

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 128 (11:00) 176
WE! Service: 30

Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2017 and Debt Retirement:

Our year end numbers will be updated as soon as they are available

WE MADE BUDGET FOR 2017

Offering to date 2018: \$15,359.00

Expenses to date 2018: \$15,820.33

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	8:30 & 11:00AM: Worship Services 9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages
Monday	No Preschool Today 8:45AM: Men's Bible Study 12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall) 5:30PM: Gym reserved (Holmes) 7PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall) 7PM: Boy Scouts (Gym)
Tuesday	9AM-12:00PM: Preschool resumes (Tuesday – Thursday) 6PM-8:30PM: Gym reserved for Volleyball
Wednesday	11:30AM: Prime Time Luncheon 12:30PM: WE! Worship Service in the Sanctuary WNL! 5:00-5:30: Children's Choir (ages 2- 5K and 1st - 6th grade) 5:15-6:00: Dinner in the Social Hall 5:30-6:00: Intermediate Tone Chimes 6:00-6:45: Hand Bells, Tone Chimes; Adult Class 6:00-7:00: 7th-8th Grade Confirmation Classes 6:45-7:30: Wings of Worship 7:00-8:00: Adult Choir 7:15PM: Gym reserved (Holmes) 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	6PM-8:30PM: Gym reserved for Volleyball 7PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	4PM: Gym reserved (WKHS Color Guard) 6PM: Living Faith Bible Study and Dinner
Saturday	8AM: Conference Room Reserved (Via de Cristo) 8:30AM: Gym reserved (WKHS Color Guard)
Sunday	8:30 & 11:00AM: Worship Services 9:45 AM: Sunday School for all ages Debt Retirement Meal

Congregation Council approved causes to be featured monthly. Special offering envelopes are located on the literature table in the narthex. **January's 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: Beverly Kyzer, Lexington Medical Center

Don't forget....Our 2018 *Flower Calendar* is available for sign up and there are lots of open dates. Please find the calendar on the bulletin board outside the Men's Sunday School Classroom.

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 17: Luther on "Herod"**

Principal Payment Reduction Lunches are held each month September - May. All proceeds go directly to retire the debt. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services. The menu for Jan. 21st is Chicken and Dumplings, Fried Okra, Stewed Cinnamon Apples, German Potato Salad, Roll and Butter

THANK YOU to all those that returned their 2018 Investment Cards. We met our goal of 150 cards and have been rewarded with the \$10,000 donation! WOOHOO!!! If you haven't had the chance to return your card, please still feel free to turn it in! It's a huge help as we plan for 2018!

Parish Administrator update: Tonya Reynolds began her job as Parish Administrator on January 2nd. She will continue to serve as Financial Secretary as well. She will be in the front office from 8AM-12PM and then be in the financial office in the afternoon. A huge thanks to Elaine Taylor who stepped in during November and December to keep things running smoothly!

Newsletter and Bulletin announcements: If you have any information that needs to be put in the newsletter, please email it to Shannon (shannon@sslc.org). If you have announcements for the bulletin, please email Tonya (tonya@sslc.org)

SAXE GOTHA CONFERENCE Lutheran Men QUARTERLY CONFERENCE MEETING: Saxe Gotha Conference Lutheran Men will meet at 7:00 pm Monday, January 22, 2018 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2491 Emmanuel Church Road, West Columbia. Fellow member David Able will be our guest speaker. If you plan to attend, please contact Ron Redd: 803-359-6363 or 803-360-0241. Redd7848@gmail.com.

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St Stephens Lutheran Church on 1/22/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **Call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>**

Our Living Faith group will be collecting HUGS for the Homeless in January! Everyone in the congregation is invited to donate some HUGS. HUGS are hats, underwear, gloves, and socks or scarves. These items will be taken to the homeless in Finlay Park on February 5th.

Lutheran Men: St. Stephen's LMM welcomes SCLMM Treasurer Joe Fulmer as our Guest Speaker January 15th. He will speak on his mission trip to Tanzania in August. Please join us for our program and a delicious meal. We meet at 7:00pm in the social hall. POC Ron Redd 803-359-6363 Rredd7848@gmail.com

LICS FOOD REQUEST: LICS is running low on the following items: Beef stew, Pork and Beans, Chili, Peanut Butter and Jelly
Remember, **even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.** Our Advent food drive goal of 2,500 lbs. of food donated was a huge success with 2,511.5.0 lbs. Food donations for the month total 1,449.5 lbs. **Food totals for the year: 11,012 lbs.** 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 **LICS 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 LICS. Please keep those cans coming. Donating canned goods to LICS 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 LICS boxes in front of the Men's class or the box in front of Carole's office. **The hungry in Lexington continue to depend on you and they thank you!!** Thank you again for your support. Point of contact: Ron Redd 359-6363 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars and sign up now! Our church wide talent show will be Sunday, February 11th. If you'd 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, Feb. 7th!

J-Crew - Sunday, January 21 – Ice Skating All 1st through 6th graders are invited to go Ice Skating on Sunday, January 21st. We will head to Main St. Ice in downtown Columbia. Plan to leave the church at 12:30 PM. We will grab lunch at McDonalds and then go skating! Skating is \$8 for children 12 and under and \$10 for Adults. Please bring money for lunch. We will plan to be back between 3:30 and 4:00. Please RSVP by January 19th! Parent chaperones are needed and we will also need drivers. Hope to see YOU there!

Feeding the Hungry: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church will be Feeding the Hungry at Finlay Park on January 28th! EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE! We will depart from the church at 12:30pm to head for the park. Each family is invited to cook something to share with the hungry that gather. Please put your dish in a disposable pan and bring a serving utensil. The meal will start at 1pm. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Jason (jasonantley@earthlink.net).

Prime Time Events: January 17th – 11:30 AM - Pizza and salad luncheon Please sign up by TODAY so we know how much pizza to order **January 28th – Town Theater** Join us as we go see "Big Fish" at Town Theater in Columbia on Sunday, January 28th at 3 PM **Tickets (\$20) will be ordered on January 15th. Please sign up by then so we know how many to purchase.

Living Faith: Bible Study Potluck – Friday, January 19th at 6pm at St. Stephen's
On Friday, January 19th at 6pm we will gather at the church for a potluck dinner and bible study. Please bring a pot of soup/chili and/or a dessert. Cornbread and drinks will be provided. There will also be childcare provided. Please RSVP to me no later than Tuesday, January 16th with the following info: 1) what soup/chili/dessert you are bringing, 2) will you need childcare, and 3) if yes for childcare, how many children will you be bringing. Hope you will be able to join the group for what promises to be an awesome time of food, fellowship, and learning!

Mark your calendars NOW! The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 4th at 10:00am** in the gym.

2018-2019 Preschool Registration for church members and those already enrolled begins Monday, January 22. Enrollment then opens to the community on Feb. 5 If you are interested in enrolling your child, you can download the registration form from our church webpage, attach your registration fee and leave at the preschool office or church office. You will receive a confirmation in the mail. ***Please note that class size is limited and classes fill quickly. Submitting your registration does not guarantee a position, but we will try our best to accommodate you and your family.** Call the preschool office at 359-4369, or email to beth@sslc.org if you have any questions concerning classes.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 4th - Annual Congregational Meeting for St. Stephen's at 9:45 AM
Sunday, February 11th - WELCA Sweet Swap and St. Stephen's Talent Show
Saturday, March 31st - Easter Eggstravaganza (18 months-4th grade)
Saturday, April 14th - Church wide Yard Sale
(Proceeds benefitting ELCA National Youth Gathering)
Saturday, May 5th - Ladies Spring Luncheon
Friday, May 18th - 2018 Relay for Life at Lexington High School
June 17th-23rd - Campfirmation with Pastor Jason (Lutherock)
June 24th-30th - Campfirmation with Pastor Pat (Lutheridge)
June 27th - July 1st ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX
July 8th - 12th VBS
July 16th - 20th Lutheridge Day Camp

