

**Our Stewardship of Attendance last week:** (8:30) 168 (11:00) 151 Wednesday (12:30) 49

**Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2017:** Income to date: \$ 573,659.13  
Expenses to date: \$ 611,918.87

**2017 Offerings for Debt Retirement Fund:**

Offerings to date: \$181,293.76  
Total interest and principal needed for 2017: \$234,944.05

Remember, not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. No gift is too great or too small.

**It is more blessed to give than it is to receive. Giving to accomplish God's mission on earth is a sign of Christ's inner peace, His inner presence. His gift.**

**St. Stephen's Activities for this week include:**

TODAY	<b>8:30 &amp; 11:00AM: Worship Services</b>
Christ	9:45AM: <i>Continuing the Journey</i> Celebration in the gym/Debt retirement brunch
The King	12:30PM: Council meeting
Sunday	3PM: Confirmation Make-up Session 4PM: JCREW (Hotdogs and S'mores) 5PM: Nurture and Outreach Committee Meeting 6PM: Council meeting
Monday	8:45AM: Men's Bible Study 9AM-12:00PM: Preschool (Monday – Tuesday this week only) Lunch Belles (Chrismons) 12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall) 6PM: Scouts 7PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)
Tuesday	8AM-12PM: Social Hall reserved for Preschool
Wednesday	<b>12:30PM: WE Worship Service in the Sanctuary</b> 7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)
Thursday	<i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING/OFFICE CLOSED</i> 7PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)
Friday	<i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>
Saturday	9AM: Crossroads
Sunday	<b>8:30 &amp; 11:00AM: Worship Services</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	9:45AM: Sunday School 12:30 Feeding the Hungry at Finlay Park 2PM: Confirmation Make-up Session 3-5PM: Jr. and Sr. (7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade) Youth

**The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for November 19 – November 26, 2017**

**Congregation Council** approved causes to be featured monthly. Special offering envelopes are located on the literature table in the narthex. **November's Love Offering: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.** October's Love Offering for Newberry College was \$335.

**November Love Offering - Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary:** LTSS is 1 of 8 ELCA Seminaries and the only seminary found in the Southern region of the United States. The campus is found on North Main Street in the Eau Claire community of Columbia. LTSS has been educating and preparing leaders for the church since 1830 and continues that mission today. As members of the SC Synod of the ELCA it will continue to be a part of our mission to support the seminary both with our prayers and our treasures. Please consider designating any donations over and above your regular giving to LTSS to help support the institution, the students, and their ministry present and future.

**Offering Envelopes:** Please use the white St. Stephen's envelopes located in the pew racks for your budget offerings. Put your full name on the outside of the envelope and the amount of the offering. This will insure proper credit.

**Hospitalized:** Van Skipper, Home; Pat Hargrett, Home; Mike Brittingham, Home

**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. **November 22: Song of Solomon**

**Principal Payment Reduction Lunches** are held each month September - May. Different groups in the church prepare and serve a meal to the congregation. All proceeds go directly to retire the debt. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services. November is being sponsored by Lutheran Men; February by Agape SS Class; March by Nurture & Outreach; April by Choir, Worship & Music. **Open months include: January & May.** If you'd like to provide a meal, please contact Mary Keisler (960-9155) or the church office (359-6562).

**Committee of 100:** How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? Actually it could be really simple – by becoming a part of the Committee of 100 which is composed of members who contribute a special \$100.00 in a given year to help support newly organized mission churches in the SC Synod as they struggle to become self-supporting. St. Stephen's has led the way in this program since 1980 – having 88 members in 2016. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Make your check to: L.M. Committee of 100 – drop it in with your regular offering or get the check to Murray Price or Ron Redd and they will handle the details.

**Angel Tree:** Please share the gift of joy this holiday season by taking an angel or two. We are continuing our annual tradition by sponsoring Lutheran Family Services Group Homes. Our gifts are the only ones that these kids, young adults and veterans receive. Please return the gift wrapped with Angel attached by Sunday, December 10.

**LICS Food Pantry:** LICS food pantry URGENTLY need our food donations. LICS is running low on the following items: Beef stew, Canned Chili, Peanut butter and Jelly, Pork and Beans  
**Holiday food items needed:** Stuffing mixes, Canned Sweet potatoes, Yams, Cranberry sauce, Gravy mixes, Instant potatoes, Cornbread mix, Dry cookie mixes  
Remember, **even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.** Our End of Year food drive is underway with 272.5 lbs. of food donated with a goal of 2,500 lbs. of food between now and the end of the year. **WE CAN DO IT!! Food totals for the year: 8,773.0 lbs. We need to donate 4,963 lbs. of food between now and the end of the year to match last year's total of 13,736 lbs.** Please prayerfully consider bringing in extra cans of food. 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 by the front 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](mailto:Rredd7848@gmail.com).

**Holiday Hams and Turkeys for LICS:** Nurture and Outreach is seeking donations to purchase turkeys and hams to donate during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Please prayerfully consider donating \$20.00 toward their purchase. Make checks to St. Stephen's and mark it for Ham & Turkey purchase and place it in the offering plate. We will purchase them close to the holidays. Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Point of Contact: Ron Redd: PH: 359-6363.

**NEEDED:** Helpers to collect and take bulletins to the office after the 11:00AM. service for recycling. Two of our volunteers have had to resign. If they can be replaced, the duty will fall about once every six weeks. For information contact Ken or Sylvia Howell, [ksh27@windstream.net](mailto:ksh27@windstream.net) or 803-359-4929.

**Advent and Christmas Materials in the Church Library** -- Looking for information about Advent symbols, Christmas traditions, the history of Christmas carols, devotions, family activities or books to read with your children? Stop by the Church Library located on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building down from the Balcony choir to see the large selection of Advent and Christmas books for both children and adults. Lists of books and movies are on the table on the first floor. For questions or to reserve a book, email ([sharon@sslc.org](mailto:sharon@sslc.org)) or phone (359-2407) Sharon Mackintosh.

**Please be aware of these changes:** If you have any information that needs to be put in the newsletter or the bulletin, please email it to Shannon ([shannon@sslc.org](mailto:shannon@sslc.org)). Please have patience as we make the transition in the front office. Thank you to Mrs. Elaine Shirley Taylor who will be helping us out in November and December. Tonya Reynolds will be coming on full-time in January and will be serving as Administrative Assistant as well as Financial Secretary.

**Attention 1st-5th graders - Lunch Buddies:** Pastor Jason and Ms. Shannon plan to visit Gilbert Primary and Gilbert Elementary on December 1<sup>st</sup> and Rocky Creek on December 8<sup>th</sup>. If your 1st-5th grader attends this school, please make sure to let Shannon know his or her lunch time!

**J-Crew** – Join us **TODAY** for a Hot Dog/Smores Roast! All 1st-6th graders are invited to meet at the church at 4pm! We'll enjoy some fun activities and fellowship as well! Hope to see YOU there!

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – SC Lutheran Church Youth Club 3,4,5 Event**

Club 3,4,5 is an event put on by the SC Synod for all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. It will be at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbia (525 St. Andrews Rd.) from 10am – 3pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> if you plan to go. We will have to have a chaperone per every 6 participants. For more information visit: <http://scsynod.us/lcyclub345>

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Caroling**

J-Crew (along with the Jr. and Sr. Youth) will go caroling on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm! We will be splitting up into groups so that we can see the majority of our shut-ins! Please RSVP to Shannon by Wednesday, Dec. 6th so Pastor Jason can make the groups! Please plan on meeting at the church at 3:00. We will leave by 3:15! We will plan to eat dinner after caroling. Please bring something to share!

**REMINDER:** If you would like to reserve ANY PART of the church building, please contact the office before you schedule your event. We love accommodating everyone that we can – but as ours is shared space, if someone reserves it before your group they will usually have preference. The office number is 359-6562 ([shannon@sslc.org](mailto:shannon@sslc.org)). **To avoid confusion please contact her directly.**

**November Lutheran Men Meeting:** St. Stephen's Lutheran Men will meet on Monday, November 20 at 7:00PM. Our guest speaker will be Craig Wagoner, Executive Director at Well-More. It is a new Senior-Living community located next door to Golden Hills. All men are invited, come enjoy some fellowship and learn about this valuable addition to Lexington.