

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 83 (9:45) 27 (11:00) 79
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 43

General Offering Totals for 2021: \$263,136.08
Expenses to date 2021: \$242,028.08

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); Men's Sunday School
10:15AM: Family, Faith, & the Father Sunday School (Classroom beside Chapel)
11:00AM: Worship Services (Sanctuary: Singing)

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/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

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

Friday

Saturday

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 May 2 – May 9, 2021

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **May - Youth and Children's Ministries:** Youth and Children's ministries at St. Stephen's are a pivotal part of our mission to make our church a place where people of all ages develop and nurture their faith in Christ so that they can make a difference in the world around them. All love offering donations during the month of May will go towards fundraising efforts to support our youth and children's ministries including summer mission trips, monthly activities, special camps, etc. Thank you for giving to this hugely important ministry over and above your regular giving!

Hospitalized: Curtis Rickenbaker, Home; Ralph Rodgers, Home; Paulette Shealy, Home; Beth Lowman, Greenwood Rehab.

Christian Sympathy is extended to Tonya Reynolds and her family upon the death of her father, Bill DuBose. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with them assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for the Wednesday, May 5th 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!

Men's Sunday School Class will start back **TODAY** at 9:45am in the Men's Sunday School room.

All high school and college graduates will be recognized next 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 1112 lbs. toward a goal of 6,000 lbs. between now and Reformation Sunday. Food total for the year is 5,003 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.

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 6 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."

Our local Relay for Life is once again looking different this year. On Saturday, June 5th at 10 AM, the American Cancer Society will host "Drive Out Cancer" in our large parking lot. This will be a parade of team cars and you are invited to come watch and cheer! St. Stephen's will have a car and Shannon would love to have your input as to how we should decorate! We will have luminaries placed in the parking lot as well so if you'd like to honor someone that has fought or is currently fighting cancer with a luminary, the suggested donation is \$10 for a white bag or \$25 for a gold bag. If you gave a Love Offering in April with the intent that it be used for a luminary, please let Shannon know! The remainder of the love offering money that was received in April will be used to honor our church members that are cancer survivors!

Operation Inasmuch Service Day: TODAY, 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! We will gather in the social hall at

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 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