



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

January 2021 Newsletter

Daily Devotions

If you would like to continue receiving the weekly devotions that Shannon sends out, please email her (Shannon@sslc.org) and let her know.

Currently, the entire church receives the devotions but we do not want to clog your in-box since some of you may use other devotions!

The Church Office will be closed
Friday, January 1st!
Happy New Year!

New
2021
Year

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, January 6th from
2-7 PM in the gym!

Donors can sign up online at
www.redcrossblood.org with
Sponsor Code: sslc

January is National Blood Donor
Month! All donations are tested for
COVID-19 antibodies. Plasma from
antibody-positive donations may
help current coronavirus patients in
need.



*Donors who gave in October are not
eligible to give until January 12th!*

Community Group

information for 6th grade,
9th/10th grade, and
11th/12th grade will be
emailed out in January!
Be on the look out!



Thank you to the adults and children
who came to my house and sang
beautiful Christmas carols.
I appreciate it very much.

Blessings to all,
Dorothy Christine



Jr. (6th-8th) and Sr. (9th-12th) Youth for January

Join us on Sunday, January 10th at 12:30 PM for lunch and then stay to watch an eye opening documentary entitled "The Social Dilemma". This documentary-drama hybrid explores the dangerous human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations. Both Pastor Jason and Ms. Shannon have seen the documentary and feel that it's worthwhile to share!

Please RSVP by Thursday, January 7th if you plan to attend. We are encouraging a parent/parents to attend with your youth!
This documentary creates a great opportunity for family discussion!

Parent / Youth

Meeting

Adult Wednesday Evening Class continues and you are invited !!!

This will be a survey study of the New Testament with Bishop N. T. Wright and Michael F. Bird, entitled: **The New Testament in it's World: An introduction to the history, literature, and theology of the first Christians.** Our Adult WNL! Classes have enjoyed the great Biblical scholar Bishop Wright over the years and we look forward to journeying with him and Dr. Byrd through the New Testament.

All Classes are Wednesday in the Gym at 6:00 pm

January 6	<i>No Class due to Blood Drive</i>
January 13	Romans
January 20	The Pastoral Epistles
January 27	The Gospel According to St. Mark

The nativity scene located in the narthex in front of the statue of St. Stephen has been given to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church by Craig Wheatley in memory of Thelma Meetze Derrick. Andrea Morris, Art teacher at White Knoll High School created the details on the nativity figures to make them reflect the authentic look of how the characters would have looked at that time of the birth of Christ during the transition of BC to AD. The backdrop was cut out by Palmer Wheatley, and painted by Mrs. Morris. Mrs. Morris painted an interpretation of the midnight sky of Bethlehem. The blues and purple shades include all of the traditional colors associated with advent and the coming of the newborn savior. During the season of advent, the nativity table is covered with a blue tablecloth and for the twelve days of Christmas a gold tablecloth will replace the blue tablecloth with hay and additional river rocks being added to the scene. It is the hope that this nativity will enhance our worship and tell the story of Christ's birth at St. Stephen's for years and generations to come.



MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our end of the year food drive continues with 3,524.5 lbs. of food donated. We have exceeded our goal of 2500 lbs. between now and December 31. We have surpassed our donations for last year's food donations with 12,247.0 lbs. Thank you, St. Stephen's for your generous food donations in 2020. Please keep those donations coming!



Mission Lexington is also in urgent need of plastic bags. Bring your used plastic or paper bags to the church and they will be delivered to Mission Lexington.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's. In the remarks section write for Food purchase Mission Lexington

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.

Thank you again for your support.
Point of contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Needed items:

Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese
Pork & beans
Chili
Canned Vegetables
Rice
Canned Soups
Dog food/Cat food

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.



J-Crew (1st-6th graders)

Sunday, January 24th –

All 1st-5th graders are invited to go ice skating on Sunday, January 24th. Plan to meet at the Plex at 2:00 PM. The church will pay for skating and a snack. Parents can plan to pick their kids up at 3:30PM. Please RSVP by Thursday, January 21st! Parent chaperones are needed so please let Pastor Jason know if you're planning to stick around to help! Thanks and hope to see YOU there!



Family Sunday School:

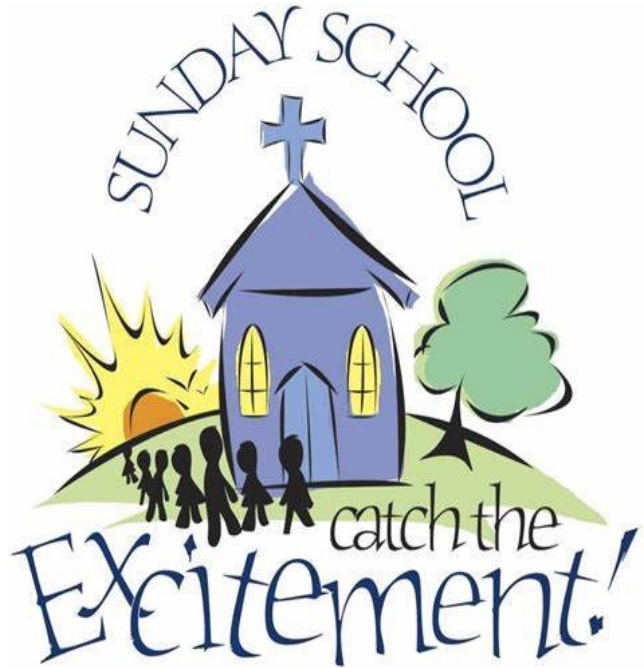
We will continue offering families the opportunity to gather in the Social Hall (each family at a different table) where we will have time for

Family, Faith, and the Father.

Ms. Shannon will be leading the sessions.

We have 2 sessions:
9:30-10 AM and 10:15-10:45 AM.

Snacks will be provided.
Come and Join us!



Flowers for January

3	OPEN
10	Joe Boles
17	OPEN
24	OPEN
31	OPEN

Please contact the office if you'd like to provide flowers for one of the available dates!

Ushers for January

Odie Rawl and Randy Huber will be coordinating ushers for January.

Called to *Serve*

Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2020

Chris Bernard (516-380-0979)
Tripp Brunson (422-7297)
Ralph Haggard (312-5480)
Brant Taylor (609-3777)
Christy Wenzel (348-6708)

Class of 2021

Paulette Shealy (465-0942)
Steve Fowler (360-5605)
Ivan Black (513-7486)
Sandy Dawkins (606-1072)
Mary Elizabeth Windham (351-6572)

Class of 2022

Craig McFarland (360-7310)
Evelyn Temple (706-436-3052)
Brian Paeth (529-6117)
Stephanie Jones (606-3814)
Mike Brittingham (803) 760-3219

Youth Representatives: Jack Hayes and Alex Burnett

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (960-9155)
Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

Council person of the month: Chris Bernard

Some reminders as we increase our worship opportunities:

- In-person worship services will continue to be conducted in the Sanctuary and the Gym.
- Worship services will be held in the gym on Sundays at 9:45 AM (no singing), in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 11 AM (singing) and on Wednesdays (no singing) at 12:30 PM.
- Virtual worship options will continue for those that do not feel safe or cannot attend in-person services.
- Please keep yourselves socially distanced at all times while on campus, especially as you proceed to and from worship.
- Hugging, handshaking, and any other physical contact are strongly discouraged.
- It is highly recommended that each worshipper wear a mask and keep it on for the duration of their time on campus. Masks are required for services with singing.
- If you are able, please park in the big parking lot adjacent to the cemetery.
- Handicapped parking and a drop-off for those with limited mobility will be offered in the small parking lot and circle drive, respectively.
- We ask that no one park in the circle around the fountain so that it may be used for dropping off those that have limited mobility.
- Offering plates will be located by the doors. You can give your offering as you enter or exit. We will not pass offering plates during the service. You can still give on our Givelify app and on-line at www.sslc.org.
- Family units will get their communion elements (individually packaged wafer and wine) as they are seated.
- A nursery is offered during all Sunday Worship Services and during Sunday School.



Lutheran Men at St. Stephen's!!

Our own Dr. Ebony Bowers will be our guest speaker for Lutheran Men Monday, January 18 at 7:00pm in the Social Hall. She will speak on the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as part of her presentation. Please come join us for this very informative program. Social Distancing will be practiced, and masks are highly encouraged.

POC: Ron Redd 803-360-0241; Rredd7848@gmail.com

Office Hours:

8AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday
8AM-12PM Friday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562
FAX: 803-951-0738
Crisis Care Line: 803-808-6471
Website: www.sslc.org

Pastor

Patrick W. Riddle Pat@ssl.org

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@ssl.org

Pastor for Welcome & Visitation

Dennis R. Bolton retrev61@gmail.com

Director of Family Life Ministries-

Shannon Burnett Shannon@ssl.org
359-4175

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@ssl.org
359-6562/808-6489

Director of Music

Bailey Parker Bailey@ssl.org

Preschool Director

Beth Haggard Beth@ssl.org
803-359-4369

Sexton

Eric Abramson Eric@ssl.org

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Brant Taylor
Vice President - Tripp Brunson
Secretary - Stephanie Jones
Treasurer - Mary Keisler
Treasurer Emeritus - Bill Mathias

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

place

119 North Church Street

stamp

Lexington, SC 29072

here

"Return Service Requested"

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For our guests (during normal times) our Ministry includes. . .

Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): 2's-5th grade choirs and Intermediate Ringers (6th-12th grade) meet at 5 PM; meal at 5:15PM; Confirmation class, Adult class, and JCREW Tone Chimes meet at 6 PM

The Balcony Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 7:00PM.

Handbell Choir: Rehearses on Wednesday at 6 PM in the balcony

Wings of Worship: Meets at 6:45 on Wednesdays

Prime Time Adults: Adults 55 and older meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:30AM for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grades): meet regularly for planned activities

J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 7:00PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker; **Men's Bible Study** meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8:45 AM

WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.

Scouting: Boy Scouts (contact David Loney); **Juniors and Brownies** (contact Ashely Lackore, Jennifer Howell, Erica Waites, Nina Tansey); & **Jr. Girl Scouts** (contact Missy Moore).

Preschool: An extension of our ministry for our church & the community for children 12 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00Noon with extended care 12:00 Noon to 2:00PM. Early drop-off is available Contact Beth Haggard.

Living Faith: This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. High Youth and our Crossroads group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. Activities alternate between adult only and family friendly.

Crossroads: This group is comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults. This group meets on the 4th Saturday of the month to prepare PB&J and snack bags for the hungry and participates in other events throughout the month.