

**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 4 & 5, 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

Dear gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You today for the freedom we have in Christ and also for the freedom we celebrate in this nation. Lord, we ask that You help us use our freedom not for evil, but for good, always guided by Your Holy Spirit to serve You and serve others, so that we may give grace just as You give grace to us; through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Harold Allison's birthday on July 4 by his family

Greeters

July 4th - Cathy Drum & Brenda Little

July 5th 8am - Judy Gurganious

July 5th 10:30am - Teri Cain

July 11th - Keith & Sue Binns

July 12th 8am - Sharon Little

July 12th 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

Communion Assistants

July 5 8:00am - Steve Cain & David Pingel

July 12 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

July 5 - Need A Volunteer July 12 - Need Volunteer

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 460 (78, 98, 284) Sunday School - 114

General Fund: \$17,780.32 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,548.06

School Endowment Fund: \$400.00

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

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,595,398.99

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

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

9:00am - Lifelight - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

10:30am - LWML Ex. Board - Peacehouse

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

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



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!

New Board Member Installation

All recently elected Board members will be installed the weekend of July 11 & 12 at all services.



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 prepare to travel to Belize. Pray for safe travels, good health, and open hearts—for both our students and the people they'll serve.



| Camp Linn Haven - Summer Camp Weeks

Middle & high school students—get ready for a week of epic fun, real friendships, and growing in your faith. Whether you're playing hard or serving strong, this is the week you don't want to miss. 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

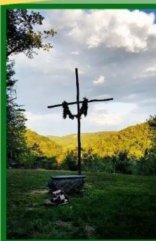
As a resource for our security team and ushers, we would like to put a list together of anyone with medical training (nurses, physician assistants, doctors, EMT's) who would be willing to lend aid during worship services should there be a need. We know who some of you are as you have already answered 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.

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



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.





SSLS ROBOTICS CAMP

6 SPOTS REMAINING

July 13-17 1pm-4pm

Do you know a rising 1st - 3rd Grader who is interested in robots and technology? Come learn with VEX123 Robots!

Ready to register or have questions?

Contact April Bell

adrake@sslcms.org (919) 609-6906






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

Thank You

To all the wonderful ladies, men, and staff:

Thank you all so much for your hard work, kindness, and support in helping make Ervin Bolick's birthday celebration such a great success. Your time, effort, and willingness to serve made the day truly special and created a wonderful memory.

With heartfelt thanks,
The Bolick family

Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters for being the hands and feet of Jesus during VBS this year. You showing up early, lead with joy, and poured your heart into the kids. I am so incredibly grateful for you! We couldn't have done it without you! You truly let your light shine!

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

With Gratitude,
Donna Lee, CM Director

The Family of Pat Hollar would like to thank the Pastors and Vicar, Robert Smith, Betty Ikerd & the Choir, David Day, Rachel Wilson & the Praise Team for their assistance with the Celebration of Life service for Pat.

We would also like to thank our friends and fellow church family members for their cards, visits, food, well wishes, and most of all their prayers in the recent weeks.

Bob Hollar, Terry & Joye Hollar, Vanessa & Eddie Warren and Michelle & Sam Wallace

Today's Readings

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. 3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. 4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, 6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; 7 who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous 9 The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. 10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

Galatians 5:1; 13-25

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity,

sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

John 8:31-36

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

SAVE THE DATE....

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 2
11:30am

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

CHURCH COUNCIL

ST. PETERS 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

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

BOB & HELEN MILLER FAMILY, Helen's sister, Carrie Jonas, was called to glory on June 25.

ZEKE MINTON FAMILY. His father, Greg, passed away on June 24. Zeke is a rising 6th grader at SSLS

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

BOB & LINDA CARNEY

RALPH CAZIRE

CASSIE DEAL

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

TONY & KERRY COOK

BECKY MORGAN

KIM BUMGARNER

JON & JANE GUELZOW

DEANIE HILTON

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **FRANCIS JUDE WILCOX**, son of Dylan & Alyissa. His sponsors are Taryn Cline & Hawk Cline. Francis is the grandson of Randall & Shannon Cline and the great-grandson of Tim & Jenny Cline

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

HOSPITALIZED

THETTA LAFONE, CVMC, health issues

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

DELANEY JESSUP, CVMC, health issues

UPCOMING SURGERIES

RICK POOVEY, hip replacement, July 13

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

A FRIEND of Windy Pruitt who has kidney failure

RECOVERING

GARNER SETTLEMYRE, Hickory Falls, Rehab

LINDA STEELMAN, Trinity Village Rehab, sister of Betty Bostain

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, rehab at Trinity Village

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