

**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 + 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

March 7 & 8, 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

Almighty God, You brought forth water to cover the earth, You brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea, and You made water to flow from the rock. Continue to provide us with water for every need, remind us of our Baptism into Christ, and help us to know with confidence Christ the rock who alone bestows the water of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

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

March 14th - Cathy Drum & Linda McNeely
March 15th 8am - Jason & Faye Honeycutt
March 16^h 10:30am - April Drake

Communion Assistants

March 8 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren
March 15 8:00am - James Fogle & Tony Spencer

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

March 8 - Teresa Ritchie March 15 - Shannon Cline

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 487 (85, 115, 287) Sunday School - 126
General Fund: \$39,658.35 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$7,547.01
School Endowment Fund: \$710.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$702,685.41
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,478,173.20

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

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

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

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

TUESDAY

1:00pm - Elizabeth Circle - Conference Room

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Parlor

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm - Elders - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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 Choir - Sanctuary/Choir Room

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

FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL

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

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth House

SATURDAY

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MONDAY - NO SCHOOL

LCMS Foundation

We live in an “I can do it myself” culture. The truth is that with creating a Christian estate plan, we need an entire team, to assist us to make sure that our plan is well grounded. Being tax-wise is essential in an estate plan so that you are caring for the family you love and ministries you care about. This can require that you talk with your accountant/tax preparer, to advise you, based on your current tax realities, and what impact a charitable gift today or in the future will have. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can get you started thinking about this topic, helping you to know what questions to ask your tax advisor. Contact our Southeastern District Gift Planning Counselor, Pastor John Denninger at John.Denninger@LFND.org.



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.

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!

3/8 | 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.

3/22 | 3:00-7:00 PM Mystery & Dinner Theater

The Alaska Mission Team is hosting a Mystery & Dinner Theater, and needs your help to make it a great night! We’re looking for student volunteers to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up after the play. Contact Jadi or Randall for more information.

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



Support our

 **SCHOLASTIC**

BOOK FAIR
from **anywhere**



Scan the QR code to shop online
through March 12.

SSLS will receive 25% of all sales online.

Ladies! Are you new to the area?

Join us for a Women's Newcomer Group

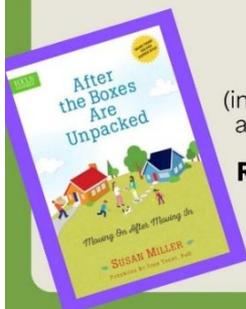
Monday, March 16

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.





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 13

**SCHOOL CLOSED
SPRING BREAK**

MAR 16

**SCHOOL CLOSED
SPRING BREAK**

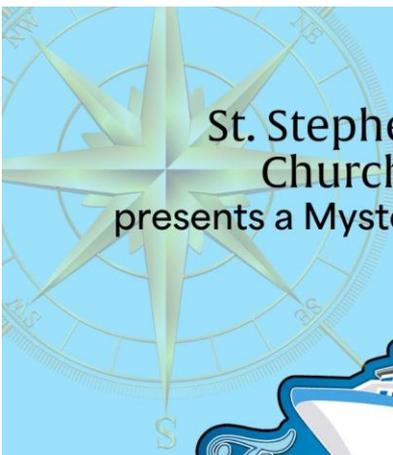
MAR 19

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

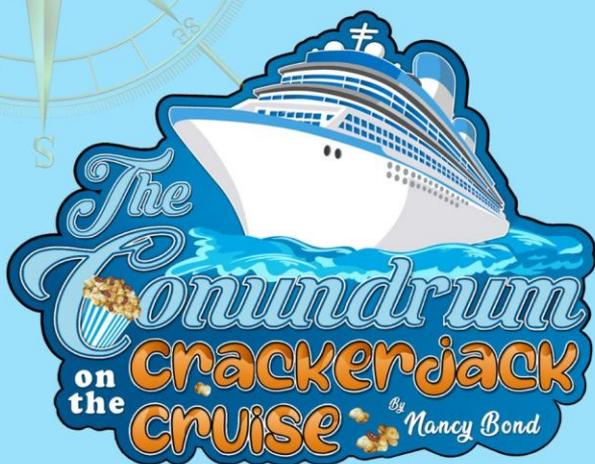
MAR 27

**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

IMPORTANT **Temporary Change Starting March 23**

Starting Monday, March 23, 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 the week of 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 Conference Room.

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



**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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Lent Midweek Services

10:30am & 6:30pm

March 11

March 18

March 25

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.

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.



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

Exodus 17:1-7

17 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Romans 5:1-8

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 4:5-26

5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.^[b] The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." 16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

KID CONNECT

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS

POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

CHRISTIE LORH-SAPP, former Pastor of St. Andrews, now serving with her family in Tel Aviv, Israel

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DAN GRANOFF & FAMILY. His mother was called to glory. Friends of Cindy Johnson.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

CATHERINE WINKLER

WILLINE AUSTIN

ALLEN BOLICK

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JORGE & JENNIFER COLATO FAMILY

JORDAN & KELSEY KAYLOR FAMILY

APRIL & ZACK BELL

GREGG & VICKIE FLETCHER

ADAM & RACHEL WILSON FAMILY

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of **RUBY ELLEN HOUSTON** on March 4 to Zachary & Taylor. Proud grandparents are Matt & Tammi.

HOSPICE CARE

MARSHA WATSON, hospice care home

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

EARL WYATT, upcoming surgery to remove cancer from his liver on 3/17, uncle of Chris Wyatt

TABITHA WORLEY, upcoming procedure 3/9

HOSPITALIZED

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

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

LINH HUYNK, brain aneurysm, ICU Baptist, friend of Angela Isenhour

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

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.

DAVID CLONINGER, son of Donna Townsend

SHIRLEY DELLINGER, health issues, grandmother of Randal Cline

CAROL HEFNER, recovering from a car wreck, Cedar Hills

BOBBY CLARKE, health issues

NEWTON TRAINUM, recovering from a heart cath, husband of Judy