheet outside the men's classroom. We have all missed our time together and look forward to seeing everyone for a good meal and fellowship!

Lutheran Men: Fellow member, Lance Young will be our guest speaker Monday, April 19 at 7:00pm in the social hall. The topic will be clean water projects in Honduras. We will serve a meal and dessert using Covid 19 protocol. Please come and join us! Social distancing will be practiced, and masks are required. If you have any questions please contact Ron Redd Redd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Change in Office Hours: Beginning the week after Easter, the church office hours will become Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4 PM. The office will now be closed on Fridays. The Crisis Care Line (803-808-6471) will still be available at all times.

Adult Wednesday Evening Class will resume after Holy Week! This is a survey study of the New Testament with Bishop N. T. Wright and Michael F. Bird, entitled: *The New Testament in its World: An Introduction to The History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians*. Our Adult WNL! Classes have enjoyed the great Biblical Scholar Bishop Wright over the years and we look forward to journeying with him and Dr. Byrd through the New Testament.

April 7: The Gospel According to St. John

April 14: The Making of the Gospels, Intro to the Early Christian Letters, The Letter to the Hebrews

April 21: No Class

April 27: Letters by Jesus' Brothers: James and Jude, The Petrine Letters

Operation Inasmuch Service Day: On Sunday, May 2nd, St. Stephen's will participate in a day of outreach called Operation Inasmuch. We are going to reach out to folks in the congregation who are in need of some spring cleaning yardwork. We might also have a group stay on the church campus to do a project. All skill levels are needed!! Anybody with yard equipment is encouraged to bring it with them! Please contact Pastor Jason if you are interested in serving those in need in our congregation!

Living Faith Group: This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a "young adult". The definition of "young adult" is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us! Everyone is invited to UNO's Pizzeria and Grill on Friday, April 23rd from 7-9pm! This will be a kids-free time of food and fellowship. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, April 21st so he can make sure we have enough space reserved. Hope to see YOU there!

Upcoming Events:

Monday, April 19: Lutheran Men

Friday, April 23: Lifeline Screening

Sunday, May 2: Operation Inasmuch

Sunday, May 9: Youth Sunday; Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 23: Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

Thursday, May 20: Chat N Chew

June 28-July 2: Lutheridge Day Camp

July 11-14: Vacation Bible School