

**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.ssllswarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor + Tristan Jones, Vicar
Ross Chiles, 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 of Lent

February 28 & March 1, 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 guest 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----- Fellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar----Genesis----School Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz-----Bible Lessons-----Choir Room
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina Propst-----In His Image by Jen Wilkin-----Parlor
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109

Prayer on Entering

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations. Grant to us that we may see in Jesus the fulfillment of Your promise and covenant, with Your holy church, sealed in His blood on the cross. Bring us to the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ, our Savior; in the holy name of Jesus, who with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God and one Lord, now and forever.

Greeters

February 28 - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff
March 1st 8am - Judy Gurganious
March 1st 10:30am - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

March 7th- Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
March 8th 8am - Sharon Little
March 8th 10:30am - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Communion Assistants

March 1 8:00am - Ralph Mueller & Dwight Hollar

March 8 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

March 1 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

March 8 - Teresa Ritchie

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 564 (87, 114, 363) Sunday School - 146
General Fund: \$21,422.81 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,787.70
School Endowment Fund: \$295
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$722,250.20
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,451,061.40

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

12:00-6:00pm - Jonas Ridge Snow Tubing

3:00pm - LWML Quarterly Meeting

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room

MONDAY

9:00am - Lifelight - Pastor Guelzow - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

10:30am - LWML Executive Board - Peacehouse

11:30am - Building Committee - Conference Room

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

TUESDAY

1:00pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Parlor

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm - Comfort Dog Handlers Only - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

6:30pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

WEDNESDAY

9:00am - 3:00pm - Quilters - Conference Rom

10:30am - Mid-Week Lenten Service

6:30pm - Mid-Week Lenten Service

THURSDAY

10:30am - Lifegroup - (Larry Bowman) - Conference Room

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm - Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

7:00pm - Parish Coir - Sanctuary/Choir Room

7:00pm - Lifegroup - (Richard Starnes) - Parlor

FRIDAY

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

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth House

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00-3:00pm - Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room

Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation, the Pastors, and the staff for your calls, cards, visits, food, gifts, love and support during the loss of my husband, Jerry. Anthony and I are so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. We could not do it without your love. Thank you so much.

Tashia and Anthony Fisher

I would like to take an opportunity to thank my congregation family for the prayers, cards and phone calls I received during my recent successful surgery and rehab. I truly never felt alone. A special thank you to my around-the-clock nursing and caretaking I received from my best friend...I love you Teri.

Steve Cain

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Stephens:

Greetings in Christ from Nairobi, Kenya. Thank you for your generous gifts and our long-standing partnership in the Gospel! We are deeply grateful to you all. Thank You!

Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump

TheTrumps.org

Youth News

Building relationships in Christ to develop and strengthen faithful followers for life.

Sunday Morning Bible Study (9:15 am):

- Middle School (The Youth House side “B”)
- High School (The Youth House side “A”)

Mark Your Calendars!

3/1 | 12:00-6:00 PM Jonas Ridge Snow Tubing

Students...get ready to send it at Jonas Ridge! Big slides, big laughs, zero skill needed. Spots are limited and will go fast, so lock in your spot and don't miss out. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

3/8 | 12:00-3:00 PM Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction

Support our youth missions and retreats while enjoying great food and fellowship! Enter a chili, donate a dessert for the live auction, or just come hungry. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

3/15 | 12:00-4:00 PM Corner Table Backpack Program

Hang out in the Youth House, grab some lunch, and then jump in to help pack food bags for local kids through the Backpack Program. It's an easy, hands-on way to serve others, have fun together, and make a real difference in our community!

3/22 | 12:00-1:00 PM Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. This is a chance to reflect on learning so far, ask questions, and stay connected as we continue this faith journey together.

4/24-4/26 SED Middle School Youth Gathering

6th–8th graders, don't miss this gathering! Join us in Williamsburg for an epic weekend of friends, worship, games, and unforgettable moments. This is one you'll be talking about all year. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

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.

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



PRAISE

REMEMBER

ASK

YIELD

EXCITEMENT

REJOICE

The LWML invites all ladies to
prepare their hearts for the Lent
season.

Prayer Service
Sunday, March 1
3pm-5pm

Refreshments to follow.



St. Stephens Lutheran School News
Excellence in Education since 1943

Make A Joyful Noise
(Psalm 98:4)

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

MAR 2-6

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEEK
BOOK FAIR**

MAR 6

**GRANDPARENTS DAY
EARLY DISMISSAL - 11:30 AM**

MAR 13

**SCHOOL CLOSED
SPRING BREAK**

MAR 16

**SCHOOL CLOSED
SPRING BREAK**

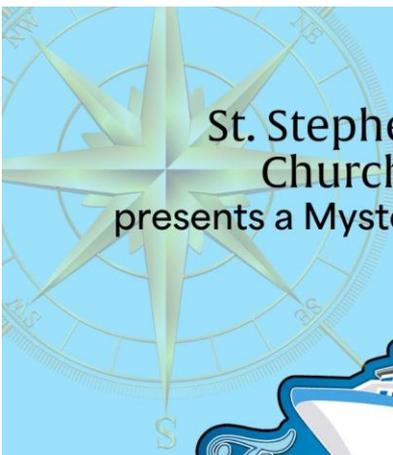
MAR 19

**SPRING PICTURE DAY
GEOGRAPHY BEE - 1 PM**

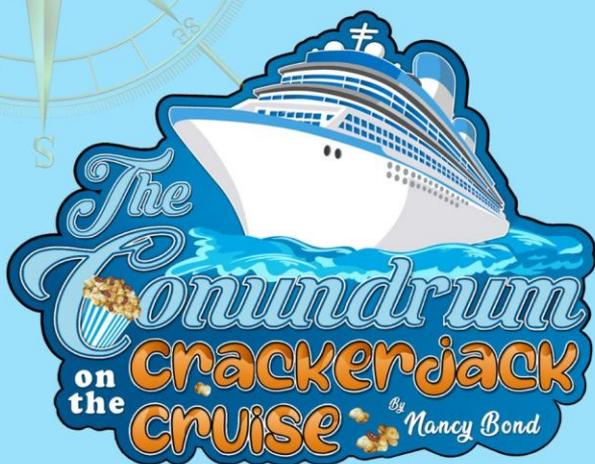
MAR 27

**MUFFINS WITH MOM-7:15AM
WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY**

March



St. Stephens Lutheran
Church & School
presents a Mystery & Dinner Theater



Tickets on sale in school foyer Feb. 21/22

Sunday, March 22
4pm

**Tickets:
Adults \$25
Students (K-8) \$10

**Tickets can be purchased with
cash, check, card or venmo

Proceeds benefit Alaska Mission team



**ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN
YOUTH MINISTRY**



CHILI COOK-OFF

and **DESSERT AUCTION**

March 8, 2026 | 12-2pm

Sample a variety of chilis and vote for the peoples choice then bid on a dessert to sweeten the heat.



Do you have a favorite chili recipe or a favorite desert? Consider entering the chili-cookoff or making a desert for the auction.

For information
contact
Randall Cline
rcline@sslcms.org

\$10

**to sample
the chilis**

Proceeds from the event
benefits St. Stephens
Lutheran Youth Ministry.

**How much
are you
willing to
pay for
that dessert?**

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

Ladies! Are you new to the area?

Join us for a **Women's Newcomer Group**

Monday, March 16

6:00pm

(in St. Stephens Lutheran Church
and School Conference Room)

**Register TODAY with Kristy
at ksmith@sslcms.org**

**Do not need to be a member of
the church to attend.**



QUILTERS

Wednesday,
March 4
9am - 3pm
(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.

Egg Roll
Sale



Trinity Hmong
Lutheran Church
2110 Mt. Olive Church Rd.
Newton, NC 28658



Scan for Egg roll information

MARCH 7

9AM-TIL OUT

6 FOR \$10

12 FOR \$20

FIRST COME,
FIRST SERVE!

Let's Make a
Joyful Noise



National Lutheran
Schools Week
March 1 - 7

Mon.
3/2

Make a joyful noise to
the Lord. Psalm 98:4

Dress Theme: Class T-Shirts
School Activity: Musical Staff

Tues
3/3

Worship is our response to God's
goodness. Romans 12:1-2

Dress Theme: Christian T-Shirts
School Activity: Worship Service

Wed
3/4

Serving others is a way we reflect
Jesus' love. 1 Peter 4:10

Dress Theme: Community service
School Activity: Service Projects

Thur.
3/5

Joy increases when we live in
harmony. Phil. 2:2

Dress Theme: Decade Day
School Activity: Chapel Buddy
activities

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Fri.
3/6

Our joy is complete in Jesus
Romans 15:13

Dress Theme: Dress your best
School Activity: Chapel

A religious painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, with text overlaid. Jesus is depicted in the center, wearing a yellow tunic and a red cloak, looking upwards with a pained expression. The background is dark and atmospheric, with other figures visible in the shadows. The text is overlaid in white, serif font.

Lent Midweek Services

10:30am & 6:30pm

February 25

March 18

March 4

March 25

March 11

In anticipation of the cross Jesus took three of His disciples and retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. This Lent we will join Jesus in the Garden. We will look in all four Gospels to see His prayer, His teaching and His betrayal, as we prepare to celebrate His death and resurrection. In this season of solemn remembrance and repentance, we are going to slow down and spend five weeks with Jesus in the Garden. Come and join us each Wednesday at 10:30am or 6:30pm.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Saturday - March 28th

5:30pm - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Palm Sunday - March 29th

8am - Traditional Worship

10:30am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

10:30am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

6:30pm - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday - April 3rd

10:30am - Traditional Worship

6:30pm - Traditional Worship

Easter Saturday - April 4th

10am - Eggstravaganza

5:30pm - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday - April 5th

7am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

10:30am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Today's Readings

Genesis 12:1-9

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. 9 And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Romans 4:1-8

4 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Romans 4:13-17

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you[do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
PARISH CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM
SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD
FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS
POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

CHARLES SHOOK FAMILY. Charles was called to glory on 2/16.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

KAY WEAVER
JO WILHELM
RUTH WILLIS

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

CHARLIE & JILL LONG
BOB & LINDA WEAVER
PHIL & LINDA EBERLE
MARK & DEB KASTNER
SCOTT & JENNY PLASSMAN

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

TABITHA WORLEY, upcoming test 4/9
KERRY COOK, heart catheterization 3/2, CVMC
JASON PRUITT, stress test 3/5
EARL WYATT, upcoming surgery to remove cancer from his liver on 3/17,
uncle of Chris Wyatt

HOSPITALIZED

MARSHA WATSON, CVMC

CHARLIE BOWMAN, Baptist, brain bleed, cousin of Kim Cline

KEN HALLER, mini stroke/blockage, father of Cindy Johnson

JAY HYATT, hospitalized in Charlotte, recovering from being hit by a car, brother-in-law of Jimmy LaFrancis

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

SHARON JONES

EARL WYATT, liver cancer, uncle of Chris Wyatt

JOE MATHIS, cancer, brother-in-law of Karen Shade

DONALD TRAVIS, cancer, father of Justin Travis

LORI MILLS, cancer, family of Keith Payne

JUDY MOSER, chemo treatments at Duke, friend of Linda Fritz

BRANDON MOOSE, diabetic neuropathy in eyes, friend of Sheila Poovey

DARNELL MITCHEL, pancreatic cancer, friend of Kim Cline

JOE STEELE, cancer, friend of J P Nelson

RECOVERING

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

JACK ROBERTS, College Pines rehab/broken hip, husband of Dana

BRUCE STUART, recovering from a brain bleed and seizure, friend of Cindy Johnson

JERRY RITCHIE, home recovering

DENNIS COMBS, heart issues, Bobbie Flowers

LEE DIETRICH, son-in-law of Pat Fredell

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, recovering at home, son of Teri Cain.

WESLEY, son of Kelly Killian

DAVID CLONINGER, son of Donna Townsend

SHIRLEY DELLINGER, health issues, grandmother of Randal Cline

CAROL HEFNER, recovering from a car wreck, Cedar Hills

ADDIE PARISH, recovering from surgery, granddaughter of Gary & Kim Pruitt

BOBBY CLARKE, health issues