

**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

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 11 & 12, 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, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Greeters

April 11th- Keith & Sue Binns
April 12th 8am- Judy Gurganious
April 12th 10:30am- Eric & Nikki Fisher

April 18th - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff
April 19th 8am - Pat Wilson
April 19th 10:30am - Michael & Katie Vaughn

Communion Assistants

April 12 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook
April 19 8:00am - Dwight Hollar & Tony Spencer

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

April 12 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix April 19 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 784 (114, 225, 445) Sunday School -
General Fund: \$35,938.86 (Regular Offer: needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$5,900.65
School Endowment Fund: \$830.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$461,163.05
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,879,338.52

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

11:45am – Young Family Gathering – Fellowship Hall

12:00–3:00pm – Middle School Hangtime

3:00–6:00pm – Pickle Ball

5:00–8:00pm – High School Hangtime

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

MONDAY – OFFICE CLOSED FOR TRANSITION

9:00am – Lifelight – Conference Room

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm – After the Boxes – Conference Room

6:00pm School Board – Science Room

7:00pm – Men’s Bible Study – Youth Modular

TUESDAY

1:00pm – Elizabeth Circle – Conference Room

4:00pm – Life Group (Pastor Guelzow) – Conference Room

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm – Elders – Conference Room

6:00p, Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Women’s Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth Modular

6:00pm – Life Group (Paul Miller) Youth Modular

THURSDAY

10:30am – Life Group (Larry Bowman) – Conference Room

NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm – Handbell Team – Sanctuary

7:00pm – Life Group (Richard Starnes) Youth Modular

7:00pm – Parish Choir – Choir Room & Sanctuary

FRIDAY

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

2:00pm – Life Group – David Rittenhouse’s

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

SATURDAY

7:30am – Men’s breakfast & meeting – Fellowship Hall

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship
3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball
6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room

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.

Questions?? See Kristy Smith

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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

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.

5/3 | 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 their learning so far, ask questions, and stay connected as we continue this journey of faith together.

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.



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

Temporary School office is 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

APRIL 2	EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30AM
APRIL 3-12	EASTER BREAK
APRIL 16	WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY PTL CAROLINA CRAFTED SPIRIT NIGHT
APRIL 21-24	8TH GRADE DC TRIP
APRIL 28	WAPC WALK-A-THON
APRIL 30	SSLS SPRING FINE ARTS PROGRAM 1:00PM

Workdays for Camp Linn Haven

Dates: Saturdays, April. 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16 • 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Description: Volunteer days to prepare camp for the season – cleaning, maintenance, setting up.

Who Can Attend: Adults & student volunteers.

Cost: Free to help with lunch provided.

Forms/Deposit: Contact camp manager for details and to sign up.

Youth & Leaders Travel to Belize

This July, 15 of our youth and leaders will travel to Belize with the LCMS. This trip will help students grow in faith, serve others, and consider how God may be calling them into church work. We'd appreciate your prayers and, if you feel led, your financial support as we prepare and go.

Cemetery Update

The cemetery records are going digital. In January, a cemetery mapping company received copies of our paper work and did some field work around the cemetery. The work is scheduled to be completed in Summer of 2026.

Also, we now have a sidewalk from the drive to the columbarium. The sidewalk will allow easier access to the columbarium for inurnments.

We are very appreciative of the monetary support we receive from the members of our church family.

Easter Memorials/Honorariums

Comfort Dog

In memory of Tyler Warren by Eddie & Vanessa Warren

District LWML Convention

Join the LWML for the 70th Biennial District LWML Convention of the Carolinas May 1 - 2 at **St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Conover**. Friday events include registration beginning at 4pm, fellowship, exhibits, worship service with Holy Communion at 7pm, followed by a President's Reception. Saturday's activities begin with registration from 8-9am, Bible study, program, lunch, exhibits, and business with adjournment at 3pm. All women are welcome to attend. Registration is required. How can you register? See Regina Propst or Teresa Ritchie, pickup a form at the welcome center in the narthex or you can visit www.lwmlcarolinas.org.



70th Biennial Carolinas District LWML Convention

May 1-2, 2026

St. Peters Lutheran Church

Guest Speaker:
Teirsa Lane, Camp Linn Haven Director

Register TODAY! Contact Regina Propst or Teresa Ritchie
or visit www.lwmlcarolinas.org

COMFORT DOG MINISTRY

PLANT SALE



FAITH COMFORT DOG

SATURDAY,
APRIL 25TH
9AM-2PM

GERANIUM PRE-SALE
BEFORE AND AFTER ALL
SERVICES IN THE SCHOOL
FOYER

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



ARE YOU READY FOR PLANTING SEASON?
COME AND CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF PLANTS
FOR YOUR VEGETABLE OR FLOWER GARDEN.



Children's Ministry

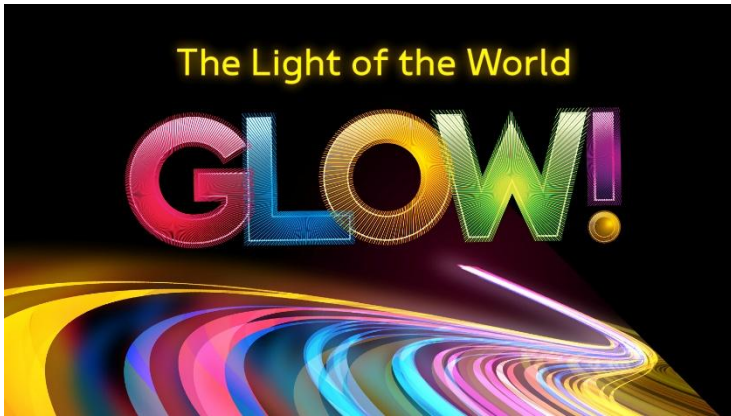
Sunday Morning Bible Hour - 9:15-10:15am Ed Wing
Preschool & Kinders: Riser Room

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
ANNOUNCING 2026 VBS
JUNE 22-25
6:00pm-8:30pm

Elementary (rising K-5th Grades)
Middle School (rising 6th - 8th Grades)
Childcare available for Volunteers

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

Volunteers Needed Vicar's Outreach Project

As vicars, we organize a community outreach project, where the church reaches out and serves in the

greater community. For my project, we will be doing a day of service on **Saturday, May 23rd**. I am putting together teams who will go out and provide basic lawn care services for people who need them. Pulling weeds, trimming, hauling brush off, spreading mulch, etc. I need your help with two things for the project.

First, I need a list of people for us to serve that day. We are looking for people outside the church. Think about your neighbors. Who do you know of that could use a hand with their yard?

Second, I need volunteers. I am looking for:

- Team leaders - Experienced people who will take point at each service site.
- General volunteers - The hands to do the serving.
- Hospitality volunteers - The goal is not just to provide a service but to use this as an opportunity to build bridges in the community. Hospitality people will focus more on talking with the people we are serving, getting to know them, praying for them, and giving them some information about St. Stephens.

Please contact Vicar Tristan at tjones@sslcms.org to volunteer and/or connect us with people to serve.



CALL DAY
2026

Tuesday, April 28
Assignment of Vicarages - 4pm EST
Assignment of First Calls - 8pm EST

Livestream at: csl.edu/call-day

Tune in on Call Day to see if St. Stephens Lutheran is assigned another Vicar (4pm). Come back at 8pm to see where Josh and Sarah will serve.

Past Vicar, now Pastor: Where are they now?

- Vicar #1 **Eric Stacy**
Grace Lutheran – St. Louis, MO
- Vicar #2 **Sean & Molly Baker (Noah & Lucy)**
Bethany Lutheran – Kansas City, KS
- Vicar #3 **Andrew & Amelia Thompson (Mabel & Della)**
St. John Lutheran Church – Plymouth, WI
- Vicar #4 **Jake & Christina Childers (Shepherd)**
Grace Lutheran – Knoxville, TN
- Vicar #5 **Peter & Laura Frank (Sawyer, Melody, Everett)**
St. Peters Lutheran – Conover, NC
- Vicar #6 **Daniel & Sarah Brummet (Lily)**
Willis, TX - Church Plant
- Vicar #7 **Josh & Sarah Marlatt**
- Vicar #8 **Tristan & Carolyn Jones (Micah)**

Today's Readings

Acts 5: 29-42

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

33 When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. 34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. 36 For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the

tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20: 19-31

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,[a] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,[b] was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
CHURCH COUNCIL
CHRIST 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

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

BOBBIE FLOWERS FAMILY - sister-in-law, Bobbie Ben, was called to glory on March 25.

STUDENTS & STAFF OF SOUTHWEST PRIMARY SCHOOL after the drowning of a classmate.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

JIM LANE
HAZEL LOVELACE
REBECCA MOFFETT

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JEREMY & AMANDA REPASS FAMILY
JOHN & CECILIA OLSON FAMILY
ALEX & EMILY RECTOR FAMILY
PERI MUNDY
JASON & WINDY PRUITT FAMILY

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The 58th wedding anniversary of David & Andra Pingel on April 14.

HOSPICE CARE

RICK EASTMAN, Washington State, brother of Judy Gurganious

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

JAMES CARMICHAEL, malignant brain tumor, friend of Jerry & Teresa Ritchie

DRUDE CORBET, cancer, neighbor of Eddie & Vanessa Warren

RECOVERING

BOB HOLLAR, home recovering from eye surgery

LEE DIETRICH, son-in-law of Pat Fredell

BOBBY CLARKE, health issues

LINDA STEELMAN, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain

HAYDEN LANEY, recovering from surgery, grandson of Harolene Setzer

DENNIS COMBS, heart issues, son of Bobbie Flowers

CRYSTAL HEDRICK, back issues, daughter of Teresa Phillips

SHARON RADKE, recovering at home from shoulder surgery

DEANIE HILTON, recovering from knee surgery

DYLAN MANUEL, recovering from broken wrists, grandson of Coach Miike & Diane Davis