

**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](http://www.sslcms.org)

School: 828-256-2166  
[www.sslswarriors.org](http://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

**Pentecost**

**May 23 & 24, 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:  
    Forgiving What You Can't Forget by Lysa TerKeurst-----School Bldg. #110

## **Prayer on Entering**

O blessed Lord, You have called, gathered, and enlightened us with the Holy Spirit and His gifts that we may believe, and that by believing we may confess the saving name of Jesus to all people. As we receive Christ, make us bold to make known His death and resurrection to the world that all people might be saved; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Flowers**

Flowers on the altar are in honor of Pat Hollar's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 25 given by her family.

Flowers at the entrance are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Robin Hovis Teeter by her family

## **Greeters**

May 23 - Linda McNeely  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 8am - Volunteer Needed  
May 24<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am - Micheal & Katie Vaughn

May 30 - Cathy Drum  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher  
May 31<sup>st</sup> - Eric & Nikki Fisher

## **Communion Assistants**

May 24 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook  
May 31 8:00am - Todd Little & Ralph Mueller

## **Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am**

May 24 - Shannon Cline    May 31 - Amy Crouch

## **Our Response to God Last Week**

Last Sunday's Attendance - 484 (78, 90, 314)    Sunday School - 136  
General Fund: \$16,401.18 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)  
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,787.25  
School Endowment Fund: \$295.00  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$67,352.32  
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,459,727.87

## **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

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

### **MONDAY - MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICES CLOSED**

No Lifelight - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

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

### **TUESDAY**

1:00pm - Ruth Circle - Peace House

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

**4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE**

5:00pm - Church Council - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

### **WEDNESDAY**

10:00am - Women's Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth Modular

10:30am - Rachel Circle - Youth Modular

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

### **THURSDAY**

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

**NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE**

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

7:00pm - Parish Choir - Choir Room

### **FRIDAY**

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

2:00pm - Life Group - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth Modular

### **SATURDAY**

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

### **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour - Move Up Sunday

10:30am - Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

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

## Results from Congregational Meeting

President: Eric Kent

School Board: Erica Moretz

Finance & Facility: Jennifer Eckard, John Link

School Endowment Fund: Cheryl Frye

Nominating Committee: Diane Maynor

### Candidates for Elders:

Keith Binns, Tim Boliek, Tony Cook, Coach Mike Davis, David Eckard, Mike Hoke, Mark Kastner, Andrew McLain, Ralph Mueller, Scott Plassman, Robert Propst, Darel Reese, Kevin Sherrill, Tony Spencer, Phillip Starnes, & Bob Vogt

## Out of The Office

Pastor Shea will be on vacation May 21-25.

Brandon Buff will be on vacation May 22-30.

Tashia Fisher will be on vacation May 22-30.

Pastor Ziehr will be on vacation May 28-June 3.



### St. Stephens Lutheran School News

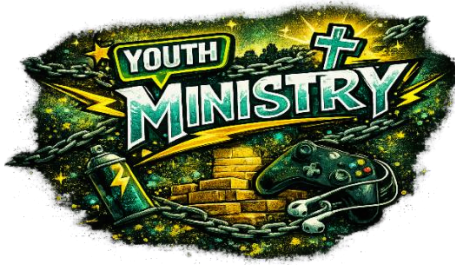
Excellence in Education since 1943

### 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.



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

**Sunday Morning  
LifeGroup | 9:15am |**

## Youth House

### Mark Your Calendars!



**5/25 | 9:00-7:00 PM Carowinds**

Get ready for a day of adrenaline, water park chaos, and nonstop fun at Carowinds! From massive coasters to the lazy river and everything in between—this is the kind of day you'll be talking about all summer. Sign up and more information at: [sslcms.org/youth](https://sslcms.org/youth)



**5/31 | Graduation / Move Up Sunday**

Join us for a special service as we celebrate our graduating seniors, officially welcome our rising 6th graders into Youth, and launch our rising 9th graders into the High School Ministry. New season. New adventures. New memories. Don't miss it!



**5/31 | 8:00-8:00 AM Move Up Lock-in**

One crazy night of games, food, worship, friends, and fun! Middle School hangs out until Midnight, while High School goes full lock-in mode until 8AM. Bring a friend and don't miss one of the biggest nights of the year! Sign up and more information at: [sslcms.org/youth](https://sslcms.org/youth)



**6/7 | 12:00-4:00 PM Service Opportunity**

Fuel up at The Youth House, then roll out with us as we serve our church and community through yard work, cleanup, and light home projects. Come make a difference and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

### 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](https://sslcms.org/youth) for all the latest.

## **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

### **JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM**

We are looking for caring leaders and helpers to serve during Sunday Bible Hour, Children's Worship, or Special Events. Help us create a safe, fun space for kids to grow in faith!



Join us for an afternoon at Daniel Stowe  
Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in  
Belmont, NC

# **Wanna Go?**

Friday, June 5

9:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: \$20

(Ticket, transportation and tour)

\*Lunch is on your own or bring a picnic lunch.

Reserve your space by June 2 to Kristy at [ksmith@sslcms.org](mailto:ksmith@sslcms.org)



# Carowinds

Monday, May 25  
Jr. & Sr. High youth  
(and anyone else that wants to go)  
9am-7pm  
Register at [sslcms.org/youth](http://sslcms.org/youth)



## JOIN US FOR GRADUATION *Sunday*


May 31  
10:30am



We need the following from high school and college graduates by May 27.

1. Graduates full name
2. Where graduating from
3. Two pictures (younger and senior)

Email pictures to [jgurganious@sslcms.org](mailto:jgurganious@sslcms.org)



### LWML QUARTERLY EVENT

Guest Speaker will be, **Jenna Miller**, with "Live Truly Nourished". Her mission is to simplify wellness because taking care of yourself shouldn't feel like another source of stress. Come to learn something new about living a healthier lifestyle and feeling better.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7 | 3-5PM**

# Vacation Bible School

June 22 - 25  
6:00pm-8:30pm

Elementary ( rising kinders - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Middle School ( rising 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Register at [www.sslcms.org](http://www.sslcms.org)

The Light of the World



Childcare available for volunteers.

## We Need You! VBS: GLOW (Light of the World)

All VBS Volunteers should attend at least one training.

Sunday, June 7 - 2-3:30pm or 6-7:30pm

Wednesday, June 10 - 2-3:30pm or 6-7:30pm

Childcare Provided for those who RSVP

## VBS donations

VBS Donations are welcome. Scan the QR code to check out our Amazon wish list. Items are being added daily.



## LWML MITES

Men, Women and children all around the world and others closer to home are constantly being blessed by MITES. The Carolinas District of the LWML recently approved a grant to help the All Saints Classical Academy in Indian Land, SC On the national level the Lutheran Braille Workers will receive a grant to aid in their efforts to translate and print Braille and large print materials, The MITES we contribute help fund these projects.

## Comfort Dog Ministry



On May 30, LCC will partner with the LCMS's Southeastern District, Lutheran Servants For Christ, Samaritan's Feet, the Spartanburg Emergency Operations Center, and other local agencies for the regional event, designed to bring care, presence, and practical resources to

individuals and families seeking wholeness and tangible help in Spartanburg, SC.

Around 300-500 families will receive essential items like food, clothing, and emergency supplies. We strongly encourage members of St. Stephens to support this mission by donating through the Amazon Wish List (scan the QR code below), helping provide items such as fans, heaters, and other critical needs. We're also grateful that our quilters are sharing Christ's love by sending handmade quilts to bless those in need.

Faith Comfort Dog will be attending alongside the Southeast District, Spartanburg Emergency Management, LCC Disaster Response, Hearts of Mercy & Compassion, and fellow Comfort Dogs Seth (Seneca, SC) and Zora (Hilton Head, SC) for this special mission event.

Please continue to keep all those affected in your prayers. Thank you for helping us make a meaningful impact.

If you would like to support the relief efforts, please scan the QR code for the Amazon wish list.



## Hearts of Mercy and Compassion

The Hearts of Mercy and Compassion ministry has completed building and preparing hearts and cross markers for the Spartanburg Helene relief event May 29 - 31. Members from the SSLCMS Hearts of Ministry and Compassion team will attend to join with other ministries of Lutheran Church Charities in serving the people of that area. For more information contact Laura Bahlmann: [lauralbahlmann@gmail.com](mailto:lauralbahlmann@gmail.com)

## Today's Readings

### Numbers 11: 24-30

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. 25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." 29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" 30 And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

### Acts 2: 1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested[a] on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites

and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” 14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.[b] 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: 17 “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

## John 7: 37-39

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

# 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**  
**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN**  
**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 OUR HOME MEMBERS

**PHIL GNADT**  
**AMY HALL**  
**KAY HOLLAR**

## FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

**RANDY & ANGELA ISENHOUR FAMILY**  
**CRAIG & LAURA BAHLMANN**  
**BEN & CHERYL SIMPSON**  
**CHAD & JENNIFER LINGERFELT FAMILY**  
**GARY & NANCY MICHAEL**

## THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

**WILL ECKARD FAMILY**, Will's stepmother, Sherry Eckard, was called to glory on May 16.

**BRIAN CLOHESY FAMILY**, Brian's brother, Kevin Clohesy, was called to glory.

**DALE & PRISCILLA CROUCH, DEAN & SUSAN LEDBETTER, DARREN & AMY CROUCH FAMILIES**, Dale's sister, Susan & Darren's aunt, Wanda Houston, was called to glory on May 19.

**DAN BOLICK FAMILY**, Dan's son, Michael, was called to glory

## PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

**HAROLD KENT** celebrated his 94th birthday on May 13.

## DEPLOYMENT

**FAITH COMFORT DOG, SANDY MATTHEWS, and KRISTY SMITH** will deploy May 29-31 to Spartanburg, SC, for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

## HOSPITALIZED

**CLARK NORRIS**, recovering from tumor removal, Atrium Health Concord

**CHRISTIAN CALDWELL**, ICU, friend of Randall & Shannon Cline

**KIM MULLEN**, brain bleed, hospitalized in Indiana, sister of Joel and Jonathan

**CAROLE HUFFMAN**, spinal stenosis (tumor removed from spine), Forsyth

**BOYCE LOOKADOO**, CVMC, pneumonia

## PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

**DINKY EDDINS**, breast cancer

**GIL BRAUCH**, cancer

**KEVIN CARPENTER**, treatments for PTSD

**LINDA BOLICK**, radiation treatments

**RICHARD ELDER**, health issues, friend of Danny & Miriam Mecimore.

**MATTHEW JOHNSON**, colon cancer, son of Linda Bristow

**ROB MABE**, cancer, friend of Tim & Teri Herman

**BONITA HUFF**, breast cancer, friend of Paul Miller

## RECOVERING

**GARNER SETTLEMYRE**, Hickory Falls, Rehab

**LINDA STEELMAN**, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain

**LINDA LAIL**, rehab at Trinity Village

**RUBY HALL**, recovering from shoulder surgery

**KATRINA CONWELL**, health issues

**TOBY LAWS**, recovering from a broken arm

**DAVID DRUM**, health issues

**SAVANNAH LEE**, recovering from hip surgery

**BRILEY TRAVIS**, recovering from hand surgery

**TABITHA WORLEY**, recovering at home from surgery

**TERESA RITCHIE**, recovering at home from knee surgery

**JERRY RITCHIE**, health issues, home recovering

**GINNY QUINLAN**, recovering at home

**ROGER & SHERRY CRAIG**, health issues

**RANDY CONWELL SR.**, health issues, father-in-law of Katrina Conwell

**RALPH CAUSBY**, health issues, Jeremy Dula's grandfather

**KATHY BOLCH**, eye issues, sister of Sherry Craig

**CHARLES**, health issues, friend of Linda & Rae Fritz

**EVELYN COGDELL**, fractured pelvis, friend of Carolyn Watson

**CONNIE BOWMAN**, glaucoma, sister of Bill Cline

**JOYCE**, recovering from breast cancer surgery, friend of Michele Bamert