

**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

**Season After Pentecost**

**July 18 & 19, 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 Holy Spirit, You intercede for the sons of earth more deeply and more graciously than our words allow. In our weakness and inability, plead for the strength and safety of those who suffer, even as You hold Your saints in hope of the redemption to be revealed in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, one God, now and forever.

## **Greeters**

July 18<sup>th</sup> - Brent & Donna Townsend

July 19<sup>th</sup> - 8am - Pat Wilson

July 19<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt

July 26<sup>th</sup> - 8am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher

July 26<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

## **Communion Assistants**

July 19 8:00am - Todd Little & Ralph Mueller

July 26 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

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

July 19 - Sheila Poovey

July 26 - Need a volunteer

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

Last Sunday's Attendance - 528 (116, 90, 322) Sunday School - 120

General Fund: \$34,433.41 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,719.12

School Endowment Fund: \$100.00

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

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,747,355.87

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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 2**  
**11:45am**

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

### **SATURDAY**

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

### **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship

### **MONDAY**

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Esther Circle

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 & Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00pm - Farewell to Vicar Tristan & Carolyn

## **Out of the Office**

Pastor Shea is serving at Salem Lutheran this Sunday morning.



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 at 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**



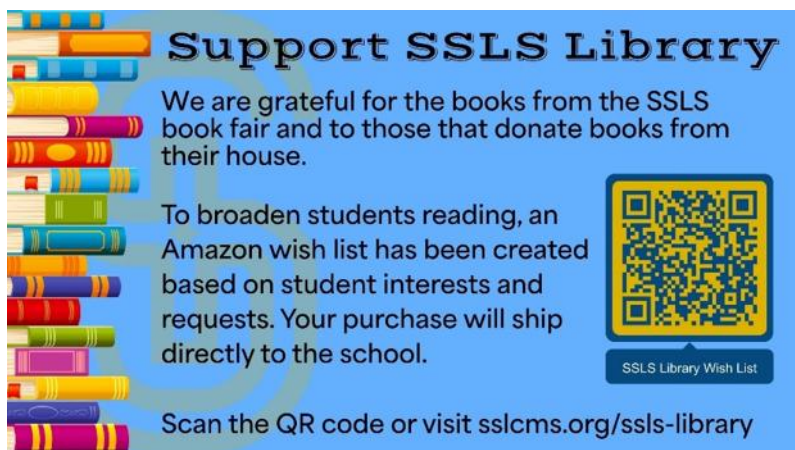

# YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING

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](mailto:ksmith@sslcms.org)

## 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](https://sslcms.org/ssls-library)

Scan the QR code or visit [sslcms.org/ssls-library](https://sslcms.org/ssls-library)



## 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 a weekend of devotions, hiking, crafts and games at Camp Linn Haven.



Scan QR code to register

## *Family Camp*

September 18 - 20



Online registration begins at NOON, **JULY 19**.  
Contact Donna Lee @ [dlee@sslcms.org](mailto:dlee@sslcms.org)

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\*



*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](https://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.

**7/19 | 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.

**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.

## Today's Readings

### Isaiah 44:6-8

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

### Romans 8:18-27

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 27 And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.



# LET US PRAY FOR.....

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

**BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER**

**ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**YOUNG ADULTS**

**CHRIST 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**

**TABITHA WORLEY**, waiting for test results

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

**RICKY & NANNETTE CLINE FAMILY**. Her brother, Jeff Clampitt, was called to glory on July 10.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

**AMY HALL**

**KAY HOLLAR**

**MARIE HUFFMAN**

## FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

**TIMOTHY MARTIN**

**CHARLES & JANIE MILLER FAMILY**

**GEORGE & DAWN MOSER FAMILY**

**BRIAN & MYRNA BOWMAN**

**CALEB TAYLOR FAMILY**

## 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

**JOSHUA SPENCER**, CVMC, health issues, son of Barbara Underwood

## **UPCOMING SURGERIES**

**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

**PAULA SPENCER**, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst

## **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

**RICK POOVEY**, recovering at home from hip replacement

**LOUISE HERMAN**, recovering at home from surgery

**GINNY QUINLAN**, at home recovering from serious complications with knee surgery/infections

**CAROL SEREDA**, health issues

**REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG**, health issues

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

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

**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

**NASH**, 10 yr. old diagnosed with lymphoma, friend of Lori D.

**ZACHARY**, cancer, former student of Janet VonDohn

**ROBIN PAPPAS**, recovering at home from heart procedure

**HAZEL LOVELACE**, rehab, recovering from a fall