

**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

July 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 House
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

Spirit of God, through the transforming gift of faith, You bring us sonship and life. Replace our fear with fruitfulness, and teach our hearts to cry, "Abba! Father!" through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

Flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God by Paul & Annette Miller in honor and celebration of the 33rd wedding anniversary on July 10.

Flowers at the entrance of the church are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Catherine Winkler's 98th birthday on July 14 by her family.

Greeters

July 11th - Keith & Sue Binns
July 12th 8am - Sharon Little
July 12th 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

July 18th - Brent & Donna Townsend
July 19th - 8am - Pat Wilson
July 19th - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

Communion Assistants

July 12 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren
July 19 8:00am - Todd Little & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

July 12 - Need Volunteer July 19 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 436 (62, 105, 269) Sunday School - 108
General Fund: \$24,669.53 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$4,755.08
School Endowment Fund: \$573.39
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,727,751.64

**We have started drawing on the construction loan as bills come in*

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Esther Circle - Conference Room

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

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:15pm - Finance - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:30am - Rachel Circle - Youth House

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

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

10:30am-Contemporary Worship



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!



| Summer Pop-Up Events!

Watch for youth pop-up events all summer long! Check out the youth web page at: sslcms.org/youth, your email, and our social media pages regularly so you don't miss out on the latest adventures, service opportunities, and fellowship events.

7/10-17 | Youth Mission Trip to Belize



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

7/19 | 6:00-9:00 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.

| Camp Linn Haven - Summer Camp Weeks



Please keep our campers, counselors, and staff in your prayers as they head to Middle School Week at Camp Linn Haven next week. There's still time for high school students to register for Teen Servant Week! Sign up and more information at: 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 for all the latest.

Attention those who have Medical Training

As a resource for our security team and ushers, we would like to put a list together of anyone with medical training (nurses, physician assistants, doctors, EMT's) who would be willing to lend aid during worship services should there be a need. We know who some of you are as you have already answered the call for some of our members when it has been necessary, and we are deeply grateful for that. If you would be willing to be on our list, please email Laura Pennell at pennpals@charter.net and let her know which service(s) you typically attend. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank You

The family of Ruth Cook Would like to thank the Pastors and Vicar, Robert Smith, Rachel Wilson for all their prayers, visits and help with the Celebration of Christian Life service for Ruth.

Also, thank you to the ladies of the LWML for providing food and comfort for the family as well as the kind words and prayers. We at St Stephens are so blessed to have a loving church family to lean on in times of need.

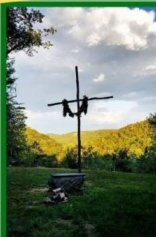
*Tony & Kerry Cook, Susan Bowman, Chris & Stacey Martin,
Travis Cook, Jessica Petree*

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



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

SAVE THE DATE....

Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 2 11:45am



Support SSLS Library

We are grateful for the books from the SSLS book fair and to those that donate books from their house.

To broaden students reading, an Amazon wish list has been created based on student interests and requests. Your purchase will ship directly to the school.



SSLS Library Wish List

Scan the QR code or visit sslcms.org/ssls-library

The Youth Mission team will travel July 10-17 to serve in Belize.

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

Our team:

Adam Coffey, Nicole Coffey, Caleb Coffey, Elizabeth Coffey, Darren Crouch, Amy Crouch, Grace Crouch, Caleb Taylor, Grady Taylor, Karis Taylor, Amanda Williams, Ethan Williams, Randall Cline, Shannon Cline, Hawk Cline, Taryn Cline

Thank you for the support and prayers.

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN
BELIZE
YOUTH MISSION TEAM





MENS BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 19
7:30am - Fellowship Hall
Devotion, food and fellowship

Farewell Reception for
**Tristan,
Carolyn & Micah**

**Sunday, July 26
3:00-5:00pm**

in the New Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.
Please bring your gifts
and best wishes.

Hosted by LWML



We are **1** in **Chr1st**

"We are 1 in Christ" is local churches and organizations coming together in one location to serve the community.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

FREE EVENT

*FREE backpack full of school supplies

*Tickets for backpack will be handed out as you enter the gate. Distribution will be a set time.

Food, Face Painting, Games
Clothes Closet, Fire Truck, Police Car
and MUCH MORE!

Hickory American Legion Fairgrounds
1 American Legion Ave, Newton, NC 28658

**AUG
1st
2026**

**9AM
to
12PM**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13

10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. 12 "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Romans 8:12-17

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Matthew 13:1-9 – 18-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL BOARD

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHAUN & 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

YOUTH BELIZE MISSION TEAM: Randall Cline, Shannon Cline, Taryn Cline, Hawk Cline, Caleb Taylor, Grady Taylor, Karis Taylor, Adam Coffey, Nicole Coffey, Caleb Coffey, Elizabeth Coffey, Darren Crouch, Amy Crouch, Grace Crouch, Amanda Williams, Ethan Williams

CAMPERS, COUNSELORS & STAFF as they head to Middle School Week at Camp Linn Haven July 12-18

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARGARET DEAL

CAROLYN GARREN

PHIL GNADT

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

RALPH MUELLER

CHRIS JOHNSON FAMILY

MONTIE & LINDA LAIL

ALEX & SHARON LITTLE

JOEL EADS

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

PAUL & ANNETTE MILLER, who celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on July 10.

CATHERINE WINKLER, who will celebrate her 98th birthday on July 14.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow

DELANEY JESSUP, home hospice care

HOSPITALIZED

THETTA LAFONE, CVMC, health issues

GINNY QUINLAN, Mercy Hospital, serious complications with knee surgery/infections

UPCOMING SURGERIES

RICK POOVEY, hip replacement, July 13

JUDY TRAINUM, upcoming surgery July 28

JEREMY HOWARD, heart surgery in August, son of Joe Howard

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

CHESTER BERRY, cancer, friend of Lee London

RECOVERING

KATRINA CONWELL, health issues

SAVANNAH LEE, recovering from hip surgery

JERRY RITCHIE, health issues, home recovering

CAROLE HUFFMAN, home recovering

KAREN SHADE, home recovering, health issues

BOBBY CLARKE, recovering at home from surgery

DEB KASTNER, health issues

JUDY TRAINUM, health issues

ALLEN KILLIAN, home recovering

WESLEY SIMPSON, recovering from back surgery

REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

KATHY BOLCH, eye issues, sister of Sherry Craig

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

ADAM SCHNUR, recovering from major surgery, friend of the Seabocks

LANE THOMPSON, health issues, son-in-law of Phil Gnadt

THE SARAH WHITE FAMILY, health problems & family issues, friend of Susan Ledbetter

DARLENE HUFFMAN, health issues, sister-in-law of Allen & Karen Bolick

MARK & CAROL EWALD, health issues, brother and sister-in-law of Gene