Connecting People with Jesus…
In Us… Among Us… Through Us

ST. STEPHENS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2304 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Church: 828-256-9865
www.sslcms.org

School: 828-256-2166
www.sslswarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor + Tim Rollings, Vicar
Ross Chiles, Principal + Jessica Westby, Assistant Principal
Randall Cline, Youth Ministry
Donna Lee, Children's Ministry + Brandon Buff, Facilities and Technology
Robert Smith, Traditional Music Director + David Day, Praise Team Director
Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator + Savannah Lee, Communication Coordinator
Sharon Maynor, Administrator + Tashia Fisher, Church Administrative Asst.
Debbi Becker, School Administrative Asst.
Tiffany Sigmon, Receptionist & Visitor Engagement Coordinator
Kristy Smith, New Member Coordinator

Season After Pentecost **October 10 & 11, 2026**

Welcome to Worship

We pray you will find the presence of God in our worship. We ask that all of our members and all guests to please print your name in the book passed along the pew before the offering. Guest, we encourage you to fill out a Connect Card also.

Holy Communion: We welcome all who have been instructed in the faith, who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and in the true presence of His body and blood in the sacrament. If you are a guest today and would like to participate in the Sacrament, please consult a pastor or elder beforehand with any questions. **We do offer white grape juice and gluten free bread for those who need it.**

Children are welcome in our worship services. As an alternative, a nursery for infants through 2 years old is available in Room #101. The nursery is staffed from 8am to 12pm on Sunday mornings. For assistance, please see an usher.

Children's Worship (preschool & early elementary) is offered in the choir room during the 10:30am worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon and return for offering.

Fire Exits: In addition to the main entrance, fire exits are located on both sides of the chancel and are opened for quicker exit from the church after worship.

Broadcast & Photography: Just a reminder that our services are live streamed on YouTube and may include images of the congregation. St. Stephens Lutheran Church reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any service on church grounds or event sponsored by St. Stephens Lutheran Church. A person attending who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer. By participating in a St. Stephens Lutheran Church service or event or by failing to notify your desire to not have your photograph used, you are agreeing to release and the use of your picture.

Sunday School - 9:15am - 10:15am

For room location assistance, please see an usher.

Little Lambs /Preschool (3 & 4yrs) & Kinders:---- Ed Wing Riser Room----Martha Propst, Jane Guelzow, Sue Seabock & Cynthia Hewitt
Kid Connect/ Grades 1 & 2:----------Ed Wing #222---------- Andrea Trent
Kid Connect/ Grades 3-5:----------Ed Wing #220 ----------Teresa Ritchie
Jr. High Life Group: Led by Randall & Shannon Cline----------Youth House
Sr. High Life Group: Darel Reese & Jon Guelzow----------Youth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton Powell----------Peace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar----------Scripture----------New Fellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar--Genesis – Old Conference Room
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz---------Bible Lessons---------Choir Room
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter----------Eleven Days---------- School Bldg. #109
Adults-Ladies Led by Regina Propst & Cindy Brinn---Ephesians---Creation Room
New Members - Led by the Pastors----------New Conference Room

Prayer on Entering

Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries who proclaim the saving cross that Christ, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed on the altar today are given to the glory of God by the LWML, to honor this special weekend and the many ladies who serve as His hands and feet.

Flowers placed on the altar today on given to the glory of God by Doris Sigmon, Jeanna Anderson, Mitchell Sigmon and the family in loving memory of the earthly birthday of Eddie Mal Sigmon, on October 9.

Greeters

October 10th- Brenda Little & Cathy Drum
October 11th 8AM- Pat Wilson
October 11th 10:30- Micheal & Katie Vaughn

October 17th- Brent & Donna Townsend
October 18th 8AM- Dwight & Kathy Hollar
October 18th 10:30- Phillip & Sarah Starnes

Communion Assistants

October 11 - 10:30am – Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

October 18 – 8:00am – James Fogle & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

October 11 – Amy Crouch October 18 – Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance – 483 (87, 110, 286) Sunday School - 152
General Fund: $26,055.01 (Regular Offer. needed each week: $30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: $1,608.33
School Endowment Fund: $850.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: $4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: $3,974,966.21
**We have started drawing on the construction loan as bills come in*

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY
5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY
8:00am – Traditional Worship
10:30am – Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion
12:00-3:00pm – Midder School Youth – Youth House/Mall
3:00-6:00pm – Pickle Ball – Gym
5:00-8:00pm – High School Youth – Youth House/Dinner
6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – Cornerstone Room

MONDAY
9:00am – Lifelight (Pastor Guelzow) – Cornerstone Room
10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry- Youth House
6:00pm – School Board – Cornerstone Room
7:00pm – Men's Bible Study – Youth House

TUESDAY
4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE
1:00pm – Elizabeth Circle – Cornerstone Room
4:00pm – Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) – Cornerstone Room
5:30pm – Elders – Old Conference Room
6:16pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY
10:00am – Women's Bible Study – Cornerstone Room
6:00pm – After the Boxes – Cornerstone Room
6:30pm – Lifegroup (Paul Miller) – Youth House

THURSDAY
10:30am – Life Group (Larry Bowman) Cornerstone Room
NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE
5:45pm – Handbell Choir - Sanctuary
7:00pm – Life Group (Richard Starnes) Cornerstone Room
7:00pm – Parish Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

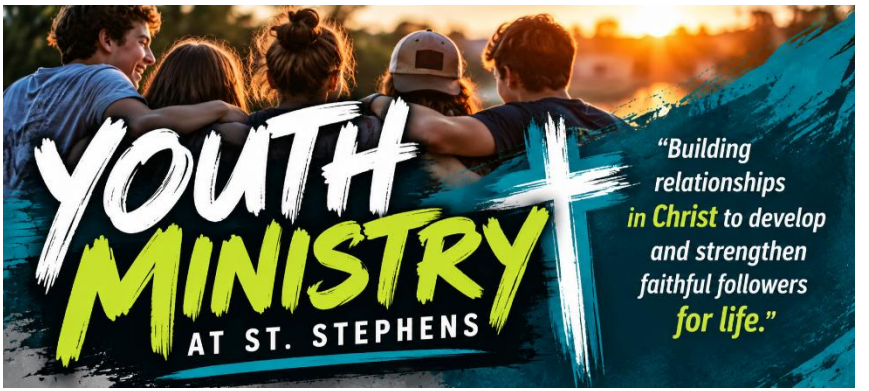
FRIDAY
10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry – Youth House
2:00pm – Life Group – David Rittenhouse's home
5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

SATURDAY
7:30am – Men's Club (LLL) Breakfast/Meeting – Cafeteria
5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY
8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion
9:15am – Family Bible Hour
10:30am–Contemporary Worship
11:30am – Fall Festival – Games, Food & Fun
3:00-6:00pm – Pickle Ball – Gym
6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – Cornerstone Room



LWML was established in 1942 as the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. As Lutheran women in Mission, we support missions at all levels – locally, nationally, internationally. At SSLCMS, ladies of all ages participate in circles to support specific missions, provide funeral meals to grieving families, and assist with other tasks as needed. Membership is available to any woman in our congregation. Please visit the LWML webpage (www.sslcms.org) to see a description of the circles and meeting times.



Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

10/11 | 12:00-3:00 PM | Mall Rats



Calling all middle schoolers! Join us as we kick things off at The Youth House with lunch and continue our Fruit of the Spirit discussion with Joy & Peace. Then we're heading to the mall to hang out, roam around, and have some fun.

10/11 | 5:00-8:00 PM | Feast Mode



High School Only. We'll kick off the night at the Youth House with a devotion from our Fruit of the Spirit series, then head out for a nice dinner and time together. Come hungry and get ready to switch FEAST MODE: ON!

10/18 | 12:00-3:00 PM | Kickball Classic: Youth vs. Parents



The rivalry is BACK. Stick around after service for our Fall Festival, cookout, and the ultimate showdown - Youth vs. Parents! The Parents have the trophy. The Youth want it back. Bragging rights are on the line.

10/24 | 4:30-11:30 PM | Scarowinds



When the sun goes down, the screams begin! Take on coasters, haunted attractions, and scares around every corner with your crew. Think you're brave enough? Get details & sign up at sslcms.org/youth or scan the code!

Want to Get Connected?

Parents and families are always encouraged to reach out with questions or to learn how to partner in their student's faith journey.

Visit **sslcms.org/youth** for all the latest.

We're collecting **new and gently used** devotionals and Bible study guides for an exchange table at the Fall Festival.



Drop off devotionals or Bible study guides to the church office or Kristy by Fri. 10/16.

Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

Disaster Relief Warehouse

Wanna Go?

Thursday, October 22
9am-2pm

See an Emergency Field hospital, a Pop-up mobile clinic and discussions about disaster relief

Cost: $10 (transportation)
Lunch on your own at HillTop restaurant

RSVP by October 16 to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

Who gets to hoist the trophy this year?

YOUTH vs Adults Kickball Game

Adults - 3
Youth - 4

Sunday, October 18
12pm-3pm

Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Hour - 9:15-10:15am Ed Wing
Preschool & Kinders: Riser Room
Grades 1 & 2: Ed Wing #222
Grades 3 - 5: Ed Wing #220
CPH Enduring Faith

Children's Worship
10:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
Preschool- 5th Grade
Meet in the choir room during the sermon
Opportunities to serve weekly

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

We are looking for caring leaders and helpers to serve during Sunday Bible Hour, Children's Worship, or Special Events. Help us create a safe, fun space for kids to grow in faith!

Out of the Office

Pastor Shea will be on vacation October 10-11.

SSLS Teacher Workday - October 22 - No School

SSLS Fall Break - No School (Office Closed) - October 23

Sharon will be on vacation October 15-16 & 29-30.

St. Peter Lutheran Church – Truck-or-Treat



St. Stephens Lutheran School News
Excellence in Education since 1943

Rooted in Christ
(Colossians 2:6-7)

School Board Members - Scott Clontz, Chairman, Erica Moretz, David Janisko, Kim Yancey, and Shawn Sigmon



Thank You

Thank you for all the phone calls, texts, cards, and prayers I have received in the past weeks prior to my recent heart procedure. All went well and God's goodness and love has been shining through my recovery. You have all been such a blessing!

Diane Slivensky

The family of Gil Brauch wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family for the overwhelming love, prayers, and expressions of sympathy extended to us during our recent loss. Your kindness, comforting words, and presence have helped sustained us during this difficult time. May God bless you all.

ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FALL FESTIVAL

and

Mission & Ministry Building celebration









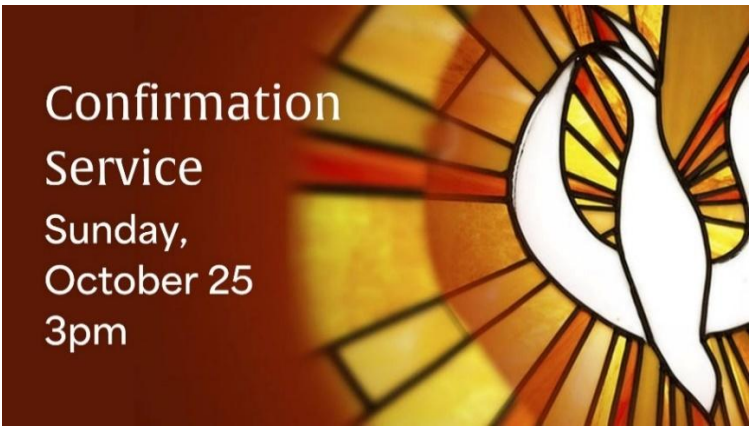
Sunday, October 18, 2026
following the 10:30 worship

- Main meal BBQ (please bring a side to share)
- Children's activities
- Crafts
- Outdoor games
- Youth vs. adults kickball
- and more!

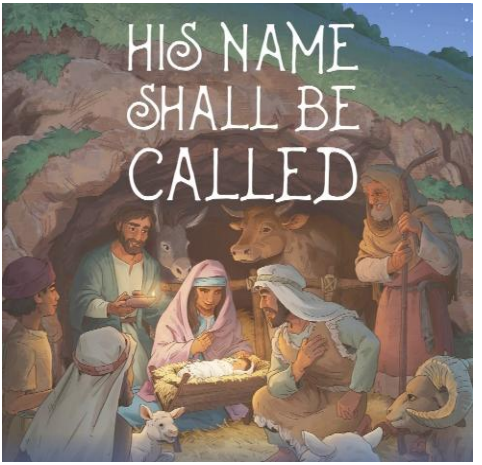
Our church and school families are invited to join together for a time of fun and fellowship.

Please register for this event so we know how much BBQ to fix.


MENS
BREAKFAST
Saturday, October 17
7:30am - School Cafeteria
Devotion, food and fellowship


Confirmation
Service
Sunday,
October 25
3pm


Let's Have
Dinner
Are you eating alone?
Tired of the same old same old?
Just don't want to cook?
Let's have dinner together on
Thursday, October 29 at 5:30pm
in the Mission and Ministry Center.
Enjoy a meal (baked potato) and fellowship with others.
No charge, but a freewill offering is accepted.
RSVP by Oct. 27 to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org



Time to register...
Children's Christmas Service: His Name Shall Be Called
Don't miss out on a chance to be a part of this special evening worship service on **Saturday, Dec 19th.** Information about rehearsals and further details can be found through the registration link.

Opportunities for musicians, singers, readers, & ushers. **All Ages Welcome.**

Special Request: O Come, O Come... All Dancers!
We are seeking dancers of all ages to participate in a liturgical dance during our Children's Christmas Service. Whether you're an experienced dancer or simply have a heart for worship through movement, we'd love for you to join us in this beautiful expression of faith and celebration. Come help us make this Christmas season even more meaningful through dance! *We hope you'll prayerfully consider joining us!*

Registration required by October 31 to receive a T-shirt.

Liturgical Dance Director, Jennifer Colato 609-220-1169.
Worship Leader, Teresa Ritchie 336-408-3776
Children's Ministery Director, Donna Lee 828-381-5391

Celebrate the Church workers of St. Stephens Lutheran









"*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,*" writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).

With this same gratitude, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

For all church workers, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ.

Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!

Some ways to thank a Church Worker

- **Thanks**. Send a “thank you” card or note.
- **Prayer**. Your church workers need prayer.
- **Honor**. Make a donation in church workers honor to a church/school mission ministry.
- **Personal**. Gift cards to local restaurants, stores, online shopping

The staff of St. Stephens Lutheran Church and School

Debbi Becker, School Admin Asst.
Amber Boston, Music
Kelli Butler, Middle School Teacher
Randall Cline, Youth Ministry
David Day, Praise Team Director
Beverly Fagan, Morning Care
Tashia Fisher, Church Admin. Asst.
Laura Frank, Middle School
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor
Erin Hackney, Counselor
Kelly Hooper, 4th Grade
Kevin Johnson, Media
Bethany Kahill, PS Teacher
Savannah Lee, Communications
Pam Manfredi, Cafeteria
Mary Grace Neill, 2nd grade aide
Devon Payne, 2nd grade
Sheila Poovey, Cafeteria
Ariana Rollings, Cafeteria
Tiffany Sigmon, Recep. & Visitor Engmnt.
Robert Smith, Trad. Music Director
Renee Stiles, Cafeteria
Cassie Todd, PS Asst.
Jessica Westby, Asst. Principal
Adam Wilson, Maintenance
David Ziehr, Pastor

April Bell, Middle School Teacher
Brandon Buff, IT & Facility
Ross Chiles, Principal
Kimberly Clontz, PS teacher asst.
Amity Enci, Lunchroom
Kathryn Fisher, Kindergarten
Rebecca Flowers, 1st grade
Rae Fritz, Physical Education
Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator
Ragan, Hayman, 3rd grade aide
Gina Houston, Kindergarten
Mark Jones, Media
Donna Lee, Children's Ministry
Karen Ly, PS teacher
Sharon Maynor, Administrator
Angela Parlier, Preschool Director
Shea Pennington, Pastor
Kristin Priola, Resource
Tim Rollings, Vicar
Kristy Smith, New Member Coord.
Cheryl Stiles, Middle School
Kim Stout, PS Teacher
Krystal Travis, Athletic Director
Natasha Whitaker, 3rd grade
Rachel Wilson, 5th grade

Today's Readings

Proverbs 11:10-30

10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and
when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. 11 By the
blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the
wicked it is overthrown. 12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks
sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. 13 Whoever
goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy
in spirit keeps a thing covered. 14 Where there is no guidance, a
people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer
harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure. 16 A
gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches. 17 A
man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.
18 The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows
righteousness gets a sure reward. 19 Whoever is steadfast in
righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. 20 Those
of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord, but those of
blameless ways are his delight. 21 Be assured, an evil person will
not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be
delivered. 22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman
without discretion. 23 The desire of the righteous ends only in
good, the expectation of the wicked in wrath. 24 One gives
freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should
give, and only suffers want. 25 Whoever brings blessing will be
enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.
26 The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is
on the head of him who sells it. 27 Whoever diligently seeks good
seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.
28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will
flourish like a green leaf. 29 Whoever troubles his own household
will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of
heart. 30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever
captures souls is wise.

1 Peter 4:1-12

4 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the
same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased
from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for
human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past

suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality,
passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.
4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in
the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give
account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this
is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that
though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the
spirit the way God does. 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be
self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above
all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of
sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each
has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of
God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of
God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God
supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus
Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you
to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Matthew 5:10-20

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile
you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on
my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
Salt and Light 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste,
how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything
except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.
14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand,
and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light
shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come
to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but
to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away,
not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments
and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of
heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in
the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness
exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the
kingdom of heaven.

LET US PRAY FOR…….

SPECIAL PRAYERS
BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
KID CONNECT
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD
FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS
POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS
RAY & JEMMA GREGOIRE - strength to support their family
MARISSA FOSTER & UNBORN BABY (34wks) - Baby has IUGR, Marissa is the daughter of Ray & Jemma Gregoire

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES
FAMILY & FRIENDS OF RICK & LYNN PARNELL. Their son, Neal, was called to glory unexpectedly on October 6. Friends of Jerry & Teresa Ritchie.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF GENE HALL. Gene was called to glory last week. Friend of Cindy Johnson Family.

LEXIE & GAVIN KELLY FAMILY. Their infant son was called to glory last week. Lexie is the daughter of Ray & Jemma Gregoire.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS
ALLEN BOLICK
BOB & LINDA CARNEY
RALPH CAZIRE
JIM LANE has been moved to Catawba Valley Assisted Living at Rock Barn

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER
DARREN & AMY CROUCH FAMILY
RANDALL & SHANNON CLINE FAMILY
DEBBIE LAWS
WILLINE AUSTIN
MARK & JEN JONES

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of **ESTHER RAE SIMMONS** on October 5 to Graham & Ciara. Esther is the granddaughter of Michelle & Sam Wallace and the great-granddaughter of Bob Hollar.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman
MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow
JOYCE MCCARTY, grandmother of Adam Wilson

HOSPITALIZED

JERRY RITCHIE - CVMC
LYNN TEETERS - CVMC
DENNIS COMBS, FRMC, heart issues, son of Bobbie Flowers
ELIZABETH FORCELLE, Virginia, daughter of Walt Schoenegge

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD
PAULA SPENCER, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst
CAROL EWALD, dementia
DAVE KRYDER, stage 4 cancer
JEFF KUYKENDALL, cancer
MARC SIGMON, cancer treatments, friend of David & Jennifer Eckard
CHRISTA RISSER, cancer, mother of Heidi Beliveau
SHEILA RODRIGUEZ, breast cancer, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

RECOVERING

REGGIE CRAIG, health issues
TERESA PHILLIPS, recovering from broken shoulder/heart cath
KATHY BOLCH, severe eye issues, sister of Sherry Craig
KELLI BROWN, recovering from shoulder surgery
MISTY ELDER, recovering from a heart attack, neighbor of Mecimores
AMANDA VIERELA, kneecap dislocated, friend of Elyijah Johnson
NANCY BEAN, health issues
ANDRA PINGEL, Conover Rehab
PAT SEALE, home recovering
BARBARA RILEY, home recovering
JONATHAN HOWARD, recovering from a stroke, brother of Joe
BETTY HENSLEY, recovering from a stroke, friend of Ronda Reid