



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

October 2023 Newsletter

October 22nd - Churchwide Celebration of Ministry

On Sunday, October 22nd St. Stephen's will be hosting a churchwide Celebration of Ministry

The event will include both worship services, a building maintenance brunch, and a special program, all in the gym.

We'll also have special performances from some of our choirs!

It will be a wonderful day of worship, fellowship, and celebration that you won't want to miss!

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!



It's time for Trunk or Treat!

On October 25th we will plan to have Trunk or Treat in the big parking lot like we did last year!

We really enjoy this fun evening with our kids and plan to have Travelin' Dogs available for dinner!

We would LOVE for you to decorate your trunks and/or dress up yourself!

Please let Shannon know if you plan to provide candy by Monday, October 23rd!! Travelin' Dogs will be here at 5 PM which is also when you can begin setting up your area! We plan to start Trunk or Treat at 6 PM and should be done by 6:45 PM. Vehicles will be parked in every other space to help with crowding.





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.

Overnight trip to Hendersonville:

There is still room on the bus for anyone that wants to go! Reach out to Shannon with questions!

Thursday, Oct. 5th: Stop at Happy Cow Creamery in Pelzer for a tour and ice cream; Stay in Hendersonville and enjoy dinner at Hannah Flannigans.

Friday: Oct. 6th: Go to Grandad's Apple Orchard; Visit the Carl Sandburg Home; have lunch at Little Rainbow Row in Flat Rock and head home

Thursday, October 12th:

Join us for our monthly Prime Time Luncheon at 11:45 AM. We will enjoy a taco salad bar and nachos! Come enjoy the fiesta! Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect!

Nurture and Outreach: will meet Sunday, October 15 at 5:00 pm in the social hall to plan our annual distribution of gift packs to our homebound friends. If anyone is interested in joining us, please come to the meeting. We would love to have you! POC: Ron Redd 803-360-0241.

Rredd7848@gmail.com

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 October 26th!

JOIN US

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our Red Cross Blood drive will be Wednesday, October 4th from 2-7pm.

Visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code SSLC.

Our goal is 29 units!!

A note from the American Red Cross:

We are thankful for your continued support as we have struggled this summer for donations. Despite our efforts, our inventory is low and it's impacting our ability to meet patient need. Right now, blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations coming in, leading to us having to restrict type O.



Wednesday Night Live Adult Study Class

– meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Agape Classroom just outside the narthex. Come early at 5:00 pm for a meal in the Social Hall, and then walk over for class at 6. Each week,

Pastor Ralph leads intentional faith conversations, alternating topics each week using popular movies (Life of Pi, The Lion King, The Blind Side, etc.) and the resource By Heart: Conversations With Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

Together, we explore our relationship with God, and embrace how faith through Christ transforms our life view. All are welcome - hope to see you there!



SSLC J-Crew

Sunday, October 22nd to Sease Farms Corn Maze

All 1st-5th graders are invited to meet at the church on Sunday, October 22nd at 2:00pm to go to the Sease Farms Corn Maze. The church bus will be available. If you'd rather not ride the bus you can meet us at Sease Farm. The church will cover the cost of admission.

J-Crewers will only need money for a snack/drink while we are there. We will be back at the church at 4:30. Any parents that could chaperone would be extremely helpful! Please RSVP to

Pastor Jason by Wednesday, October 18th! Hope to see YOU there!

With Children's Sunday School back in session, we'd like to remind our F.I.N.E. Moms of SSLC that 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 !

#momlife♥

MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Easter to Reformation food drive is underway with 4350 lbs. donated toward a goal of 5,000lbs. Year to date total is 8329 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 October

Date: October 19th

Time: 5:30 PM

Restaurant: Blue Marlin (Vista Room)

Hosts: Don and Georgianna Dukes

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

***Please bring \$20 cash
(per person) to cover the cost
of the meal. Cash bar will also
be available.*



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.

Crossroads Small Group –

meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, currently at the Mediterranean Café on 327 W. Main St.

Crossroads is comprised of folks that fall in between our Living Faith and Prime Time adult groups. Join us for a devotion and connection over a great meal (Dutch treat). As usual, Pastor Hill will provide pre-meal conversation topics! The next two dates are October 5 and November 2. Look for the sign-up sheet just outside the narthex.

In October we will have a focus on writing notes/cards to people in need. A devotion will relate to Seasons of the year, and the gift of Fall. 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! Our schedule is as follows:

October 1st – The Chosen – Season 3, Episode 1 Pt. 1

October 8th – No Class – Lutheridge Worship and Apple Picking

October 15th – The Chosen – Season 3, Episode 1 Pt. 2

October 22nd – No Class; Congregational Event

October 29th – The Chosen – Season 3, Episode 2 Pt. 1

This October we will begin watching the third season of the series entitled "The Chosen": a television drama based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. It is the first multi-season series about the life of Jesus, and season one was the top crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time. The series' creators stated that they had hoped to distinguish the new series from previous portrayals of Jesus by crafting a multi-season, episode-based story. The series portrays Jesus "through the eyes of those who met him". Starting with Sunday, October 15th we will begin Season 3 of the series. We hope that you will come join us for what promises to be an awesome time of watching, learning, and reflecting on the life of Jesus.

Young Adult Sunday school -

meets each Sunday at 9:45 am in the Chapel
(Room #215, 2nd floor overlooking gym).

Led by Pastor Hill, we are a small group (age 20/30's) looking for a chance to gather with others, share in faith conversation, and connect biblical teaching with life.

We seek to grow in number and explore ways to connect beyond the class. This fall, we are looking at faith practices like prayer, worship, witness, service, along with exploring spirituality. Snacks included. Join us! Contact Pastor Hill (Ralph@sslc.org) with any questions.

Lutheran Men:

Lutheran Men will meet in the social hall Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Richard and Sharon Shealy will be our guest speakers and will do a presentation on their trip to Tanzania and the equipping of the new medical clinic.

POC:

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

Mark your calendars:

Pancakes and PJ's with Santa
Wear your Christmas PJ's, fill your belly with pancakes, and visit with Santa!

FEATURING

- Professional Pictures with Santa
- A Christmas Craft for each child

When: December 8th from
5:30-7 PM

Where: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Benefiting: Our Youth that will be attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Please RSVP to Shannon by Dec. 1st
(Shannon@sslc.org)

Ticket cost is \$20 per child (one adult admitted free per child); additional adults \$10

(Check or cash preferred but we will have link to purchase tickets online as well)



wednesday night *LIVE!*

A meal is served from
5 -5:45 PM in the Social
Hall.

Our Treble Choir, Cherubs,
Choir Chimes, and Wings of
Worship rehearse each
Wednesday
(except Oct. 25th which is
Trunk or Treat)

Confirmation for 7th and
8th graders meets at 6 PM
and an Adult Bible Study
will be taught by Pastor
Ralph beginning at 6 PM.

Adult choir rehearses at
6:45 PM

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

We know that you guys are studying hard 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 or the youth room, 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! If you do plan on coming, please text Mrs. Shannon so she knows who to expect!

Sunday, October 15th—Dinner and Deceased Farms

It's that time of year! Time for the ghosts and goblins to come out and about! Plan to leave the church at 6 PM and we will get dinner before we head to Deceased Farms. Please RSVP to Shannon by Oct. 12th and bring \$22 cash. Deceased farms only accepts cash but dinner will be covered!

Sunday, October 29th—Halloween Movie Madness

Join us Oct. 29th right after the 11 AM service for pizza and a movie. We will watch a Halloween themed movie (not a scary one) and get in the spirit of the season! RSVP by Oct. 26th!

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

Sunday, October 22nd— Pumpkin Painting

Join us for lunch after the 11 AM service and then have some fun painting pumpkins. These pumpkins won't rot so bring your best artistic ideas with you!

Sunday, October 29th— Halloween Movie Madness

Join us Oct. 29th right after the 11 AM service for pizza and a movie. We will watch a Halloween themed movie (not a scary one) and get in the spirit of the season! RSVP by Oct. 26th!

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!

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!

Family Friendly Halloween Party – Friday, October 27th at 6pm

Jamie & Tripp Brunson will be hosting a Halloween Party for the Living Faith group on Friday, October 27th! It is sure to be a SPOOKTACULAR event and you don't want to miss it!! The whole family is invited to come and enjoy good food, fellowship, a bouncy house, hayrides, games, and other fun activities! Costumes are highly recommended to add to the fun! Last but not least, each family is asked to bring a few things: 1) donation of canned goods for Mission Lexington, 2) BYOB, and 3) a dessert or appetizer to share. So mark your calendars now and make sure to RSVP to Pastor Jason by Wednesday, October 19th so we'll know how many to expect! We hope to see you there!!!

Operation Christmas Child – Wednesday, Nov 8th at 6pm

This is the 9th year that we will pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child after our WNL! Meal. Look for information on what to bring to put in the boxes and then show up to help pack boxes for children in need across the world! Dinner will be served at 5:00pm that night with box packing following around 6pm.

A SHOEBOX CAN CHANGE A LIFE!

Operation Christmas Child needs your help! The Samaritan's Purse organization started this amazing program that reaches children in need across the world who may have never received any sort of gift before. You and your family can pack a shoebox for them filled with toys, school & art supplies, dolls and other fun items! But by packing a shoebox for them, you are not only giving the gift of love but also the gift of sharing the Gospel with others! They get to learn about Jesus and the unconditional love that He has for each of us! During the month of

October, we will be collecting toiletries and school supplies that can go in the shoeboxes. These would be items like bar soap, washcloths, toothbrushes (they don't accept toothpaste), hairbrushes, notepads, pens, pencils with sharpeners, coloring books, crayons, etc. You can drop them off in the bin marked "Operation Christmas Child" by the AGAPE Classroom. Thanks so much for your help! Also, please mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 8th immediately following the WNL Dinner. We will be having our ANNUAL SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY in the social hall. If you have any questions or would like to help, please email

Ashely Lackore at ashlackore@yahoo.com.

Notes from Aloft

Children's Choirs, Choir chimes, and Wings of Worship take place on Wednesdays. It's not too late for your child to join us. Contact Susan Wilson if you have any questions.

Treble choir (1st – 5th grade) 5:25 p.m. – 6:10 p.m. Children will sing and play ORFF instruments.

Cherub Choir (2 years – 5 years) 5:25 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.

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

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

Instrumentalists –

Are you a student taking lessons to learn how to play an instrument? Are you an adult who used to play and has your instrument stuck in the closet? Have you considered getting out your instrument and playing again? If you play an instrument, please let Susan Wilson know. There are many opportunities for instrumentalists to play in worship. We'd love to have you participate!



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 October lunch will take place October 17 at 12:30 p.m. at Private Property. Please rsvp to Susan by phone 858 729 8672 or text, or by email Susan@sslc.org. All women are welcome!

R.O.M.E.O.

(Retired Ol Men Eating Out) will meet on October 24 at 12:30 p.m.

The location will be announced shortly. Come join the fellas for some fellowship and fun.

SAVE THE DATE...

Family Night Christmas.... Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 p.m. Dinner followed by family fun which will include the annual Christmas program presented by the children's choirs, the singing of carols, and a few surprises!

Be Our Guest at Dinner Theatre – October 12 – Last chance for tickets!

The Dinner Theatre is just around the corner and enthusiasm is building! The event takes place on Thursday, October 12. There are a few \$50 tickets remaining so contact Susan@sslc.org asap if you're interested. There are now \$25 tickets available also, which do not include dinner but all the music. Tickets are available 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.

Flowers for October

Oct. 1st	Pat Caughman
Oct. 8th	Ruth Wilson Family
Oct. 15th	Lori Holmgreen
Oct. 22nd	Cancian Family
Oct. 29th	Spence Family

Recyclers

Oct. 1st	The Head Family
Oct. 8th	Jennifer & Susannah Howell
Oct. 15th	Gary and Julie Angus
Oct. 22nd	Sarah Kolb
Oct. 29th	Bonnie Long

Ushers for October

October 1st and 15th

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

October 8th, 22nd, and 29th

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 service	11:00 service
October 1 st	Vernon Hester	Cathy Mathias
October 8 th	Janice Buff	Marilyn Fattman
October 15 th	Jamie Early	Jessica Maxheimer
October 22 nd	Paige Johnson	Jennifer Howell
October 29 th	Brant Taylor	Sharon Paeth

Communion Assistants

	8:30 service	11:00 service
October 1 st	Danny Able and Craig Wheatley <i>Communion at the rail</i>	Benjie Rhoad and Ed Smith <i>Communion at the rail</i>
October 8 th	Ann Clark	Eleanor Roberson
October 15 th	Sandy Shealy	Cathy Mathias
October 22 nd	Jim Nantz	Ed Smith
October 29 th	Neil Brown	Peggy Sherman

Order of St. Stephen's

	8:30 AM service	11:00 AM service
October 1st	A – Jackson Rawl	A – Jocelyn Summerall
	C – Ryan Kennedy	C – Sophie Taylor
	BB – Jack Kennedy	BB – Madison Summerall
October 8th	A – Luke Wenzel	A – William Carrero
	C – Kaidyn Glover	C – Elizabeth Kolb
October 15th	A – Gracen Geary	A – Audrey Lewis
	C – Connor Geary	C – Susannah Howell
October 22nd	A – Katy Hooker	A – Merritt Jones
	C – Cameron Moore	C – Emery Jones
October 29th	A – Hannah Hill	A – Hampton Smith
	C – Weston Hill	C – Elizabeth Kolb
	BB – Lexie Taylor	BB – Zachary Head
	TB – Noah Oxley	TB – Aaron Head
	TB – Bia Oxley	TB – Bryce Windham

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

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