

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30) 174 (11:00) 171  
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 38

**Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2018 and Debt Retirement:**

Total Owed on Principle: \$2,198,000.00  
Amount Due for 2019: \$230,000.00  
Total Received Building Fund 2018: \$240,986.12

General Offering Totals for 2018: \$783,370.06  
Expenses to date 2018: \$762,234.88

**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 & 11:00AM: Worship Services**  
9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages  
12:30PM: Youth (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Ice Skating

Monday 9AM-12PM: Preschool  
12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)  
5:30PM-6:45PM: Holmes (Gym)  
7PM: Boy Scouts (Gym)

Tuesday 9AM-12PM: Preschool  
4PM-8:30PM: Magnum Volleyball (Gym)

Wednesday 9AM-12PM: Preschool  
11:30AM: Prime Time (Social Hall)  
12:00PM: Power Hour Lunch (Social Hall)  
**12:30PM: Eucharist Worship Service (Sanctuary)**  
5PM: Cherub and JCREW Choir  
5:15PM: WNL Dinner  
5:30PM: Intermediate Ringers  
6PM: Confirmation and Adult Classes; JCREW Tone Chimes; Handbells  
6:45PM: Wings of Worship  
7PM: Adult Choir  
7PM: Finance Meeting (Office Large Conference Room)  
7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 9AM-12PM: Preschool  
4PM-6:30PM: Holmes (Gym)  
7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Friday 4PM-6PM: Magnum Volleyball (Gym)

Saturday Marchant (Gym)

Sunday **8:30 & 11:00AM: Worship Services**  
9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages  
12:30PM: Youth (1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Ice Skating  
Marchant (Gym)  
6PM: Council Meeting (Upstairs Large Classroom)

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for January 13 – January 20, 2019**

**Congregation Council** approves causes to be featured monthly. Special offering envelopes are located on the literature table in the narthex. **January Love Offering - ELCA World Hunger** More than 800 million people — that's 1 in 8 people in our world today — are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

**Hospitalized:** David Smith, HOME!; Bill Taylor, LMC, Johnny Early, Richland Heart

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to the family of Helen Vickers, 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.

**Congratulations** to Dave Bozard, upon the birth of his grandson, William Miller Hutson, on January 4, 2019.

**Join us for the Wednesday 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. **January 23rd "The Church is the Place"**. Don't miss out! St. Stephen's Power Hour: Consisting of free will offering lunch at 12pm (every Wednesday) in the social hall followed by our 12:30pm WE! Worship with Holy Communion!

**THANK YOU** so much for turning in your investment cards, and for those of you who haven't please go ahead and turn them in! **These cards are a great help in terms of us planning financially for 2019!**

**Sanctuary Renewal Update:** We have received \$67,486.76 towards our goal (including the \$7,500 from the 150 Investment Cards Challenge, Thank you!) with another \$23,485.00 pledged to be given by 1/31/19. Thank you to everyone who has donated and pledged!

**2019 Flower Chart** is up outside the men's classroom with plenty of open dates. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday!

**Stock Donations-** We have changed brokers. If you would like to give stock donations to the church, please contact the finance office to get the correct information. Thank you!

**MISSION LEXINGTON (formerly LICS) FOOD REQUEST** : They URGENTLY need the following items: Beef stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Chili, Green Beans, Corn, Pork & Beans, and Mac & Cheese. Remember, **even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry**. Food totals year to date: **128lbs**. If you wish to make a cash donation toward purchase of food, please make a check out to St. Stephen's and mark it for **MISSION LEXINGTON FOOD PANTRY PURCHASE** and give it to me personally or put it in my Council Box. I will purchase the food and take it to Mission Lexington. Please keep those cans coming. Donating canned goods is a good way to be the hands, feet, and the face of Christ to someone you will probably never meet. Place your food donations in the Mission Lexington boxes in front of the Men's class or the box in front of Tonya's office. The hungry in Lexington continue to depend on you and they thank you!! Thank you again for your support. Contact: Ron Redd 359-6363 or Redd7848@gmail.com

**Crossroads Ministry**: We are a ministry located somewhere between the Living Faith and Prime Time groups. Some of us are in a crossroads in our lives and some just are along for the fun and service. Come join us on January 26<sup>th</sup> for our PBJ/Snack bag ministry. See Suzanne Robinson or Beth Haggard with questions!

**JCREW, Jr. Youth, and Sr. Youth: TODAY** – Ice Skating

All youth (1st-12th grade) are invited to lunch and ice skating! Plan to leave the church at 12:30 PM. We will grab lunch at McDonalds and then go skating (either at the Plex or at Main Street Ice)! Skating is \$10. Lunch will be covered. We will plan to be back between 3:30 and 4:00.

**Jr. Youth 6th-8th Grade**: The Dawkins' will be sponsoring our January event on the 27<sup>th</sup>! More details will be emailed out but mark your calendars now!

**Sr. Youth 9th-12th Grade: January 27th (2-4 PM) - GraceWorks Celebration/Introduction**  
GraceWorks offers a week each summer to serve the needy in and around Columbia. Not only will this event be a celebration of last summer's accomplishments, but it's also an opportunity for new folks to learn what GraceWorks is all about! There will be a service activity along with a worship experience and a slideshow from 2018. Plan to leave at 12:30 and bring \$10 for lunch. We should return by 4:30. Please RSVP to Shannon (shannon@sslc.org) by Friday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

**2019 Youth Ski Trip 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**: Our 2019 ski trip will be February 15-17 at Lutherock. We will be staying at Crows Nest and skiing Beech Mountain. We have 6 rooms for kids to stay in. Up to 24 can go (4 per room). Lodging will be \$125. Lift tickets are \$50 and ski rentals are \$20. If you prefer to snowboard the cost is \$30. You also have the opportunity to tube (\$33 for 2 hours) or ice skate (\$12 for 2 hours). You will need some spending money for lunch on Saturday, any souvenirs you may want, and a snack/possible meal while traveling. All other food expense will be covered. We need a final headcount and full payment by Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to Shannon@sslc.org.

**Prime Time Luncheon: January 16<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM** Come enjoy soup and cornbread before our Wednesday Eucharist service begins at 12:30. A love offering will be collected.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** - Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2PM-7PM! Please consider giving the gift of life!

**HUGS Donations to go to the Homeless**: Everyone in the congregation is invited to donate HUGS for the homeless. HUGS are hats, underwear, gloves, and socks or scarves. These items will be taken to the homeless in Finlay Park during on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Talent Show**: Our church wide talent show will be Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>! If you would like to perform in the talent show, please sign up on the clipboard across from the Men's Sunday School classroom. We will have a rehearsal on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**The Quarterly Saxe Gotha Lutheran Men in Mission Conference** meeting will be held Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7:00pm at Emmanuel West Columbia. Our Guest Speaker will be National Lutheran Men in Mission President Hal Derrick, who will travel from his home in Hendersonville, NC to be with us. I encourage each of you to attend and join in the fellowship and food and also give a warm welcome to Hal. Point of Contact: Ron Redd 803-260-0241 Redd7848@gmail.com.

**Lutheran Men** will meet on January 21st at 7:00 PM for our regular monthly meeting. All men are members and are encouraged to attend. Come enjoy food and fellowship! Our short program will focus on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letter from the Birmingham jail. Timely since it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Church Directory**: If your address or phone number has changed in the last year, please contact the church office or email Tonya@sslc.org with your correct information. We want our Church Directory to be as accurate as possible!!

**Lion's Club All You Can Eat Pancake Dinner** is Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm. The cost is \$5/person and kids under 5 yrs. old are free. You can eat in the social hall or take it to go. All proceeds go to Sight Conservation.

**Upcoming Events:**

Wednesday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Blood Drive

Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – Talent Show/Silent Auction