

**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 25 & 26, 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

Loving God, You mercifully call Your people to be Your treasured possession and defeat our mortal enemies of sin, death, and darkness. Supply our hearts with faith and secure us in the victory of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

July 25 - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt

July 26 - 8am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher

July 26 - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

August 1 - Brenda Little & Cathy Drum

August 2 - 8am - Sharon Little

August 2 - 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

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

August 2 - 8:00am - Cory Westby & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

July 26 - Need a volunteer August 2 - Cynthia Hewitt

**Installation of
Pastor Tim Sheridan
at Salem Lutheran Church, Taylorsville
Sunday, August 2 at 4:00pm**

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 457 (86, 85, 286) Sunday School - 144

General Fund: \$33,848.30 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$22,811.73

School Endowment Fund: \$240.00

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

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,749,613.20

**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

3:00pm - Farewell to Vicar Tristan, Carolyn, & Micah

MONDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Ruth Circle - Mission & Ministry Bible Study #107

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

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm - Church Council - Church Office Conference Room

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

6:00pm - Young Family Gathering - Mission & Ministry Fellowship Hall

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

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



SAVE THE DATE....

**Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 2
11:45am**

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

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

FREE EVENT

*FREE backpack full of school supplies

*Tickets for backpack will be handed out as you enter the game. Distribution will be at set times.

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

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

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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your texts, calls, cards, delicious food and especially your prayers during my recent surgery. Your kindness, encouragement and support have meant more than words can express. I am truly grateful for your thoughtfulness and for keeping me in your prayers as I recover. Thank you for be such a blessing to me.

Rick Poovey



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.

7/26-8/1 | Camp Linn Haven - Teen Servant Week



Please keep our high school students and leaders in your prayers as they serve at Camp Linn Haven during Teen Servant Week! Pray that God would strengthen them, grow their faith, and use them to be a blessing to others.

8/9 | 12:00-6:00 PM Bo's Family Entertainment



Grab your friends and join us for an awesome afternoon at Bo's Family Entertainment! Come hang out, have fun, and make some great memories together. You won't want to miss it! More details and sign-up at sslcms.org/youth.

8/23 | 12:00-1:30 PM Confirmation Orientation



Families with students who are seeking to confirm their baptismal faith or learn more about confirmation are invited to join us after the 10:30 am worship service in the New Fellowship Hall. More details and sign-up at sslcms.org/confirmation.

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.

Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

6“You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Romans 8:28-39

28We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:44-52

44[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” 52And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

LWML & LLL

MOUNTAINSIDE LUTHERAN, Linville

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

HIGH SCHOOL TEEN SERVANT WEEK at Camp Linn Haven

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

TIM & TONYA BOLIEK FAMILY, their sister-in-law, Kathy Boliek, was called to glory on July 20

BOBBIE FLOWERS FAMILY, her sister-in-law, Christine Benfield, was called to glory

BECKY ECKARD FAMILY, her son, Joey Eckard, was called to glory. Joey is Elaine Kent's nephew.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

THELMA HUFFMAN

MARTHA KILLIAN

JIM LANE

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

DAREL & MICHELLE REESE FAMILY

DANE & PHYLLIS CLINE

JOHN & KIMBERLY TUFT FAMILY

RUTH WILLIS

PEGGY ALLISON

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

CHRIS HALLE, liver transplant complications, nephew-in-law of Betty Flowers

UPCOMING SURGERIES, TESTS, or RESULTS

JUDY TRAINUM, upcoming surgery July 28

FRAN CLARK, upcoming hip replacement on July 30 at Davie Medical Center

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

TABITHA WORLEY, waiting for test results

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

PAULA SPENCER, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst

ZACHARY, cancer, former student of Janet VonDohln

RECOVERING

KATRINA CONWELL, health issues

JERRY RITCHIE, health issues, home recovering

CAROLE HUFFMAN, home recovering

KAREN SHADE, home recovering, health issues

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 knee surgery/infections

BECKY ECKARD, Brookdale Northeast

REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

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

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

ROBIN PAPPAS, recovering at home from heart procedure

BOYCE ECKARD, pneumonia, friend of Dwight Hollar

SARAH SMITH, health issues, family member of Betty Bostain

DEBBIE KESSLER, health issues, friend of Coach Mike Davis