

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 120 (11:00) 182
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 32

Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2018 and Debt Retirement:

Total Owed on Principal: \$2,198,000.00
Amount Due for 2018: \$222,775.70
Total Received Building Fund 2018: \$108,823.28

General Offering to date 2018: \$341,457.45
Expenses to date 2018: \$322,399.26

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 Summer Sunday School
1PM: Confirmands Leave for Lutherock with Pastor Jason

Monday 8:45AM: Men's Bible Study (Conference Room)
12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)
7PM Scouts
7PM: Lutheran Men (Social Hall)

Tuesday AAKA Karate Seminar-All Week (Gym)

Wednesday 11:30AM: Prime Time (Social Hall)
12:30PM: Eucharist Worship Service (Sanctuary)
7:30PM: AA/Al-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 7:00PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Friday

Saturday

Sunday **8:30 & 11:00AM: Worship Services**
9:45AM Summer Sunday School
12:30PM: Feeding the Hungry (Finlay Park)

HUGS All Year Long and more! For the last few years we have had a HUGS drive starting each December to gather clothing for those that we serve at Finlay Park. We are happy to announce that the congregation has responded so generously to this ministry that we are looking to expand its impact. If you have any summer clothes that you would like to donate, please put them in the bins in the gym hallway. Packages of new underwear and socks, along with gently used shorts, pants, shirts, shoes, etc. will be gathered and taken periodically to those that we feed on the 4th Sunday of the month. Thanks for sharing your stuff with folks who are in need! For more information contact **Matt Arndt (422-1509)**.

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. Special offering envelopes are located on the literature table in the narthex. **June Love Offering: Novus Way (Lutheridge/Lutherock)** People of all ages need time away to build relationships, to connect with peers and co-workers, to rest and find refreshment for life, to re-connect with nature and God's creation, and to be equipped as a leader. NovusWay (a partnership of Lutheran Camps including Lutheridge and Lutherock in NC, Luther Springs in FL, and Lutheranch in GA) campuses are places where you can attend programs or plan your own retreat where you will find staffers that are highly trained in team-building, group process, and faith formation. Love offering donations given in June will help fund camp scholarships for underprivileged kids.

Hospitalized: Eddie Corley, Home!

Christian Sympathy is extended to Susan Price Huber, upon the death of her father, Ron Price. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her assuring her of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

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. **June 20th "The Creator of Earth and Sea"**

Welcome today to the Imani Milele Children's Choir: Imani is a Swahili word for Believe. The Imani Milele Children's Choir is an outreach choir of Imani Milele Children Inc., whose purpose is to promote, educate, and bring awareness to the plight of orphaned and at-risk children in Uganda, through their art of Music and Dance. If you would like to make a donation to the choir please make your check payable to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and in the memo line put for Imani Milele Children's Choir.

PLEASE NOTE: Starting 5AM Saturday, June 23rd North Church Street will be **ONE WAY**. You will only be able to make a right turn out of the fountain parking lot.

St. Stephen's will offer a **Summer Musical Program** to all children who are rising 1st through 7th graders this summer. We will rehearse during the Sunday School hour on July 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, and 12, and we will present our musical to the congregation during both services on Sunday, August 19. Children can sign up with Mrs. Bailey during Children's Choir practice on Sundays.

Our 2018 **Flower Calendar** has open dates of July 8th and August 12th. Please contact Tonya at 359-6562 or Tonya@SSLC.org to sign up.

MISSION LEXINGTON (formally LICS) FOOD REQUEST : They are in URGENT need of the following items: Beef stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Chili, Canned Fruit, Applesauce, sweet peas, and canned tomatoes. Remember, **even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry**. Our yearly total is **4,879.5 lbs**. Our summer (Pentecost to Reformation) food drive began Sunday, May 6th. We are off to a good start with 1048.5 lbs. collected. Our goal will be to donate 5,000 lbs. during this time. 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. Point of contact: Ron Redd 359-6363 or Rredd7848@gmail.com

Summer Sunday School has begun! Please consider teaching a Sunday this summer! This summer we have two classes – 2's-5K and 1st-6th! All curriculum is provided and easy to use! We ask that teachers provide a snack for the children. Please sign up on the table across from the Men's Classroom. If no one signs up to teach, there will be no Sunday School. Please make sure there is a teacher before you leave your child.

The **Nurture & Outreach Committee** will be collecting items for the Chris Myers Shelter in June and July. We are asking for your help in providing the following items: Paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, paper napkins, laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, aluminum foil, 60 W. lightbulbs, bleach, Pine Sol, white bed linens (queen size only), white bath towels, and white wash cloths. There is a collection bin labeled Chris Myers outside the men's classroom. Please place your items there. **Military Care Packages will be excepting donations until June 25th!** All will be appreciated!

Lutheran Men will meet tomorrow night for our regular monthly meeting. Please join us at 7:00 PM in the social hall for fellowship, a meal, and a program. Our own Steve Fowler and Allen Shealy will talk about their recent visit to Italy. **Saxe Gotha Conference Quarterly Meeting** will be at Mt. Hermon, West Columbia on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 7:00pm. Pastor Wade Roof will be our guest speaker. Please plan to attend. We would love to have you!

Prime Time Event June 20th (11:30 AM): Join us for some summer favorites – Hotdogs, baked beans, and ice cream sundaes. Please sign up so we know how many to prepare for!

Mark Your Calendars Now and don't miss **St. Stephen's Night at the Lexington County Blowfish Ballpark** on Thursday, July 19th! Our children's choir will be performing the National Anthem and God Bless America! Tickets are \$10 each. Ticket price includes your game ticket, your choice of a hotdog, hamburger, or veggie option. We ask that you bring your own drinks and sides to share. We will all be seated together in the Grand Stand area which is covered. We need a head count by **June 24th**. Please sign up on the clip board across from the Men's classroom if you want to reserve a ticket. Money can be turned in to Bailey or Shannon!

Feeding the Hungry at Finlay Park – Come Join Us! Want to do more service ministry as a part of practicing your discipleship in Christ? We've got just the opportunity for you! Feeding the Hungry at Finlay Park in downtown Columbia is an awesome opportunity to reach out to those in need in our larger community. The 4th Sunday of each month St. Stephen's sends a group to join together with other people and groups who are passionate about helping to feed those who gather. It's really easy - just make a regular size casserole, some sandwiches, boil some eggs, or pick up some packs of crackers and come to the park at 1pm. You don't have to make enough for everyone who gathers because as we join with the other groups and individuals all of our individual offerings accumulate to a great feast! Everyone who participates is truly touched by the experience and most return to do this activity again. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church will help **Feed the Hungry at Finlay Park on June 24th!** EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE! We will depart from the church at 12:30pm to head to Columbia. 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.)

Preschool and Church Cookbooks are here! Remember the yummy crock-pot potato salad from the Reformation Celebration held on our front lawn? It's in the cookbook! Get this and more yummy recipes. Only 40 books left!

VBS 2018: We are already looking forward to "Rolling River Rampage – Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God" our 2018 VBS program. Mark your calendars for **July 8th-12th!** Our VBS will be in the evening with dinner at 5:30 and the program beginning at 6:00. Registration forms are now available. Please see Shannon Burnett with questions and also **let her know if you are willing to help!**

School is out for summer! If you have a gently used backpack or lunch box that you would like to donate to the homeless in our community, please place in the collection box located outside the men's class room during the months of May and June. The backpacks and lunch boxes will be filled with toiletries and distributed to the homeless this fall. Thank you for supporting Backpacks 4 The Homeless and our community!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Tuesday, July 3rd from 2-7 PM. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — it is the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, or even several if your blood is separated into its components — red cells, platelets, and plasma — which can be used individually for patients with specific conditions. Please consider giving the gift of life! There is always a great need in the summer months!!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM-- Don't Miss the Boat! The Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Church Library runs from June 24 to August 12 and is open to ages 18 months to the 6th grade. The theme is Noah. Parents may read books to young non-readers. Prizes will be awarded on August 19 to each child completing the program by reading 10 non-chapter books, five chapter books, or a combination. The library is located on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building down from the Balcony Choir. Hours are 9:30-11:00 each Sunday and before and during Vacation Bible School, July 8-12. Check out the new books in the library and make reading a part of your summer fun!

