

**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.sslwarriors.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

Palm Sunday

March 28 & 29, 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 - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109
Adults-Ladies Led by Regina Propst & Cindy Brinn:
In His Image by Jen Wilkin-----School Bldg. #110

Prayer on Entering

Almighty God, as the people in Jerusalem gathered to welcome Your Son, our Lord, when He came into His holy city, so we sing of Your coming among us today with songs of praise. Keep us steadfast in our hope and confession of faith throughout our lives that we may meet Him with grateful hearts when He comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are giving to the glory of God in loving memory of Don McNeely by his family.

Greeters

March 28th- Keith & Sue Binns
March 29th 8am- Pat Wilson
March 29th 10:30am- VOLUNTEER NEEDED

April 4th - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
April 5th 7am - Sharon Little
April 5th 10:30am - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Communion Assistants

March 29 8:00am - David Rittenhouse & Todd Little
April 5 7:00am - David Pingel & Ralph Mueller
10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

March 29 - Amy Crouch April 5 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 479 (99, 95, 285) Sunday School - 128
General Fund: \$37,379.65 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$132,435.16
School Endowment Fund: \$295.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$479,652.01
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,849,796.94

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

2:00-3:30pm - Backpack Program

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

5:00-8:00pm - Youth - Quite Place - Youth Modular

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

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - After the Boxes - Conference Room

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

TUESDAY

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Conference Room

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

THURSDAY

10:30am - Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

FRIDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

10:30am - Good Friday Tenebra Service

6:30pm - Good Friday Tenebra Service

SATURDAY

10:00am - 12:00pm - Easter Eggstravaganza

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

8:00-10:30am - Easter Pastry Buffet

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

NO Pickle Ball

MONDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

Women's Wednesday Bible Study

Women are invited to join a Wednesday morning Bible study on the Book of James, **beginning April 15 at 10:00am** in the Youth House. We will spend time in God's Word, encouraging one another and growing in faith. The study will run through May 20.

Please bring a study Bible and a composition notebook.

RSVP: Sonni Thornton - (919)-749-5881

Young Families

Families with littles and toddlers up to age 3 are invited to an afternoon of connection.

Sunday, April 12th following the 10:30 AM service in the Fellowship Hall.

Along with your child(ren), get to know each other, enjoy a little lunch, learn a little something and exchange resources (diapers, books, etc.). Childcare for older siblings will be available.

If you are interested, please contact Kristy Smith as soon as possible for more information so that we might gauge interest in participation. Ksmith@sslcms.org or 240-285-8894

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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

3/29 | 5:00-8:00 PM “A Quiet Place” Game

Our youth group is gearing up for a challenging game where staying quiet might be the only way to survive! Middle and high school students are invited to join us for a night of suspense, laughter, and unforgettable fun.

4/12 | 12:00-3:00 PM Middle School Hangtime

4/12 | 5:00-8:00 PM High School Hangtime

Hangtime is back! Come kick it with friends for video games, board games, and plenty of time to just hang out. We'll also keep rolling in our **You Live It** devotional series in a relaxed setting where real conversations happen and faith connects to everyday life.

4/18 | 9:00-4:00 PM Airsoft @ Command Decisions

We're heading out for an adrenaline-pumping AIRSOFT showdown you won't want to miss. Think strategy, fast-paced action, and all-out fun with your friends. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

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

Please keep our middle school students and leaders in your prayers as they prepare for their upcoming trip. Pray for safe travel, strong friendships, and growth in faith.

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.



Looking to spend a Sunday serving? Individuals and families can join us in making a difference.
*Parents must stay, this is not a drop off event.

Who can serve: 4 yr. old and older

When: Sunday, March 29

Time: 2pm-3:30pm

Location: 1925 Tate Blvd SE

To help with planning, please RSVP to Jadi in the church office by 3/27 if you plan to attend

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



SAVE-THE-DATE

**Congregational Meeting
with Building Dedication**

MAY 17

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

Up-Coming Events:

Easter Break - Early Dismissal (11:30am) - April 2
April 3 - 10

Starting Tuesday, March 31, the School Office will be located in the Church Parlor. This is a temporary move for the rest of the school year and summer, until the current school office is complete. This will not change any pickup or drop procedures; the school will continue as it has been all school year.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School:

Darin & Karen Shook
Brad, Miranda and Charleigh Bost
Michele Bamert
Amanda, Robby, Bruce & Richard Ragos
J P Nelson

LWML Mites

God has given us so much. The coins we place in our small Mite Boxes and the prayers we offer are just tokens of our blessings. Mite boxes can be turned in at any time into the Large Mite Box in the narthex next to the church office door.

Volunteers Needed
Help us assemble furniture for the
New Building

As we are preparing to move into our new office building, we have an exciting opportunity for you to help! Many of the desks, cabinets, and furnishings for the new space require careful—and sometimes complex—assembly. Because of this, we are specifically looking for individuals who are handy and comfortable assembling furniture and similar items. If you have experience with tools and enjoy putting things together, your help would be a tremendous blessing. We are also trying to determine who may be available during business hours and who might be able to help after hours. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Pastor Shea at spennington@sslcms.org or call the church office. Thank you for helping us move into our new Mission & Ministry Center!

Tentative Dates: Thursday & Friday- April, 9-10

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

IMPORTANT

Temporary Change Starting March 29

Starting Monday, March 30, the School Office will be relocated, temporarily, to the Parlor. As part of phase 2 in the construction phase, the School Office will be remodeled. They will start demoing the week of Easter Break.

With that, all Church groups that use the parlor, will be temporarily moved to other locations for the rest of the school year.

Starting Sunday, March 29th:

- Women's Sunday School class will meet in Class Room #110 of the school
- Pastor Guelzow's Tuesday afternoon Lifegroup will meet in the Conference Room
- Larry Bowman's VDC Group will meet in the Conference Room
- Richard Starnes' Lifegroup will meet in the Youth House

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this next phase of construction.



COMFORT DOG MINISTRY
PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH
9AM-2PM

GERANIUM PRESALE BEGINS MARCH 28
BEFORE AND AFTER ALL SERVICES

\$9 FOR 6" \$17 FOR 10"



**Bazaar
9am
to
1pm**

LWML Salad Luncheon

Saturday, April 11

11am-1pm

Adults - \$12

Children 12 & under - \$5

Choose from a variety of salads (pasta, meat, vegetable, fruit) all prepared by the ladies of our congregation.

Proceeds from the Salad Luncheon and Bazaar benefit the missions of LWML.



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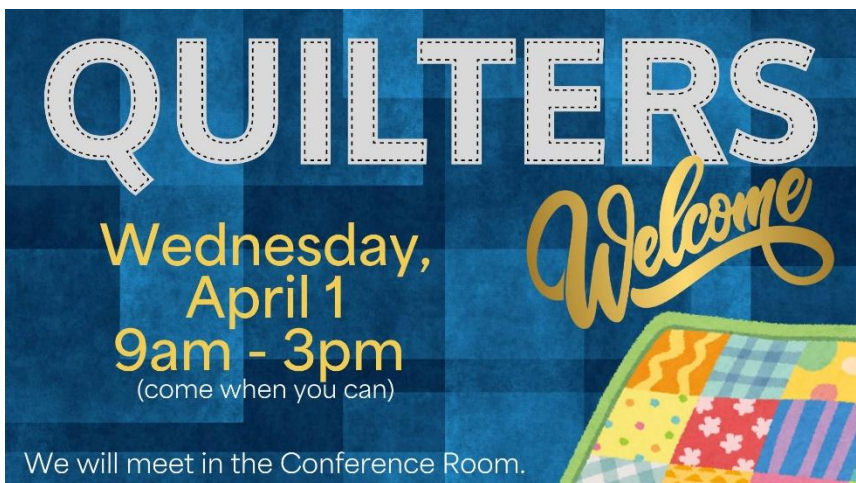
A New Church Plant in West Jefferson

We are excited to share that efforts are underway to plant a new LCMS church in the West Jefferson area. With the support of our Southeastern District and Circuit congregations, this mission seeks to bring the ministry of Word and Sacrament to a growing region with many unchurched people.

Two retired LCMS pastors, Rev. David Hudak and Rev. Fred Hoffman, have graciously offered to assist with this new mission, and several Lutheran families already living in the area are eager to help establish this congregation. The church plant hopes to serve communities across Ashe and Alleghany Counties and surrounding areas, including West Jefferson, Jefferson, Lansing, Sparta, Creston, Grassy Creek, and even some nearby towns in Tennessee and Virginia.

You can support this new mission in two ways: First, please keep this church plant in your prayers. Second, if you have family or friends who live in or near the area and may be interested in learning more, please share their contact information with Pastor Bryan Chestnutt at: pastorbryan.mtnsideluth@gmail.com

Together, we pray that the Lord will bless this new congregation as it grows, serves for His glory, and spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



QUILTERS

Wednesday,
April 1
9am - 3pm
(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.

Easter Lilies

Remember or honor a loved one with an Easter lily on Sunday morning

\$15.00

Order/Memorial forms are at the Welcome Desk.

Forms are due Wednesday, April 1 by 12pm.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Saturday - March 28th
5:30pm - Contemporary Worship

Palm Sunday - March 29th
8am - Traditional Worship
w/Communion
10:30am - Contemporary Worship

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 - Easter Eggstravaganza
5:30pm - Contemporary Worship
with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday - April 5th
7:00am - Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion
10:30am - Contemporary Worship
with Holy Communion

The Men's Club invites you to join them for a complimentary....

Easter Morning Pastry Buffet

Sunday, April 5 - 8am-10:30am

Enjoy the food and fellowship.





**EGG DYING IS BACK!
BOILED EGGS & CARTONS**

Donations for the egg dye station may be dropped off
any time during Holy Week
(cartons cut in half to hold 6 eggs)
Food Coloring is also welcome

Contact Donna Lee to Volunteer
828-381-5391 or dlee@sslcms.org

Donations for egg hunt still needed:
Candy for egg hunt (peanut free is best)
Candy or Toy pre-filled plastic eggs
Drop off by Sunday March 29

EGG STUFFERS NEEDED:
SUNDAY, MARCH 29th 2pm ED WING
We will stuff until they are done!

Thank you for your support & prayers.
Don't forget to invite your neighbors!

Today's Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9

4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. 5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. 8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 12:12-19

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"
14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,
15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"
16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.
17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness.
18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.
19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

**BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
ELDERS**

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
**TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
AUGUSTANA 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

FAMILY OF ROY PFUND - Roy was called to glory on March 18. Roy and his wife, Nancy, taught at SSLS from 1959 to 1963

FAMILY OF TODD ROBBINS - Todd was called to glory on March 16, a neighbor of Bobbie Flowers

TINA MINGUS FAMILY - Her mother, Betty Knight, was called to glory on March 17.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

**PHIL GNADT
AMY HOLLAR
PAT HOLLAR**

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

**CAROLYN MOORE
CAROLYN WATSON
RICK & CISSI BURTNER
NICK POPE & BRITTANY HUFFMAN FAMILY
SHERRY OLDMAN**

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The marriage of **CAMERON SIMMONS** to **SAVANAH WILSON** on March 29. Cameron is the son of Michelle Wallace and grandson of Bob & Pat Hollar.

HOSPICE CARE

RICK EASTMAN, Washington State, brother of Judy Gurganious

UPCOMING PROCEDURE

NICOLE DRUM, upcoming surgery on 3/31
DEANIE HILTON, knee surgery 4/2
TABITHA WORLEY, gallbladder surgery on 4/7

HOSPITALIZED

JANET KILLIAN, CVMC, daughter of Martha
DENNIS COMBS, FRMC, defibrillator, son of Bobbie Flowers

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
KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD
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
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, son of Teri Cain
KEVIN CLOHESY, ALS, brother of Brian
EARL WYATT, recovering from cancer surgery, uncle of Chris Wyatt
JESS CAPPS, cancer, friend of David & Martha Propst

RECOVERING

JERRY RITCHIE, home recovering
BOB HOLLAR, home recovering from eye surgery
LEE DIETRICH, son-in-law of Pat Fredell
DAVID CLONINGER, son of Donna Townsend
CAROL HEFNER, recovering from a car wreck, Cedar Hills
BOBBY CLARKE, health issues
LINDA STEELMAN, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain
HAYDEN LANEY, recovering from surgery, grandson of Harolene Setzer
OWEN FRITZ, broken hand, son of Tyler Fritz
LINDA VESPER, recovering at home, sister of David Pingel
BETTY FLOWERS, health issues, awaiting test results
ODESSA PAYNE, rehab, mother of Keith Payne