

**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

Easter Sunday

April 4 & 5, 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

Risen Lord Jesus, through Your resurrection on Easter morning, You transformed sorrow and despair into everlasting joy. Thank You for changing sadness into gladness and filling us with the hope of eternity and the new creation to come. Because of Your resurrection, our resurrection and life eternal is not something we just wish for but is guaranteed; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are giving to the glory of God by Doris Sigmon and family in memory of Eddie M Sigmon, Denise Huffman, Jim and Hazel Sigmon, Mal and Lois Sigmon and Marsha Watson.

Greeters

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

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

Communion Assistants

April 5 7:00am - David Pingel & Ralph Mueller
 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

April 12 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

April 5 - Cynthia Hewitt April 12 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 544 (91, 113, 340) Sunday School - 144
General Fund: \$26,711.54 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$5,151.97
School Endowment Fund: \$245.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$478,8967.81
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,855,733.11

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY - EASTER

7:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

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

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

NO Pickle Ball

MONDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - After the Boxes - Conference Room

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

FRIDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

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 - Middle School Hangtime

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

5:00-8:00pm - High School Hangtime

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.

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!

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.



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

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.

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

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. 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!

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help. Pastor Shea will reach out to you with the specifics and updates as we move forward.

Update: We are praying to have the TCO by Friday, April 10. Tentative Dates to help: **Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11**



**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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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 Lilies

In memory of Harris Lavine by Sharon Lavine.

In memory of Dave Shannon by Sherry Shannon.

In memory of Adeliah Flowers by Sadie Flowers.

In memory of Blanche Christenbury by Sadie Flowers

In memory of Bille Mae Cooke by Sadie Flowers.

In memory of Carol Mary Tier by Carol Sereda.

In memory of Gilbert Tier by Carol Sereda.

In memory of Jane Rittenhouse by David & Chris Rittenhouse.

In memory of Tommy Maurer by David & Chris Rittenhouse.

In memory of Jerry Fisher by Tashia & Anthony Fisher.

In memory of Barbara Baird by Tashia & Anthony Fisher.

In memory of Faye Fisher by Tashia & Anthony Fisher.

In honor of our children and grandchildren by Jack & Pat Hovis.

In memory of our daughter, Robin Teeter and our parents by Jack & Pat Hovis.

In memory of Gene & Georgia Collins by Darin & Karen Shook.

In memory of Carroll Shook by Darin & Karen Shook.

In memory of Henry & Susan Rendleman by Nick & Spencer Osterhoudt.

In memory of Wiliam Osterhoudt by Nick & Spencer Osterhoudt.

In memory of Tyler Warren by Nick & Spencer Osterhoudt.

In memory of Joshua Bumgarner by Kim Bumgarner.

In memory of Paul Wilson by his family.

Flower Cross

Flowers for this year's cross are given in honor of our new grandson Cooper Lee Pitts by Brent & Donna Townsend.

Palms

In praise and thanksgiving to God for our family, our church and our community by Sharon & Mark Radke.

In memory of Paul Wilson who is celebrating with our Risen Savior! He is risen indeed, hallelujah! By Mark & Laura Pennell.

Memorials/Honorariums

Comfort Dog

In memory of Louis & Charlotte Demme, Urban & Helen Ewald, Elwyn Ewald, Vida Bruss, Kim Rudel, Thomas Demme, and Tim Demme, by Gene & Char Ewald.

In memory of Jerry Watson, by Carolyn Watson and Darren, Amy & Grace Crouch.

In memory of James Weaver by Kay & Kristi.

Lunchbox For Seniors

In memory of Harold Allison by his family.

School Endowment

In memory of Louis & Charlotte Demme, Urban & Helen Ewald, Elwyn Ewald, Vida Bruss, Kim Rudel, Thomas Demme, and Tim Demme, by Gene & Char Ewald.

Alaska Mission

In memory of Max Gurganious by Jadi Gurganious

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 31:1-6

“At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.” 2 Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. 4 Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. 5 Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. 6 For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”

Romans 6:1-11

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus

Matthew 28:1-10

28 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH
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
NON-BELIEVERS TO COME TO FAITH

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARIE HUFFMAN
THELMA HUFFMAN
MARTHA KILLIAN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JOHN & HOLLY FINK FAMILY
ELIZABETH JOHANSON
TABITHA WORLEY
DREW MORRIS
JEFF & CINDY BRINN

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **BEAU MCKINLEY LAIL**, son of Ally & Carson, on March 29. Beau is the great-grandson of Dwight & Kathy Hollar.

The baptism of **AMY CAPRI GOFF**, daughter of Michael & Liz, on April 4. Amy is the granddaughter of Tom & Doris.

HOSPICE CARE

RICK EASTMAN, Washington State, brother of Judy Gurganious

UPCOMING PROCEDURE

DEANIE HILTON, knee surgery 4/2
TABITHA WORLEY, gallbladder surgery on 4/7

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

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

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

NICOLE DRUM, home recovering from surgery

JANET KILLIAN, daughter of Martha

DENNIS COMBS, heart issues, son of Bobbie Flowers

CRYSTAL HEDRICK, back issues, daughter of Teresa Phillips

SHARON RADKE, recovering at home from shoulder surgery