

**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 17 & 18, 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-----Shephard's 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-----Cornerstone Room

Prayer on Entering

God of time and eternity, You desire that we live to Your glory in Christ, our Lord. Help us to love You with all that we have and all that we are, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to live as those who are joyfully assured of Your forgiveness day by day. Grant us proper priorities, immovable faith, and untiring love for those around us as we await the joy of Your eternal kingdom. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and our King. Amen.

Greeters

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

October 24th- Keith & Sue Binns & Ethel Baldwin
October 25th 8AM- Sharon Little
October 25th 10:30- Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

October 18 - 8:00am - James Fogle & Ralph Mueller
October 25 - 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

October 18 - Sheila Poovey October 25 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 480 (70, 92, 318) Sunday School - 178
General Fund: \$26,578.92 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,785.00
School Endowment Fund: \$100.00
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

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

11:30am – Fall Festival – Games, Food & Fun

NO Pickle Ball

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

1:00pm – Esther Circle – Conference Room

7:00pm – Men's Bible Study – Youth House

TUESDAY

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

4:00pm – Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) – Cornerstone Room

5:15pm – Finance & Facility – Spirit Room

6:16pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Women's Bible Study – Cornerstone Room

6:00pm – After the Boxes – Creation Room

6:30pm – Lifegroup (Paul Miller) – Youth House

THURSDAY – SSLS No School – Teacher Workday

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 – SSLS No School – School Office Closed

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry – Youth House

2:00pm – Life Group – David Rittenhouse's home

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

SATURDAY

4:30-11:30pm – Youth Scarowinds

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY – REFORMATION & RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

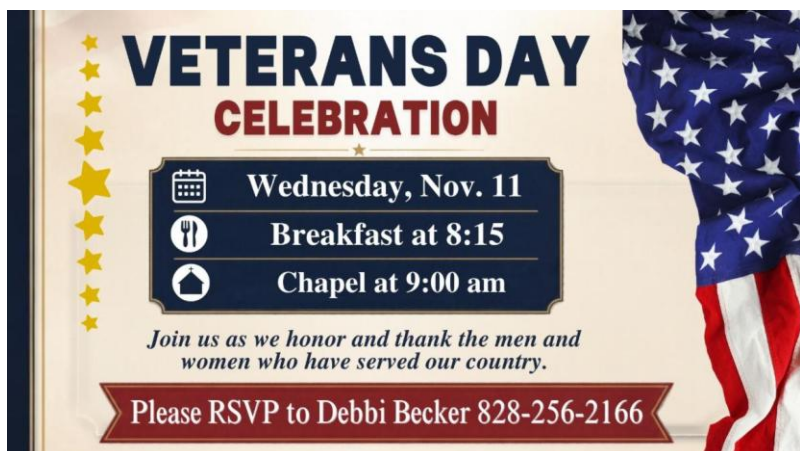
8:00am – Traditional Worship

10:30am – Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00pm – Confirmation Service

NO Pickle Ball

6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – Cornerstone Room



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

★

	Wednesday, Nov. 11
	Breakfast at 8:15
	Chapel at 9:00 am

Join us as we honor and thank the men and women who have served our country.

Please RSVP to Debbi Becker 828-256-2166

Sock & Underwear Drive

Donate NEW socks and underwear for a local elementary school

**Boys and Girls
size 5 - 14/16**

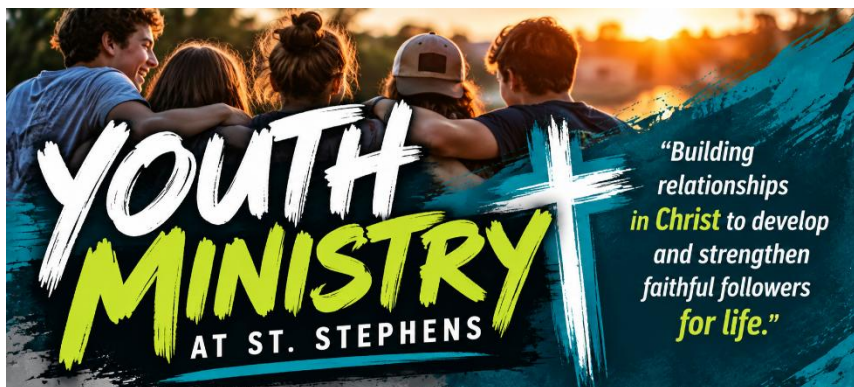
Donated items can be dropped off in the Mission Box in the narthex.



SAVE-THE-DATE

Town Hall - NOVEMBER 18

Congregational Meeting - DECEMBER 6



Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

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!



10/24 | High School Gathering - Last Day to Register!



Get ready for a weekend of worship, fun, and God's Word! Discover what it means to be Made in His Image. Registration closes October 24! Get details & sign up at sslcms.org/youth or scan the code!

10/25 | 3:00-4:30 PM | Confirmation Service



Join us as nine of our youth publicly confess their faith and confirm their baptismal promises! Come worship, celebrate, and encourage them as they continue to grow in Christ.

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.

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

SSLS Teacher Workday - October 22 - No School

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

Sharon will be on vacation October 29-30

Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes

Samaritan Purse Shoeboxes are available this weekend in the narthex. St. Stephens has participated in this event for many years with wonderful results. We are again asking you to chose a box or two and fill them with approate gift items to be share with children around the world. This may be the only Christmas gift many of these children will receive. More importaly, this gift will give missionaries an opportunity to tell the children about our Savior Jesus Christ. The shoeboxes must be returned by Sunday, November 22.



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



Place online order for Moe's
Take Home Taco Kit. Order
by 4pm on **10/19**.

Pickup here at St. Stephens
(look for the Moe's van)
on **10/20** from 4-6pm

Thank you for supporting SSLS



Scan the QR
Code to order

Excellence in
Christian
Education
Since 1943



ST. STEPHENS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

www.sslswarriors.org

COME VISIT KINDERGARTEN



OPEN HOUSE

For Parents Only

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30pm

Please RSVP 828-256-2166

*A discounted registration fee will be given to those who attend.

open house

**MONDAY, OCT 26
6PM**

- Tour the campus
- Meet our students
- Ask questions
- Learn about UCHS
- Current & Future high schoolers welcome!

More information at www.uchigh.com

***only a few spots remain for 26-27 school year**

Register Here

REGISTRATION ENDS OCTOBER 30TH

ST. STEPHENS WARRIORS

SSLS WARRIORS INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

PLAY • COMPETE • HAVE FUN!

K-1	2-3	4-5
COED	COED	COED

ALL GAMES PLAYED ON SATURDAYS | **GAMES WILL START IN DECEMBER**

REGISTER HERE

<https://shorturl.at/WHibN>

PARENT MEETING DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

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!

hello
FALL



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



Who gets to
hoist the trophy
this year?



YOUTH
VS
Adults
Kickball Game

Adults - 3
Youth - 4

Sunday,
October 18
12pm-3pm



SSLS COLOR RUN

HELP US
REACH OUR GOAL:
A NEW SSLS BUS

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 7, 2026

9 AM | SSLS TRACK | \$25 PER PERSON



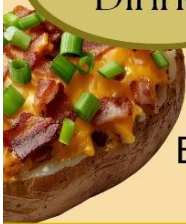
Confirmation

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

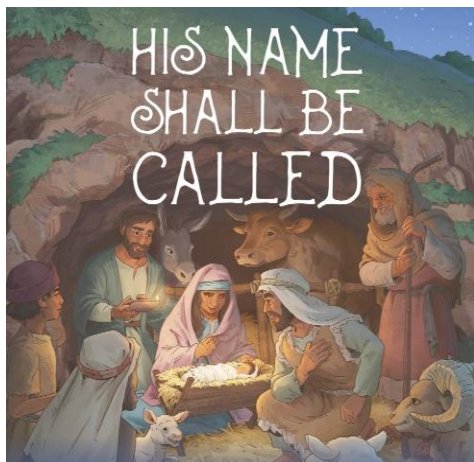
JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL

THIS SUNDAY

**NO PICKLEBALL
10-18 & 25-2026**

PICKLES





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](tel:609-220-1169).
Worship Leader, Teresa Ritchie [336-408-3776](tel:336-408-3776)
Children's Ministry Director, Donna Lee [828-381-5391](tel: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.	April Bell, Middle School Teacher
Amber Boston, Music	Brandon Buff, IT & Facility
Kelli Butler, Middle School Teacher	Ross Chiles, Principal
Randall Cline, Youth Ministry	Kimberly Clontz, PS teacher asst.
David Day, Praise Team Director	Amity Enci, Lunchroom
Beverly Fagan, Morning Care	Kathryn Fisher, Kindergarten
Tashia Fisher, Church Admin. Asst.	Rebecca Flowers, 1 st grade
Laura Frank, Middle School	Rae Fritz, Physical Education
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor	Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator
Erin Hackney, Counselor	Ragan, Hayman, 3 rd grade aide
Kelly Hooper, 4 th Grade	Gina Houston, Kindergarten
Kevin Johnson, Media	Mark Jones, Media
Bethany Kahill, PS Teacher	Donna Lee, Children's Ministry
Savannah Lee, Communications	Karen Ly, PS teacher
Pam Manfredi, Cafeteria	Sharon Maynor, Administrator
Mary Grace Neill, 2 nd grade aide	Angela Parlier, Preschool Director
Devon Payne, 2 nd grade	Shea Pennington, Pastor
Sheila Poovey, Cafeteria	Kristin Priola, Resource
Ariana Rollings, Cafeteria	Tim Rollings, Vicar
Tiffany Sigmon, Recep. & Visitor Engmnt.	Kristy Smith, New Member Coord.
Robert Smith, Trad. Music Director	Cheryl Stiles, Middle School
Renee Stiles, Cafeteria	Kim Stout, PS Teacher
Cassie Todd, PS Asst.	Krystal Travis, Athletic Director
Jessica Westby, Asst. Principal	Natasha Whitaker, 3 rd grade
Adam Wilson, Maintenance	Rachel Wilson, 5 th grade
David Ziehr, Pastor	

Today's Readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

45 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

1 Thessalonians 1

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we

proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Matthew 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 21 They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

FINANCE & FACILITY

ST. PETERS 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

JOE HOWARD FAMILY. His brother, Jonathan, was called to glory on October 10.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

CASSIE DEAL

MARGARET DEAL

BECKY ECKARD

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

ANDREW JONES

DAVID & DEBBIE KILLIAN

VONDA BARKLEY

TOBY LAWS

TODD LITTLE

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

DENNIS COMBS, FRMC, heart issues, son of Bobbie Flowers

ELIZABETH FORCELE, Virginia, daughter of Walt Schoenegge

KATHY SCHATTAUER, heart attack, friend of Char Ewald

UPCOMING PROCEDURE

DAVID DRUM, upcoming lung surgery 10/28, Novant Charlotte

PAT SEALE, upcoming surgery

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 RISSE, 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

NANCY BEAN, health issues

ANDRA PINGEL, recovering at home

BARBARA RILEY, home recovering

BETTY HENSLEY, recovering from a stroke, friend of Ronda Reid

LYNN TEETERS, Conover Rehab, recovering

EDDIE LAWING, brain bleed following a serious car accident, family friend of Shannon Cline

SARAH KANIPE, complications after a serious surgery, friend of Laura Pennell