

**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.sslwarriors.org](http://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

**Season After Pentecost**

**June 6 & 7, 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 and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same 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 giving to the glory of God by Jack & Pat Hovis in honor and celebration of their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Greeters**

June 6 - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt  
June 7<sup>th</sup> - 8am: Sharon Little  
June 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am: Phillip & Sarah Starnes

June 13<sup>th</sup> - Keith & Sue Binns  
June 14<sup>th</sup> - 8am: Judy Gurganious  
June 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am: Tim & Tonya Boliek

## **Communion Assistants**

June 7 8:00am - Dwight Hollar & Tony Spencer

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

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

June 7 - Sheila Poovey          June 14 - Cynthia Hewitt

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

Last Sunday's Attendance - 473 (84, 87, 302)      Sunday School - 122  
General Fund: \$24,344.03 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)  
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$25,283.22  
School Endowment Fund: \$195.00  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$74,831.53  
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,478,986.71

# **Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran**

## **SATURDAY**

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

## **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00-4:00pm - Youth Service Opportunity - Youth House

2:00pm - VBS Training - Conference Room

3:00pm - LWML Quarterly Event, Fellowship Hall

6:00pm - VBS Training - Conference Room

## **MONDAY**

9:00am - Lighthouse - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

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

## **TUESDAY**

11:30am - Elizabeth Circle - Red Lobster

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

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

5:15pm - Finance & Facility - New Church Office Conference Room

5:30pm - Elders - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

## **WEDNESDAY**

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

2:00pm - VBS Training - Conference Room

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

6:00pm - VBS Training - Conference Room

## **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**

9:00am-5:00pm - Outdoor Adventure Group

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

## **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship / Graduation Sunday / Move Up Sunday



**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!

**6/7 | 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!

**6/13 | 9:00am-5:00 PM Outdoor Adventure Group**



We're heading out to Hunt Fish Falls for a day packed with hiking, waterfalls, and time together in God's creation. Show up ready—ready to walk, ready to jump in the water, and ready for a good day with your crew. Sign up and more information at: [sslcms.org/youth](https://sslcms.org/youth)

**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 Youth House, and 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](https://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](https://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](https://sslcms.org/youth) for all the latest.

## 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**

**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

## Out of the Office

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



**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  
**GLOW!**

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.





## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://sslcms.org/youth)
- 8/2-8/8**      **Pre-Teen (rising 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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

Please join us in praying that the Lord would keep all volunteers, especially our team: **Jadi Gurganious, Rick Poovey, Sheila Poovey, Heather Poovey, Teri Cain, Bobby Butler, Lark Gurganious, Ruth Gurganious, Andreza Sperb, and Estela Sperb**, safe as they travel to their communities of service. May He also keep them healthy - emotionally, physically, and spiritually - so that they may be prepared for the good work ahead of them.



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.



## **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](mailto:ksmith@sslcms.org)

### **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.

**Camp Linn Haven Family Weekend  
September 18-20  
Online Registration at SSLCSM.org  
Begins Sunday July 19**

Join us to recharge, reconnect, and refresh with opportunities for family fun, group activities, homestyle meal and worship.

Space is limited.

16 yrs or older \$100  
12 yrs - 15 yrs \$85.00  
2 yrs - 11 yrs - \$75.00  
Birth - 2yrs - free

Contact Donna Lee at 828-381-5391

**Elizabeth Circle**

This month the Elizabeth Circle will meet at Red Lobster at 11:30am on Tuesday, June 9.

**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.

## **Larry Bowman's Life Group**

Larry Bowman's Life Group that meets on Thursday have taken a break for the summer. We will resume after Labor Day.

## **Finance & Facility**

This month's Finance & Facility meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 9 at 5:15pm in the new church office conference room.

**Support Foothills Veterans  
Dine to Donate  
Texas Roadhouse - Lenoir Rhyne Blvd.  
Thursday, June 11  
3-9pm**

Come out and support Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans! 10% of checks will go to Foothills Veterans Helping Veterans! Flyers are available at the guest center. Please take a flyer with you and give to your server.

## **Thank You**

A big "Thank You!" to everyone (Brian Bowman, Jeff & Cindy Brinn, Mike Davis, Michael Drum, Roger Drum, Leland Eckard, Steve Hefner, Paul Miller, Vicar Tristan) who helped assemble the 150 new chairs (with 900 bolts) for our Fellowship Hall in the Mission and Ministry Building. Seriously, I couldn't have done it with you. Thanks for being a blessing!

Pastor Shea



# 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.

## Today's Readings

### Hosea 5:15–6:6

15 I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. 1 “Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” 4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. 5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. 6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

### Romans 4:13–25

13 The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”

19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

### **Matthew 9:9-13**

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

# LET US PRAY FOR.....

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

**BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER**  
**ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**FINANCE & FACILITY**  
**MOUNTAINSIDE 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

**HELEN MILLER FAMILY.** Her sister, Jeanette Watts, was called to glory on June 2.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF NATHAN & HARRIET LEHMAN.** They were called to glory on June 1.

**SALLY RADER FAMILY.** Her brother, Kermit Rader, was called to glory.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

**MARTHA KILLIAN**  
**JIM LANE**  
**HAZEL LOVELACE**

## FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

**CHRIS & DANYELLE WYATT FAMILY**  
**TOBY & LEAH AIKEN FAMILY**  
**LARRY & BETH BOWMAN**  
**STEVE & TERI CAIN FAMILY**  
**BILL & RENEE CLINE**

## PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

**NEWTON & JUDY TRAINUM**, who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 5.

**JACK & PAT HOVIS**, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 5.

The birth of **FRANCIS “FRANKIE” JUDE WILCOX**, born May 29 to Dylan & Alyssa. Proud grandparents are Randall & Shannon Cline.

### **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

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

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

**GINNY QUINLAN**, serious complications with knee surgery/infections

### **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

**JON MULLEN**, double pneumonia

**CAROLE HUFFMAN**, home recovering

**BOYCE LOOKADOO**, home recovering

**KAREN SHADE**, home recovering, health issues

**KEN MORETZ**, recovering at home from surgery

**BOBBY CLARKE**, recovering at home from surgery

**REGGIE & 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

**WILLIAM ARMSTRONG**, recovering from surgery, son of Teri Cain

**SANDY SHIPE**, recovering from surgery, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman