

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 113 (9:45) 21 (11:00) 99
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 47

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$254,644.61
Expenses to date 2021: \$236,378.61

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: Singing)**
9:30AM: Family, Faith, & the Father Sunday School (Classroom beside Chapel)
9:45AM: Worship Service (Gym: No Singing)
 Agape Sunday School (Social Hall)
10:15AM: Family, Faith, & the Father Sunday School (Classroom beside Chapel)
11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary: Singing)
1PM: J-CREW (St. David)
2PM: 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Community Groups (The Grove)

Monday 9AM: Preschool
 12:30PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Tuesday 9AM: Preschool

Wednesday 9AM: Preschool
 11:45AM: Wednesday Lunch (Social Hall)
12:30PM: Eucharist Service (Sanctuary & Online: No Singing)
6PM: Confirmation Class (Zoom); Adult Class (Gym)
7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 9AM: Preschool
 7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Friday Haselden Rehearsal

Saturday 4PM: Haselden Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday **8:30AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary & Online: Singing)**
9:30AM: Family, Faith, & the Father Sunday School (Classroom beside Chapel)
9:45AM: Worship Service (Gym: No Singing)
 Agape Sunday School (Social Hall); Men's Sunday School
10:15AM: Family, Faith, & the Father Sunday School (Classroom beside Chapel)
11:00AM: Worship Service (Sanctuary: Singing)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for April 25 – May 2, 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: Mickey Ann Burnett, Home; Curtis Rickenbaker, LMC

Join us for the Wednesday, April 28th 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. Lunch will be served at 11:45am in the social hall.

Freedom to Imagine: Don't forget to RSVP for our church wide event on May 16th at 5pm!

Agape Sunday School Class has started back meeting at 9:45am every Sunday in the social hall.

Men's Sunday School Class will start back next Sunday, May 2nd at 9:45am in the men's Sunday school room.

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!

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!

An art gallery has been created with Dawn Corley's original artwork. That artwork can be purchased with all proceeds going to debt retirement. This artwork will only be available at St. Stephen's and benefitting the church only. The gallery is located across from the Preschool Office.

Mission Lexington: Our Easter to Reformation food drive continues with 765 lbs. collected towards our goal of 6,000 lbs. Total collected for the year is 4,656 lbs. Our goal for the year is 15,000 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 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

JCREW (1st-5th grade): We will meet **TODAY** from 1-3pm with the J-Crew group from St. David's Lutheran to enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun. You won't want to miss it!

The 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Community groups will meet **TODAY** at 2pm to play wiffle ball in The Grove! RSVP to Ms. Shannon if you plan to attend!

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! Only 7 spots available.

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. Please have \$20 per person cash to give to Georgianna for the meal expenses. We have all missed our time together and look forward to seeing everyone for a good meal and fellowship!

Lutheran Men: Please join for fellowship and a meal Monday May 17th at 7:00pm in the social hall. Fellow member David Jolly will be our guest speaker. The topic will be "Covid-19, My Story."

Adult Wednesday Evening Class! 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 27: Letters by Jesus' Brothers: James and Jude, The Petrine Letters

Operation Inasmuch Service Day: Next Sunday, 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!

VBS – 2021: Join us on Adventure Island as we discover God's great light! Registration forms are available at www.sslc.org and outside the Narthex. We are planning to have a "regular" VBS, while still keeping safety measures in mind. If you are interested in helping, please let Shannon know. **We need leaders for:** Crafts, Games, Snacks, Bible Story Time, and all age groups (Nursery, 2's-3's, 4's & 5K, 1st-2nd, and 3rd-5th). Also, if you are interested in helping with decorations, please let Shannon know.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, May 2: Operation Inasmuch
Sunday, May 9: Youth Sunday; Graduation Recognition
Sunday, May 16: Freedom to Imagine Dinner
Monday, May 17: Lutheran Men
Thursday, May 20: Chat N Chew
Sunday, May 23: Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation Sunday
Thursday, May 27: Preschool Graduation
June 28-July 2: Lutheridge Day Camp
July 11-14: Vacation Bible School