



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

September 2023 Newsletter

The South Carolina Synod Mission Team would like to thank the people of St. Stephen's Church for their contributions, prayers, and support for their recent mission to Tanzania. They are happy to report that the clinic addition in Magoye is now equipped, dedicated, and awaiting the government doctor.

Everything was successful and the team calls it the "Miracle on the Mountain." Sharon and Richard Shealy, who were part of this mission team, are preparing a photo presentation for St. Stephen's Lutheran Men on October 16th, and the presentation will then be ready for any other group that may want to see it. Thank you to all who supported this project.

The ***Blessing of the Animals*** will be October 1st at 3:30 PM.

All animals are welcome! If you can't bring your pet, bring a picture!

Please bring dog or cat food to donate to Mission Lexington!



WELCA Joint Meeting and Salad Supper

All St. Stephen's ladies - Did you know you are a member of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? If you are a member of the church, you are one of us. All ladies are cordially invited to join together for our annual potluck salad supper and business meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30pm. You do not need to be a member of a circle to attend. Come and join the fun!

Bring a salad to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship with your sisters in Christ here at St. Stephen's.

During the business meeting we will be electing officers and adopting the WELCA Constitution and Bylaws. The document is available for your review on the WELCA page under the Ministries tab found on our website (www.sslc.org).

Please review the proposed constitution as we will be voting on adoption during the meeting.

Contact Suzanne Swaffield at 803-606-5683 if you have any questions about the meeting or the proposed constitution.





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.

Our outing this month will include our monthly luncheon as well! Join us as we head to Greenwood to visit **Emerald Farm** on Sept. 28th.

We will visit a wide variety of animals including goats, sheep, ducks, peacocks, geese, chickens and honeybees and get a glimpse of the trains running in the Model Railroad Clubhouse.

We can stroll through shops, with a chance to sample their Emerald Farm Goat Milk Soap and body products, all handmade, check out the Train and Hobby Shop, or perhaps a quick stop at the Gift Shop or Antique Shop, and the herb gardens.

We are hoping to climb aboard the Emerald Farm Express and view the farm from a unique perspective. If the train is running, it will take us around the farm and to the Village in the woods, through tunnels and MORE!!

We will have lunch at Break on the Lake after we leave the farm. Cost of the trip is \$10 which covers the train ride and gas money for the bus. Lunch is on your own.

Plan to leave the church at 9 AM and sign up on the Prime Time bulletin board.

October 5th and 6th we will be taking an overnight trip and signing up early is key! Shannon has put together the itinerary:

Thursday, Oct. 5th: Stop at Happy Cow Creamery in Pelzer; Stay in Hendersonville where we will enjoy downtown and get dinner

Friday: Oct. 6th: Visit the Carl Sandburg Home; visit an apple orchard

Find more details on the bulletin board and sign up by Sept. 18th!

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.

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 September 28th!



On behalf of my brother and sister and our families, we wanted to extend our sincere appreciation to this amazing church family. The calls, texts, cards, food, and love we have received since our dad's passing has been an incredible blessing that has carried us through. Dad loved St. Stephen's very much and although he wasn't able to be active these past few years, that love didn't fade. Thank you for loving all of us and supporting us during this difficult time!

Shannon Burnett on behalf of Tom O'Brien's family

The Adult Study Class during "Wednesday Night Live" begins on September 6 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Agape Classroom.

Each week, Pastor Ralph will lead intentional faith conversations using popular movies (Life of Pi, The Lion King, The Blind Side, etc.) along with the resource By Heart: Conversations With Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

We will begin with developmental stages of human growth and faith, explore our relationship with God, and highlight how faith through Christ transforms our life view.

All are welcome - hope to see you there!



SSLC J-Crew

Sunday, September 24th – Outdoor Fun and Games

All 1st-5th graders are invited to come to the church at 12:30 pm for outdoor games in the grove. Please wear something that you can get dirty and wet! You will also want to bring a towel! We should finish up around 2:30pm. We will order pizza for lunch! If there are a few parents who could stick around to chaperone, that would be helpful! Pastor

Jason needs an RSVP by Wednesday, September 20th!



With Children's Sunday School starting up again, we'd like to re-introduce our F.I.N.E. Moms of SSLC group. This group meets in the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM to laugh, listen, and love on each other as we navigate the world of motherhood! If you don't have a regular class that you attend, please consider joining this group that will begin meeting Sunday, Sept. 10th.

#momlife 

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 3959 lbs. donated toward a goal of 5,000lbs. Year to date total is 7938 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.

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.

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
Rice
Canned soups
Canned vegetables
Pasta Sauce
Pizza Sauce
Tomato Sauce
Instant potatoes

Dog food/Cat food
(wet & dry)


**Mission
Lexington**

Committee of 100:

How would you like to be a part of bringing Jesus Christ into someone's life? It could be really simple – by becoming a part of the Committee of 100 which is composed of members who contribute \$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 79 members in 2022.

All contributions are welcome. Please consider this stewardship opportunity. Over \$15,000.00 was distributed to mission churches in 2022. Please make your check to: Committee of 100 – place it in the offering plate, or give it to Ron Redd and he will handle the details.

Ron Redd 803-360-0241
Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Chat N Chew for September

Date: September 21st

Time: 5:30 PM

Restaurant: J's Corner
at 1015 Rosewood Drive in Columbia

Hosts: Heyward and Christie Addy

Sign up on the bulletin board across from the Agape Classroom and join us for a fun night out!



**God's Work Our Hands
Service Day –
Sunday, September 10th**

This day has been reserved to participate in the ELCA's Annual "God's Work Our Hands" Day. We will be going out as a congregation to do yardwork for members of our congregation who need our assistance.

If you would like to participate please let Pastor Jason know by Sunday, September 3rd so we can get organized. Also, if you have tools, mowers, trimmers, cutters, etc. that you can bring that would be greatly appreciated as we will be splitting up to hit multiple projects at once.



Crossroads

The Crossroads group had a great year last year of monthly gatherings that included fellowship, faith conversation, and food! After a summer break, we will continue our monthly supper meetings the first Thursday of each month, September through May.

Join us September 7 @ 6:30 pm at the Mediterranean Café (327 W. Main) for a devotion and connection over a great meal (Dutch treat). Look for the sign-up sheet just outside the narthex. In addition to the regular monthly gatherings, other possible sub-gatherings will be considered (book study, service project, day trip ...) this year. Crossroads is comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith group and our Prime Time adults. Contact Pastor Ralph with any questions.



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!

Due to many and various conflicts in Pastor Jason's calendar for the month of September and the first couple weeks of October, Saints and Sinners Sunday School class will not resume our class until Sunday, October 15th. Until then please consider attending the Agape Sunday School Class.

Via De Cristo Weekend:

South Carolina Lutheran Via De Cristo will hold a weekend Starting Thursday evening September 21 through September 24, 2022, at Camp Fellowship in Waterloo SC. Via De Cristo is Spanish for the way of Christ. Via de Cristo is intended for lay people from every walk of life, for pastors, and also for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ. If you are interested, please contact Ron Redd at 803-360-0241 or Rredd7848@gmail.com. Check out the Camp: <https://www.campfellowship.org/>

Lutheran Men:

Please join us Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm for a meal and a presentation by Mike Burgess.

“The Soul of America:-The Challenge of Teaching American History in the 21st Century .”

POC:

Ron Redd 803-360-0241 or
Rredd7848@gmail.com



SSLC Confirmation Ministry Calling all Confirmands!

St. Stephen's Confirmation Orientation

Date: Wednesday, September 6th

Time: 6:00 pm

Confirmation is just around the corner! If your child is a rising 7th or 8th grader we'd love to include them in our plans for our Confirmation ministry this year!

To make sure that we have an awesome start to the year please plan on attending an orientation for all parents and students. Our gathering will take place in the Saints and Sinners Sunday School Classroom at 6pm.

If you have questions about whether your youth should be participating or any other questions about the program, please contact Pastor Jason.



Sr. High Youth (9th-12th grade):

We know that you guys are studying hard already and wanted to offer a "study break" option on Wednesdays! Anybody that needs a "time out" is welcome to come hang out in the gym, shoot some hoops, play cards, or just visit with your friends from 6-6:45 PM!

No organized activities....just time to breathe and be a kid!

God's Work Our Hands

Join us for an afternoon of service on Sept. 10th! Check out the newsletter article for more info!

Lutheran Youth Day at Newberry College

Saturday, Sept. 16th Newberry College will be hosting Lutheran Youth Day. There will be a Welcome and Worship, a carnival, campus tours, a scavenger hunt, and carnival food! Cost is \$20 and includes a t-shirt, meal, and a game ticket! Please RSVP to Shannon **by September 6th** if you want to go. We would leave Lexington around 1:45 PM and return after the 6 PM game.

Jr. High Youth (6th-8th grade):

God's Work Our Hands

Join us for an afternoon of service on Sept. 10th! Check out the newsletter article for more info!

Parents vs. Youth:

This is the event you don't want to miss!! Calling all parents and youth! Join us in the gym on Sept. 24th for an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

We will plan to get started around 12:30 with some pizza and finish up around 2:30 PM.

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

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!

God's Work Our Hands Service Day – Sunday, September 10th

This day has been reserved to participate in the ELCA's Annual "God's Work Our Hands" Day. More details will be available soon but please go ahead and put this date on your calendars so you can plan to take part!

Lutheridge Worship, Picnic, and Apple Picking – Sunday, October 8th

On Sunday, October 8th the group will leave the large parking lot at 8:30am for Lutheridge in Arden, NC. At Lutheridge we'll have a worship service with Holy Communion and then a picnic (both will be held under a pavilion awning that has chairs and picnic tables). Afterwards we'll head to a local apple farm. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, October 4th if you are planning to come. Folks that attend are asked to bring their own picnic lunch, chairs, blankets, etc. that you'll need for your family to be most comfortable. Hope to see YOU there!

First Communion Class

A first communion class will be offered by Pastor Jason and Pastor Ralph on Sunday, October 1st 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, September 28th so that we can know how much pizza to order. If you have any questions please contact one of the pastors!



wednesday night **LIVE!**

Our WNL! programs are resuming
September 6th!

Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders will meet at 6 PM, Wings of Worship (1st grade and up) will rehearse from 6:45 PM– 7:30 PM, and an Adult Bible Study will be taught by Pastor Ralph beginning at 6 PM.

Our Treble Choir (1st-5th grade) will rehearse from 5:25-6:10 PM, Cherubs (2's-5K) will rehearse from 5:25-5:55 PM, and Choir Chimes will rehearse from 6:10-6:40 PM.

There will be a meal served from 5 –5:45 PM in the Social Hall.

Information for Young Adults!

The Young Adult Sunday school class enjoyed a kick-off on August 27 and will begin their September through May Sunday School class each Sunday at 9:45 am in the Chapel Classroom on the 2nd floor by the gym. We seek to grow in number and explore ways to connect beyond the class. If you are a young adult (20s +/-), join us for relevant faith topics and conversation as we explore and discuss God's presence in our daily lives. Contact Pastor Ralph with any questions.



St. Stephen's 101: For New Members (and Seasoned Ones Too!)

The Pastors and Staff at St. Stephen's will be offering a class for new members and anyone else who would like to attend. There will be three sessions. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 10th – Welcome and History of St. Stephen's

Pastor Jason will lead this session that will focus on getting to know a little about each other and then learning some of the history of our congregation.

Sunday, September 17th – Lutheranism 101

Pastor Ralph will lead this class that will focus on introducing the basics of Lutheranism and how that is lived out at St. Stephen's.

Sunday, September 24th – Getting Plugged In

Our church staff will team together to introduce you to all the basics of being a member of St. Stephen's and all the different opportunities you will find to be "People of Christ Making a Difference" within and outside the walls of our congregation.

Sunday, October 1st – Welcoming of New Members

On Sunday, October 1st we will welcome new members at both services as the culmination of our time together.

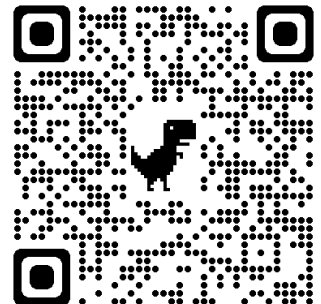
If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the church office. RSVP's are encouraged so we can know how many to plan for. We are looking forward to having a fun time of community building, learning, and fellowship! Hope to see YOU there!

Stewardship Moment

During the month of August we will be focusing on getting people "Plugged Back In" at St. Stephen's. By using the QR code below, you will find our Time and Talent form for 2023-2024! There are many opportunities to get involved at St. Stephen's! We know the more involved people are, the better our church runs! Please take some time to look over these

opportunities and see where we can best use your gifts! If you already volunteer, please plan to continue (we NEED you and APPRECIATE you)! We'd love for **everyone** to submit your Time and Talent form so we know your intent to serve!

Please plan to fill out your Time and Talent form electronically by August 15th or you can pick up a paper copy and place your completed forms in the Time and Talent basket in the Narthex!



Notes from Aloft

Be Our Guest at Dinner Theatre – October 12 – Appetizers at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The Dinner Theatre is just around the corner and enthusiasm is building! The event takes place on Thursday, October 12. Appetizers begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Chef Andy Marchant has created a delicious menu. (See below) Tickets are \$50 per person and are available on Sunday mornings outside the Agape Classroom. During the week tickets may be purchased by contacting Susan Wilson. Tickets cover the meal expense and support the future purchase of new adult choir robes.

We ask that tickets be purchased with cash or check only please.

The adult choir will be singing pieces from Oklahoma, Sound of Music, and Beauty and the Beast. The soloists will be Hal McIntosh, Tina Stallard, Jacob Will, Johnnie Felder, and Serena LaRoche. Accompanists will be Susan Wilson and Jerry Olson, along with Matthew Jones, percussionist.

A huge debt of gratitude is extended to the task force for their hard work.

Be Our Guest!

Appetizers: Chef's Choice Passed Hors d'oeuvres and Canapes; Fruit and Cheese Display

Dinner

Seasonal Fall Salad: Mixed Greens and Local Kale, Cinnamon Kissed Sweet Potatoes, Chopped Pecans, Dried Cranberries, Feta Cheese with Lemon Dijon Mustard Vinaigrette

Surf and Turf: Petite Filet of Beef with Red Onions Demi-Glace and Lemon Garlic Shrimp; Medley of Fresh Garden Vegetables and Roasted Red Potatoes

Dessert: Chocolate Lava Cake with Ganache Center and Whipped Cream

Children's Choirs, Choir chimes, and Wings of Worship will resume on Wednesday, September 6. The schedule for this year will be as follows:

Treble choir (1st – 5th grade) 5:25 pm – 6:10 pm

Children will sing and play ORFF instruments

Cherub Choir (2 years – 5 years) 5:25 pm – 5:55 pm

Choir chimes (1st -5th grade) 6:10 p.m. – 6:40 pm

Wings of Worship (1st – 6th grade) 6:45 pm until approximately 7:30 pm

The Adult Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir loft. We have one ringing position open and would love for you to come ring with us. No experience is necessary. If you are interested in joining the ensemble, contact Susan@sslc.org.

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol Men Eating Out) will meet on Tuesday, September 26. The location will be announced shortly. Come join the fellas for some fellowship and fun.

Youth Choir will be taking shape this fall as we resume our choir season. To determine the best time for youth to rehearse a survey has been sent to parents and youth seeking input. Once the time is determined choir rehearsals will begin. This choir will be for youth 6th grade-12th grade.

Ladies Who Lunch ...This is an opportunity for ladies of the church to have fellowship and learn about what's ahead in music ministry. The September 19 lunch will take place in the church social hall. Ladies are asked to bring a salad to share. Lunch will begin at 12:15 p.m. Following lunch artist Dawn Corley will lead us in painting a canvas. The painting part of the afternoon will conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m. Please rsvp to Susan by phone 858 729 8672 or text, or by email Susan@sslc.org. All women are welcome!

Flowers for September

Sept. 3rd	Rita Rodgers
Sept. 10th	Cynthia Douglas
Sept. 17th	Paul and Lucy Austin
Sep. 24th	Pat and Harold Tuma

Recyclers

Sept. 3rd	The Head Family
Sept. 10th	Jennifer Howell
Sept. 17th	Gary and Julie Angus
Sept. 24th	Sarah Kolb

Ushers for September September 3rd and 17th

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

11:00 - Alon Cox, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin

September 10th and 24th

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

Layreaders

	8:30 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
September 3rd	David Able	Renate Chappell
September 10th	Ginger Macaulay	Ray Smith
September 17th	Danny Able	Julie Harper
September 24th	Jim Nantz	Heyward Addy

Communion Assistants

	8:30 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
September 3rd	Marty Nantz and Steve Fowler <i>Communion at the rail</i>	Peggy Sherman and Jamie Early <i>Communion at the rail</i>
September 10th	Ebony Bowers	Heyward Addy
September 17th	Jane Kennedy	Cathy Mathias
September 24th	Neil Brown	Myra Strock

Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
September 3rd	A - Luke Wenzel	A - Craig Lunsford
	C - Lexie Taylor	C - Emery Jones
	BB - Ryan McFarland	BB - Bryce Windham
September 10th	A - Ryan Kennedy	A - Jack Jebaily
	C - Katie Moore	C - Megan Griffin
September 17th	A - Shaun Wessinger	A - Aaron Head
	C - Ryan McFarland	C - Elizabeth Kolb
September 24th	A - Connor Fink	A - Madelyn Burgess
	C - Lauren Wenzel	C - Mary Beth Stafford

Office Hours:

8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday

To Reach us:

Phone: 803-359-6562
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

Parish Administrator

Tonya Reynolds Tonya@sslc.org
359-6562

Director of Music/Organist

Susan Wilson Susan@sslc.org

Interim Preschool Director

Julie Tworzyanski preschool@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; Musical groups for children - Cherubs (5:25-5:55 pm), Treble Choir (5:25-6:10 pm) and Choir Chimes (6:10-6:40 pm) and our liturgical dance group, Wings of Worship (6:45-7:30 pm), meet as well in the Fall.

The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:45 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM (No Summer Rehearsal)

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 6:30PM 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: Compromised 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.

Ladies Who Lunch: Meets monthly for lunch

R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Ol' Men Eating Out): Meets monthly for lunch