

**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 After Pentecost

June 13 & 14, 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

Almighty, Eternal God, in the Word of Your apostles and prophets, You have proclaimed to us Your saving will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers on the altar are giving to the glory of God by Eddie and Vanessa Warren in honor and celebration of the 44th wedding anniversary on June 19.

Greeters

June 13th – Keith & Sue Binns

June 14th – 8am - Judy Gurganious

June 14th - 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

June 20th – Brent & Donna Townsend

June 21st – 8am – Pat Wilson

June 21st – 10:30am – Michael & Katie Vaughn

Communion Assistants

June 14 10:30am – Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

June 21 8:00am – David Rittenhouse & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

June 14 – Cynthia Hewitt

June 21 – Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance – 485 (95, 87, 303) Sunday School - 123

General Fund: \$37,225.94 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$4,493.17

School Endowment Fund: \$925.00

Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$79,784.70

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,478,986.71

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

MONDAY

9:00am - Lifelight - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Esther Circle - Conference Room

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

TUESDAY

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

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

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

7:00am - Youth Yard/Hotdog Sale - Office Annex yard

7:30am - LLL Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting - Fellowship Hall

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship

2:00pm - VBS Set-Up



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 summer, until the current school office is complete. This will not change any pickup or drop off procedures for summer camp.

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

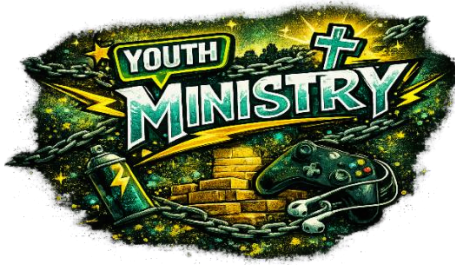
Preschool- 5th Grade

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!



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

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

Youth House

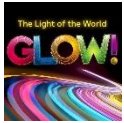
Mark Your Calendars!

6/14 | 6:30-9:00 PM ManHunt!!!



Grab your crew and get ready for a night of running, hiding, and way too much adrenaline. Manhunt is going down and it's going to be chaos in the best way possible. If you've been before—you already know. If you haven't... you're about to find out.

6/22-25 | 6:00-8:30 PM Vacation Bible School: GLOW



This is your chance to share the Light of Jesus with our community. Middle School students meet in the church narthex. High School students sign up to serve. Let's Go share the Light of the World! Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

6/26 | 7:00-10:00 PM Youth Prom



Youth Prom: where the lights are brighter, the music hits harder, and the memories last long after the night ends. This is your moment to dress up, show up, and step into something unforgettable with your friends. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

7/10-17 | Youth Mission Trip to Belize



Please keep our Youth Mission Team in your prayers as they prepare to travel to Belize. Pray for safe travels, good health, and open hearts—for both our students and the people they'll serve.

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.

Preparing for Back to School Bash
in August

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION



Help us provide essential supplies to students in need and make a difference in a child's education.

Items needed by June 28 to prepare for the event.



School Supplies list



Hot Dog Fundraiser

Saturday, June 20
10am-1pm



Come enjoy a hot dog with all the trimmings.

Saturday, June 20
7am - 1pm

Rent a space
for \$30.

Scan the QR code
to reserve a space.



We **will NOT** be accepting donations for the yard sale. This is a time for our church family and community to get involved.



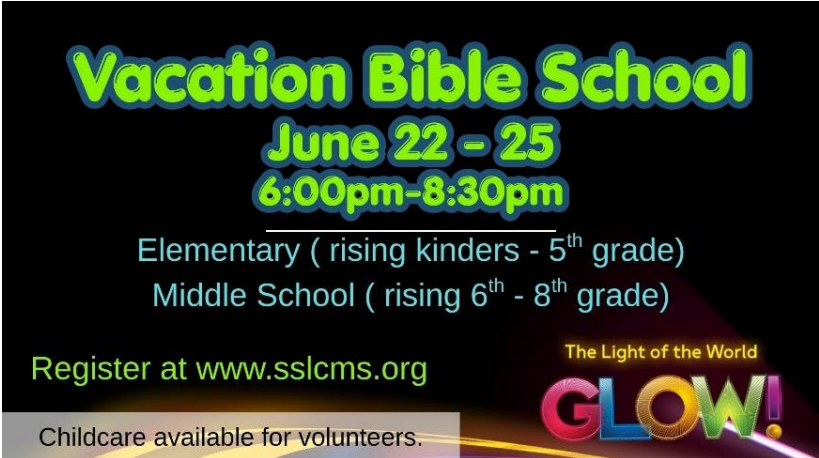
Proceeds from the Hotdogs and the space rental will benefit the Belize Youth Mission team.

Out of the Office

Vicar Tristan is serving at Bethel, LCMS, this Sunday while they are vacant of a Senior Pastor.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Change for 2026 and beyond - All Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available in your account for the year 2026. They must be directed by December 31, 2026.



Vacation Bible School
June 22 - 25
6:00pm-8:30pm

Elementary (rising kinders - 5th grade)
Middle School (rising 6th - 8th grade)

Register at www.sslcms.org

Childcare available for volunteers.

The Light of the World
GLOW!

The poster features a black background with vibrant, glowing text in shades of green and blue. The 'GLOW!' logo is particularly eye-catching, with each letter in a different color and a glowing effect. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, starting with the event name and dates, followed by the time, then the grade levels, and finally the registration information and childcare availability.

VBS donations



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



Summer schedule at Camp Linn Haven

- 6/27 - 7/4** **Family week #2**
Multi-day weeks with family oriented activities, devotions, games, and worship. Register and learn more at camplinnhaven.org/family-weeks.
- 7/12-7/18** **Middle School Week at Camp Linn Haven**
Middle school students won't want to miss a week of faith, friendship, and fun at Camp Linn Haven! Join us for outdoor adventures, games, and opportunities to grow in Christ. Spaces are limited—sign up early! Sign up and more information at sslcms.org/youth
- 7/18 - 7/25** **Family Week #3**
Multi-day weeks with family oriented activities, devotions, games, and worship. Register and learn more at camplinnhaven.org/family-weeks.
- 7/26-8/1** **High School Teen Servant Week at Camp Linn Haven**
Hey high schoolers! Join us for a week of serving, hanging out, and making new friends at Camp Linn Haven. Work hard, laugh a lot, and grow in your faith! Spots are limited – don't miss out! Sign up and more information at sslcms.org/youth
- 8/2-8/8** **Pre-Teen (rising 3rd - 5th grade) Week**
Pre-teens, gather your friends and spend a week at Camp Linn Haven before school starts back. Join us for crafts, outdoor adventures, games and devotions to grow in Christ. Spaces are limited, so sign up today at camplinnhaven.org/pre-teen-week
- 9/18 - 9/20** **SSLC Family Weekend**
A weekend reserved for St. Stephens Lutheran families. Online Registration to start July 19.

Alaska Mission Team



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The Alaska Mission team will travel June 18-28 to serve the village of Fort Yukon.

Please pray for our teams safety as they travel and to keep them healthy - emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Our team: Jadi Gurganious, Rick Poovey, Sheila Poovey, Heather Poovey, Teri Cain, Bobby Butler, Lark Gurganious, Ruth Gurganious, Andreza Sperb, and Estela Sperb

Thank you for the support and prayers.



SSLC GIVING



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. Donations can be made through the church office or by giving online.

For more information, contact Randall Cline

Support our Mission and Ministry Center Kitchen

Building a firm foundation includes establishing a well-equipped kitchen in our Mission and Ministry center. We are now accepting monetary donations to support the purchase of kitchenware, linens and other hospitality related supplies to forward the gift of hospitality. To contribute to this effort, please place your donation in the offering plate, drop it by the office, or give online. Be sure to designate your gift to Kitchen Equipment and Supplies.

Do you have the gift of hospitality?

WHO'S NEEDED: Teams of 2 or 3 individuals

WHAT: Prepare, serve & cleaning coffee service in new gathering space

HOW: Push buttons, move coffee urns, stock supplies

Greatest reward? gratitude from family, friends and visitors.

Contact Kristy to sign up to serve @ ksmith@sslcms.org

100th Birthday celebration

The congregation is invited to a covered dish luncheon to celebrate Ervin Bolick's 100th birthday on:

**Sunday, June 28
12:00pm**

at St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School

- *Please bring a dish to share
- *Please no gifts, just well wishes



RSVP to Linda Avery
743-999-1793

Join us for a weekend of family, fellowship and fun at Camp Linn Haven.

Devotions, hiking, crafts, games and more

Family Camp

September 18 - 20



Online registration begins **JULY 19**.
Contact Donna Lee @ dlee@sslcms.org

Thank You

We want to thank our church family, Pastor Ziehr, and Pastor Guelzow for the overwhelming love and support during Diane's stroke recovery this past month. Your prayers, phone calls, cards, and words of encouragement have meant so much to us during this time.

God faithfully continues to show up in all the details of our lives, and we are truly grateful for your part in that as her recovery continues. Thank you for surrounding us with God's love. We are blessed to be a part of this body of believers.

Sincerely,
Chuck and Diane Slivensky

I just want to truly express my heart of thanks to Adam, Rachel, Kade, Jane, DuWayne, Brian & Tristan for coming out and helping with the much needed yard maintenance. May God bless each one of you.

Glenda McCorkle



YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING

Get Connected - Grow your Village

Wednesday, July 29 @ 6pm
(in Fellowship Hall)

Families with infants and toddlers up to age 3, join us for a casual meal, fellowship and family centered discussion.

RSVP to Kristy Smith at ksmith@sslcms.org

ISRAEL BIBLE STUDY TOUR

April 25 - May 7, 2027

Led by Pastor Peter Frank, Certified Impact Biblical Tour

To learn more information about the
tour please visit
stpetersconover.org/israel



MENS BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 20

7:30am - Fellowship Hall

Devotion, food and fellowship



We are excited to share an important opportunity to invest in the future of our school community. Our gymnasium is a central space where students gather for athletics, chapel, events, and fellowship. Over time, the gym has served us well—but had been in need of meaningful updates. Over the past couple of months the following needs have been addressed.

- Original gym floor repaired, sanded, and refinished
- Outdated logo and colors updated to reflect current branding
- Stage removal and for replacement to prevent further floor damage
- New lighting and fixture updated to modernize the space
- Enhanced environment for students, families, and guests, strengthening school pride

The renovation is more than just a facility upgrade—it is an investment in our students, our school, and the experience we provide for every family and visitor who walks through our doors.

You can support the School Gym fundraiser by giving online at sslcms.org/give and designate School Gym Fundraiser. Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and commitment to our mission.

Today's Readings

Exodus 19:2-8

2 The people of Israel set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, 3 while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: 4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

Romans 5:6-15

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. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. 12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Matthew 9:35–10:8

35 Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. 2 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

OUR SAVIOR 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

ALASKA MISSION TEAM as they serve Fort Yukon June 18-28: Jadi Gurganious, Rick Poovey, Sheila Poovey, Heather Poovey, Teri Cain, Bobby Butler, Lark Gurganious, Ruth Gurganious, Andreza Sperb, and Estela Sperb

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

REBECCA MOFFETT

JEAN ROLLINS

BETTY SIGMON

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

WAYNE & JANIE KIRBY

MICHAEL & PAT SEAL

JOHN LINK

ASHLEY & VICKIE DEAL

KATHY HEFNER

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

EDDIE & VANESSA WARREN, who will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary on June 19.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

LINDA BOLICK, radiation treatments

GINNY QUINLAN, serious complications with knee surgery/infections

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

BENITA HUFF, breast cancer, friend of Paul Miller

FRANK WELLS, lung cancer, friend of Paul & Annette Miller

SANDY SHIPE, cancer treatments, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

RECOVERING

GARNER SETTLEMYRE, Hickory Falls, Rehab

LINDA STEELMAN, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain

RUBY HALL, recovering from shoulder surgery

KATRINA CONWELL, health issues

SAVANNAH LEE, recovering from hip surgery

TERESA RITCHIE, recovering at home from knee surgery

JERRY RITCHIE, health issues, home recovering

CAROLE HUFFMAN, home recovering

KAREN SHADE, home recovering, health issues

KEN MORETZ, recovering at home from surgery

BOBBY CLARKE, recovering at home from surgery

DEB KASTNER, health issues

REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

KATHY BOLCH, eye issues, sister of Sherry Craig

CONNIE BOWMAN, glaucoma, sister of Bill Cline

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, recovering from surgery, son of Teri Cain

JANELLE KENT, broken hip, neighbor of Tom & Kristy Smith