



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

March 2023 Newsletter

Easter Lilies will be sold on March 12th, 19th, and 26th. You can purchase a lily or give to the Building Maintenance Fund in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Lilies are \$15.



2023 Talent Show

**Our 2023 Talent Show will be held
April 30th!**

Go ahead and mark your calendars now as it is always a wonderful night of fellowship!

If you'd like to participate in the show, please sign up on the clip board located outside of the Agape Sunday School Class



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

March 5th:

First Communion Class

April 2nd:

Palm Sunday

April 6th:

Maundy Thursday

April 7th:

Good Friday

April 8th:

Easter Eggstravaganza

April 9th:

Easter

April 23:

Mother/Daughter/Friend Tea

May 14th:

Graduate Recognition;
Youth Sunday

June 12--16:

Lutheridge Day Camp

June 25-28:

Vacation Bible School



2023 Lenten Calendar

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
12:30 pm Worship in the Sanctuary
6:00 pm Worship in the Social Hall

Holy Week Worship Services and Activities

April 2nd - 8:30 am Palm Sunday Worship
11:00 am Palm Sunday Worship

April 5th - 12:30 pm Holy Wednesday

April 6th - 12:30 pm Maundy Thursday
Worship
5:30 pm Family Maundy Thursday Worship
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

April 7th - 12:30 pm Good Friday Worship
5:30 pm Family Good Friday Worship
7:00 pm Good Friday Worship

April 8th - 10 am Easter Eggstravaganza

April 9th - 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service
7:00 am Easter Breakfast
8:30 am Easter Worship
11:00 am Easter Worship

WELCA News

Sunshine Circle—
March 6th at 6 PM at the home of
Georgianna Dukes

*Mark your calendars for
Hats Off to Women!*

Join WELCA for our Mother~Daughter~Friend

Afternoon of Desserts & Laughs

Sunday, April 23, 2023

3:00 - 5:00pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Social Hall

*Featured Guest: Cherie Nettles
Jesus-loving Humorous Storyteller*

Tickets \$12 - Adults/Children*

Throw on your favorite hat and join us!

*Children will decorate a fun hat to wear and
take home!

*"She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and she laughs without fear of the future."*

Proverbs 31:25

Thank you for your support at the time of Larry's death. Your cards, visits, food and memorials are greatly appreciated. Larry had many fond memories of serving as your pastor here at St. Stephen's. Your acceptance of Larry and myself as fellow members means a lot to me and also meant so much to Larry.

Blessings to all of you,

Bonnie Long

*Thank
You!*

First Communion Class

A first communion class will be offered on
Sunday, March 5th at 12:30pm.

We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities!

If you plan to attend please RSVP to the church office no later than Thursday, March 2nd so that we can know how much pizza to order.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Jason!



In April, we will have an incredible opportunity to experience the Living Last Supper here at St. Stephen's. The participants are already working hard to make this an experience you won't soon forget. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of these performances:

Palm Sunday April 2 3:00 pm

Holy Wednesday April 5 7:00 pm



Living Last Supper practice schedule

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

(March 1, 8, 15, and 22)

Sundays at 3:00 pm

(March 5, 12, 19, 26)

March 29 Full dress rehearsal and filming

A HUGE welcome to the 5 Council Members that will be joining Church Council for their 3 year term!

Christie Addy Lisa Catalanotto

Deon Fink

Chad Geary Myra Strock

THANK YOU

It's time to register for 2023 Lutheroad Day Camp!

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church invites you to join us for Lutheroad Day Camp! This year, camp is scheduled for June 12-16. Registration for campers entering 1st - 6th grade for next school year (2023/2024) is now open. The cost for one week of camp is \$150.00 for the 1st child & \$130.00 for siblings.

****Register early....space is limited!**

Lutheroad Day Camp is a five-day program, which allows the benefits of camp at Lutheridge to come to us! It enables children to experience a Christian camping environment without having to stay overnight away from home. Each day will be full of fun-filled activities including camp-style worship and bible study, arts and crafts, music and songs, special events and field trips! Camp will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

If you think your child(ren) would enjoy the fun-filled and rewarding experience of attending Lutheroad Day Camp at St. Stephen's, please return the registration form and a **\$50.00 non-refundable** deposit (per child). Receipt of this information will enable us to reserve a spot for your child(ren). See Shannon with questions!



Our monthly luncheon is at 11:45 AM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Adults 60(ish) and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Join us Thursday, March 9th for our traditional St. Patty's Day Luncheon!

Please sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board so we know how many folks to expect. We will serve corned beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and beer bread!

A love offering will be collected.



On Thursday, March 23rd we will head to Columbia to tour Olympia Mill Village and have lunch at J's corner. There is no cost to visit the museum but they do accept donations. Please bring money for lunch. Sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board so we know who to expect!

We will plan to leave at 10 AM,



Looking for information

about events, meetings, council minutes, or recorded worship services? Check out St. Stephen's website at SSLC.org for everything St. Stephen's!



WE! Lunch

A light lunch is offered in the Social Hall at 11:45 AM on Wednesdays.

The cost of the lunch is \$5. Come enjoy lunch and then worship with us at our 12:30 Eucharist Service.

Crossroads –

Crossroads – a group comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults – will have its monthly gathering on March 2 (the first Thursday) @ 6:30 pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main). Join us for a devotion, connection over a great meal (Dutch treat), and insights to the meaning of the Season of Lent: should we 'give something up' or 'take something on'? We will explore Psalm 46:10 - 'Be still, and know that I am God!'

Please contact Pastor Ralph through the office and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet located outside the narthex.

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Epiphany to Easter food drive is underway with 993 lbs. donated toward a goal of 3,500lbs. Year to date total is 993 lbs. toward a yearly goal of 17,000 lbs.

Please continue to place your food donations in the red food barrel across from the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrel outside the Agape Sunday School Classroom.

Mission Lexington also needs plastic bags. Bring your used plastic bags to the church and Mr. Ron will deliver 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:

Food purchase for Mission Lexington

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

Thank you again for your support.

Needed items:

Canned Fruit
Canned Chicken
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Mac & Cheese
Pork & beans
Chili
Canned Vegetables
Rice
Canned Soups
Coffee
Oatmeal
Grits
Sugar
Flour
Applesauce
Breakfast cereals
Chicken/Turkey/Beef Broth

Dog food/Cat food
(wet & dry)

***A big thanks to all those that came to the Mother/Son Dance and donated food for Mission Lexington. 400 pounds was collected!*



Point of contact:

Ron Redd
803-360-0241

Lutheran Men

Our Music Director, Susan Wilson, will be our guest speaker at Lutheran Men Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Enjoy a meal prepared by Jim Nantz. We will also make further planning for our Boston Butt Fundraiser.

POC: Ron Redd 803-360-0241.

Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Boston Butt Fundraiser:

Lutheran Men will sponsor a Boston Butt Fundraiser Saturday May 13, 2023, the Saturday before Mother's Day between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Alternate pick-up day will be Sunday May 14, after both services. The cost will be \$50.00 each. Tickets go on sale beginning Sunday March 5 through Sunday April 30.

Point of Contact: Ron Redd

Rredd7848@gmail.com

803-360-0241.

Chat N Chew for March

Date: March 16, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM

Restaurant: Flight Deck

Hosts: Glenn and Jeannette Neeley

Please join us for a fun night out!



On Sunday, February 5th we held our annual congregational meeting where we elected seven new council members and adopted this year's ministry plan. We also shared some good news about our Freedom to Imagine campaign; most notably that we were down to \$40,000 left to retire our Family Life Center building debt.

Amazingly, it didn't take long for that \$40,000 to be overwhelmed by your generosity. Days after the congregational meeting we were able to send the check to the bank that retired the debt!

What else is there to say but THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
AND CONGRATULATIONS! What an amazing accomplishment!

For those that would like to fulfill their pledges, those funds will be put in a building maintenance fund for known upcoming building maintenance projects including replacing the roof, the possible replacement of some old HVAC units, resealing of the building, releathering the organ, renovating the upstairs bathrooms in the education building, and some other things that will undoubtedly need our attention.

For others who wish to transition their giving totally to the general fund, that will enable us the freedom to live into this time of being debt free and address some other needs that can really help strengthen the ministries of the church.

Whatever you choose, thank you again! We are people of Christ making a difference, and now we have the freedom to take that difference to a whole new level! And make sure to be on the lookout in the near future for some info on a celebration! We look forward to celebrating together soon!



Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class

The Saints and Sinners Class encompasses adults of all ages. There is no regular curriculum. Instead we watch movies, read books, and engage in open conversation about any number of topics. Don't have a Sunday School class that feels like home? We'd love to have YOU with us! Our schedule is as follows:

March 5th – Cotton Patch Gospel Lenten Study

March 12th – Cotton Patch Gospel Lenten Study

March 19th – Cotton Patch Gospel Lenten Study

March 26th – Cotton Patch Gospel Lenten Study

This month we continue with our Lenten Study using the movie, the Cotton Patch Gospel. The Cotton Patch Gospel is a musical by Tom Key and Russell Treyz with music and lyrics written by Harry Chapin. Based on the book The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John by Clarence Jordan, the story retells the life of Jesus as if in rural Georgia back in the late 1970's. Though the setting and the styling of the language greatly differs from the original telling of the Gospels the plot structure and the message of the story stays true to the historical recording in The Gospel of Matthew. Hope you'll come join us for what promises to be a fun and insightful time together this Lent!

SSLC Living Faith Group

This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a "young adult". The definition of "young adult" is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us!

Kids Free Dinner – Friday, March 24th, 6:30-8:30pm, Downtown

Everyone is invited to a "Kids Free" dinner at one of our downtown Lexington restaurants on Friday, March 24th from 6:30-8:30pm! Some of our SSLC Youth will be at the church that night to provide childcare to help raise money for their upcoming mission trip. If you are planning to attend please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Monday, March 20th so I can make arrangements. Hope to see YOU there!

Young Adults Sunday School:

Young Adults Sunday School 2023 meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs Chapel. In March, we will be exploring the variety of protestant faith expressions. We are using Pastor Adam Hamilton's book/dvd resource, Christianity's Family Tree. We gather to learn about God, grow in discipleship, and develop relationships. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ralph! Ralph@sslc.org. ¹⁹*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* – Matthew 28:19-20

Our WNL! programs continue in March!

5:00 PM - Dinner will be served

5:25 PM – 5:55 PM - Cherubs (2's – 5K) and Treble Choirs (1st-5th grade)

5:55 PM – 6:25 PM - Choir Chimes (1st-6th grade)

6:00 PM – 6:45 PM - Lenten Worship in the Social Hall (Confirmands should attend)

6:45 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal

wednesday
night **LIVE!**

Jr. and Sr. Youth (6th-12th grade)

March 17th-18th Youth Retreat:

We will have our Youth Retreat at Look Out Lodge in Traveler's Rest, SC. We will look forward to spending time together, participating in team building activities, and getting away to just have some fun!



March 26th:

Mark this Sunday on your calendar as we take some time to look at how use of our cell phones impact our lives!

Let's plan to meet at 12:30 PM in the Social Hall.

RSVP by March 23rd so Shannon can get enough food.

We are planning to have boneless wings and wing chips for lunch.



JCREW (1st-5th grade)



Sunday, March 19th – Scavenger Hunt from 3-4:30pm

On Sunday, March 19th from 3-4:30pm, our 1st-5th graders will gather for a scavenger hunt and snacks. Chaperones are encouraged! Hope to see YOU there!

Notes from Aloft

As we enter the Lenten season we are mindful of the triumph of Jesus over the tragedy of the cross and often during this season we take on spiritual disciplines. This year the choirs of St. Stephen's are engaging in a service project and they'd like to invite the congregation to take part. The project began on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26 and will conclude on Sunday, March 26. Each week you are asked to bring a specific item such as a toothbrush, travel size toothpaste, wash cloth, soap, etc. There will be wagons located in the narthex, church office, and choir room for you to place your donations. An insert in the bulletin will have all the weeks listed and the items needed. You'll also see in this newsletter a copy of the flyer.

After Easter, members of the choirs, young and old, will assemble the bags. They will then be distributed to those in need. If you are aware of agencies or shelters in need please let me know. This text comes from one of our choir anthems and it sums up what the choirs are embracing: "As we welcome and greet them, as we clothe them and feed them, we serve Jesus, who calls us now to listen and do our part."

Susan Wilson
Director of Music/Organist

Children's Choirs and Choir Chimes to sing and ring...

Our children are planning on singing and ringing in worship on these days:

March 12, April 2, May 14

Parents are reminded to bring children to choir each week so they can learn their pieces. Rehearsals will be held at the usual times with children's choirs at 5:25 p.m. and Choir chimes at 5:55 p.m.

Parents are reminded to save the date of April 30 at 6:00 p.m. for the annual Talent Show. Children will be singing a few pieces from the Sound of Music, complete with costumes.

Handbell Choir News

We are so happy to welcome our newest ringer, Jaime Wessinger. We now have all our ringing positions filled. The bell choir has recently purchased new tables and new four inch foam. These things enable us to have more table space and to use more bell techniques without damaging the bells. Rehearsals are on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. If you're interested in being part of a new beginner's group please contact Susan@sslc.org

Upcoming Worship Music...

March 5	Christian Lampkin, flutist Handbell Choir rings
March 12	Children's Choirs sing Choir Chimes ring Joanna Taylor, flutist
March 19	Melissa Rawl, soloist
March 26	Brent Hooper, violist

Religious Arts Festival

The Lutheran Seminary held a two-day Religious Arts Festival February 3-4. I was fortunate to attend and had the opportunity to hear a recital by James O'Donnell, a British organist most well known as organist at Westminster Abbey. He has recently been appointed to Yale University. The choir clinician was Michael Burkhardt who had sessions on the whole person approach to singing. It was a wonderfully enriching time and I'm grateful to St. Stephen's for supporting continuing education for the staff.

Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
March 5th	A – Shaun Wessinger	A – Madelyn Burgess
	C – Andrew Tworzyanski	C – Elizabeth Kolb
March 12th	A – Luke Wenzel	A – Craig Lunsford
	C – Selena Magni	C – Sullivan Hayes
March 19th	A – Noah Oxley	A – Jack Jebaily
	C – Cameron Moore	C – Bryce Windham
March 26th	A – Ryan Kennedy	A – Aaron Head
	C – Ryan McFarland	C – Zachary Head

This is Us is a group that is meeting once a month (the last Thursday) at a local restaurant. This group is made up of parents of high school and college aged kids and if you fall into this category and would like more information, please reach out to Shannon Burnett or Tonya Reynolds.

We look forward to seeing everyone March 30th!



Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2023

Michael Jebaily (843) 617-3147
 Allison Van Cleef (803) 447-3002
 Brian Lackore (803) 351-2585
 Mike Burgess (803) 238-7426
 Jessica Maxheimer (803) 422-5747

Class of 2024

Cathy Mathias (803) 238-4458
 Eric Wessinger (803) 917-8771
 Gregg Mills (803) 210-9761
 Melissa Rawl (803) 359-2909
 Sheridan Perry (803) 808-0534

Class of 2025

Christie Addy (803) 358-0120
 Lisa Catalanotto (803) 960-6132
 Deon Fink (803) 513-9041
 Chad Geary (803) 404-2554
 Myra Strock (803) 543-7130

Youth Representatives:

Lexie Taylor and Bryce Windham

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155
 Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

Flowers for March

March 5th	Steve and Marian Fowler
March 12th	Tangie Cena
March 19th	OPEN
March 26th	Bob and Kay Keener

Ushers for March

March 5th and 19th

8:30 - Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, Chad Geary

11:00 - Randy Huber, Alon Cox, James Renwick, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper

March 12th and 26th

8:30 - Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Ron Redd, Steve Fowler, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, Adam Tworzyanski

11:00 - Otis Rawl, Gregg Mills, Hunter Mills, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Manning Burgess, Roy Windham

Lay readers

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
March 5 th	David Able	Jenny Carter
March 12 th	Jim Nantz	Mary Gaskins
March 19 th	Danny Able	Julie Harper
March 26 th	Ginger Macaulay	Gay Clark

Communion Assistants

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
March 5 th	Jim Nantz, Shannon Burnett <i>Communion at the rail</i>	Ed Smith, Jamie Early <i>Communion at the rail</i>
March 12 th	Craig Wheatley	Heyward Addy
March 19 th	Danny Able	Cathy Mathias
March 26 th	Ebony Bowers	Myra Strock

Recyclers

March 5th	The Head Family
March 12th	Jennifer Howell
March 19th	Gary and Julie Angus
March 26th	Sarah Kolb

Alms Lenten Ministry of Service

Sponsored by St. Stephen's
Music Ministry

"As we welcome and greet them, as we clothe them and feed them, we serve Jesus, who calls us now to listen and do our part."

This Lenten season, St. Stephen's Music Ministry is sponsoring the "care package" project that will help serve those in need by filling at least 250 paper bags with short term nutritional and personal hygiene items to give to those in need. We will begin collecting items on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Items may be brought each Sunday or during the week and placed in the wagons located in the narthex, church office, or choir room. After Easter, once all items have been collected, volunteers will package and distribute to those in need. A special thanks to Thrivent Action Team for a \$250 donation to help purchase the paper bags and any additional supplies that may be needed.

If you have questions, please contact Susan Wilson, St. Stephen's Director of Music/Organist at Susan@ssl.org or 803-359-6562. If you prefer to make a donation, instead of shopping, please make checks payable to SSLC, with ALMS project in the memo line. Cost of a completed bag is approximately \$10.

- February 26** Washcloth, bar of soap, individually packaged toothbrush, travel sized toothpaste, deodorant
- March 5** Individually packaged nuts, snack size boxes of raisins
- March 12** Granola bars, cheese crackers
- March 19** Bottled Water- no larger than 16.9 oz
- March 26** Fruit cups

Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

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

Pastor

Jason T. Antley Jason@sslc.org

Pastor

Ralph G. Hill Ralph@sslc.org

Director of Family Life Ministries

Shannon Burnett Shannon@sslc.org
359-4175

Parish Administrator

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

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Preschool Director

Kimberly Peterson Kimbely@sslc.org
359-4369

Organist Emeritus

Sylvia Looney

Congregation Council Officers

President - Michael Jebaily
Vice President - Gregg Mills
Secretary - Allison Van Cleef
Treasurer - Mary Keisler
Treasurer Emeritus - Bill Mathias

Mission Statement:

Gathering all generations to nurture
Christ-like discipleship

Our Vision:

To be a place of hope

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

119 North Church Street

Lexington, SC 29072

place

stamp

here

"Return Service Requested"

For our guests our Ministries includes. . .

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

Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): A time for fellowship over dinner and then faith development through Confirmation and Adult Bible Study; Our musical groups for children (Cherubs and Treble Choir (5:25-5:55 pm) and Choir Chimes (5:55-6:25 pm) and our liturgical dance group, Wings of Worship (6:30-7 pm), meet as well in the Fall.

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:45 PM

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM

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

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

Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:00PM in Social Hall for a meal and informative speaker

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

Preschool: An extension of the ministry for our church & the community for children 12 months to 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon Early bird drop-off available

Prime Time: Adults 60 and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. This group is a wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.

Crossroads: Comprised of adults between "This is Us" and "Prime Time" that get together for fellowship and service

This is Us: This group has children in high school and college and gets together once a month for fellowship and food.

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

Young Adults: This group is for young adults (college age and up) and newly married couples just starting out that will gather together to build community and offer opportunities for fellowship.