

**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 + Tim Rollings, Vicar
Ross Chiles, Principal + Jessica Westby, Assistant 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 August 15 & 16, 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 everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

August 15th- Brent & Donna Townsend
August 16th 8AM- April Bell
August 16th 10:30- Micheal & Katie Vaughn

August 22nd- Keith & Sue Binns
August 23rd 8AM- Pat Wilson
August 23rd 10:30- April Bell

Communion Assistants

August 16 - 8:00am - Tony Spencer & David Rittenhouse
August 23 - 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow & Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

August 16 - Teresa Ritchie August 23 - Shannon Cline

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 540 (85, 105, 350) Sunday School - 133
General Fund: \$21,674.82 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,509.12
School Endowment Fund: \$445.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,879,225.31
**We have started drawing on the construction loan as bills come in*

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY - BACKPACK BLESSING

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship/Installation of Jessica Westby as Assistant Principal

SUNDAY - BACKPACK BLESSING

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion/Installation of Jessica Westby as Assistant Principal

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship/Teacher Commissioning/Installation of Jessica Westby as Assistant Principal

MONDAY

9:00am - Lifelight (Pastor Guelzow) - M & M New Conference Room

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

4:00pm - Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) - M & M New Conference Room

5:15pm - Finance - Office Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

8:00am - First Day of School for SSLS - early dismissal 11:30am

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

12:00-1:30pm - Confirmation Orientation - Sanctuary

5:00-8:00pm - Jr/Sr High Youth - Bible Study/Food/Fun

Women's *Wednesday Bible Study*

Starting August 26
10:00am in Youth House

RSVP: Sonni Thornton - 919-749-5881



LWML Quarterly Event Saturday, Sept. 12 11:30am

All women are invited to attend.

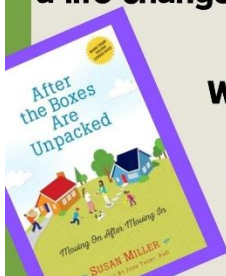
Rachel & Ruth Circles will host a
brunch in the New Fellowship Hall.

Women in the Military Presenter: Melissa Mace

**Ladies! Are you new to the area? Experiencing
a life change? Join us for a Women's Newcomer
Group starting on:**

**Wednesday, September 23
+ 6:00pm +
Mission & Ministry Bldg.**

Do not need to be a member of the
church to attend.



Register by Sept. 15 with Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

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!

Grief Support Group

Beginning

Friday, September 18 at 9am

Mission & Ministry Conference Room

(led by Pastor Guelzow)

At Grief Support you will find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief.

For more information, contact Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org



Building relationships in Christ to develop and strengthen faithful followers for life."

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!



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.

8/23 | 5:00-8:00 PM After Hours: Fresh Fruit



Join us for an evening of food, games, and an interactive devotion as we dive into the Fruit of the Spirit. We'll laugh, compete, and discover how God grows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our lives.

8/30 | 12:00-5:00 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!

9/7 | 2:00-8:00 PM County Fair



We're heading to the 113th Annual Hickory Fair for a night of rides, games, food, and hanging out with friends! There's plenty to see and do, so come join us and bring a friend. More details and sign-up 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**](https://sslcms.org/youth) for all the latest.



**CAREGIVER
MENTAL
WELLNESS, INC.**

Senior Session

Wednesday, August 26
1:00pm
Mission & Ministry Building

Attention: Caregivers, Supportive friends and Adult children
Prioritizing Well-being Without Guilt + Choosing Peace Daily and
Minimizing Worry + Finding Purpose and Meaning in Every Season of
Life + Practical Stress Relief Techniques You Can Use Anytime

Presenter: Carolyn Dowdy, founder of Caregiver Mental Wellness
www.caregivermentalwellness.com

RSVP by August 21 to Kristy Smith ksmith@sslcms.org

PICKLEBALL RESUMES

SUNDAYS

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



LWML Rada Knives

LWML Fundraiser
is selling

**RADA
CUTLERY**
online

SHOP NOW at
sslcms.org/lwml
or scan QR code



SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

WHERE: St. Stephens Elementary at 9am.

WHAT: We will be finishing up
trimming bushes and tree limbs
in front of the school.

WHO: people to trim, rake,
pickup sticks

**AUG
22**

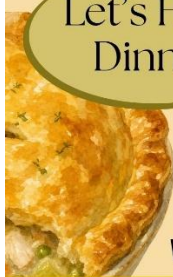
Contact Jadi at jgurganious@sslcms.org

NEW | MEMBERS CLASS

Beginning Sunday, August 23 at 9:15am in
the Mission & Ministry Conference Room.

RSVP to Tiffany at Tsigmon@sslcms.org or call the
church office.

Let's Have
Dinner



Are you eating alone?
Tired of the same old same old?
Just don't want to cook?

Let's have dinner together on
Thursday, August 27th at 5:30pm
in the Mission and Ministry Center.

Enjoy a meal (chicken pot pie) and fellowship
with others. No charge, but a freewill is accepted.

To plan accordingly, please RSVP to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

School is to be a time of excitement and fun. School starts back this month we want to make a difference in a child's education by collecting school supplies and distributing them to local schools.

While out shopping, please consider picking up several of the items listed below and return them to the mission box in the church narthex. Thank you for supporting this important mission.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST

- Spiral notebooks (wide & college rule)
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (wide & college rule)
- Composition notebooks (wide & college rule)
- #2 Pencils
- Mechanical Pencils
- Highlighters (assorted colors)
- Block erasers
- Pencil pouch
- 24 ct. Crayola crayons
- Crayola Colored pencils
- Rulers
- Scissors (blunt tip)
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- Ziploc Bags
- BandAids

Online shopper?
Scan the QR code and select your purchase.
Purchases will be
shipped to St. Stephens Lutheran Church.



Join A Lifegroup Today



Are you looking for a small group to Nurture Faith, Build Relationships, and Serve Neighbors? Become part of a LifeGroup!

Website: slcms.org/lifegroups

Why LifeGroups? Because you were designed by God to live in community.

LifeGroups create a space for people to intentionally share their lives with others, grow spiritually together, and encourage each other through the highs and lows of life. They gather in homes, coffee shops, and other places where people enjoy connecting.

Current LifeGroups:

Young Adult LifeGroup	9:15AM Sundays
Bahlmann LifeGroup	6:00 PM Sundays
Hollar LifeGroup	6:00 PM Sundays
Herman LifeGroup	6:30 PM Mondays
Guelzow LifeGroup	4:00 PM Tuesdays
Miller LifeGroup	6:30 PM Wednesdays
Bowman LifeGroup	10:30 AM Thursdays
Starnes LifeGroup	7:00 PM Thursdays
Rittenhouse LifeGroup	2:00 PM Fridays

Sign up today on our website or through the app to join an existing group below or become part of a whole new LifeGroup.



Families with students in 7th grade or above **seeking to confirm their baptismal faith** or who **would like more information about what confirmation is** are encouraged to attend our Confirmation Orientation at St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School.

During this meeting, we will review the confirmation plan, which includes both the **one-year Bible Instruction and Catechism Instruction**.

Before the meeting:

- Review the Confirmation Plan, Slides, and Covenant (available at sslcms.org/confirmation)
- Bring a signed Confirmation Covenant
- Sign up online if you haven't already

Mentors Needed:

We are seeking adults willing to serve as mentors for our confirmation students. Mentors will meet with students during Unit Check-Ins, help answer any questions that may arise, and commit to praying for and with them throughout their journey.

For more information or to sign up as a student or mentor, visit sslcms.org/confirmation or contact our Youth Director, Randall Cline.



You are invited to help us
shower a place where

little hearts

Grow in God's Grace & Love



Nursery Shower



After 25+ years in a borrowed classroom, we are thrilled to announce that with the completion of our Mission & Ministry Building, St. Stephens now has a dedicated nursery!

Infants and children up to age 3 will now have a beautiful space to learn and play during Sunday morning worship and Sunday School.

We are looking forward to outfitting the room with updated furnishings, toys and supplies. Help us "shower" our nursery and the little hearts that abide there

Scan the QR code or visit sslcms.org/nursery to purchase an item or two that will ship directly to the church and be used in our nursery now and in years to come.

We also welcome loving hearts to help during the 10:30am worship. If you would like to be on a rotation to volunteer, click the link below to contact Jadi.



2 options to shop:

Visit

sslcms.org/nursery
or

SCAN TO SHOP!

Shop the Amazon list
and items will ship to
SSLC



Church Nursery





St. Stephens Lutheran School News
Excellence in Education since 1943

Rooted in Christ
(Colossians 2:6-7)

School Board Members - Scott Clontz, Chairman, Erica Moretz, David Janisko, Kim Yancey, and Shawn Sigmon

St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School

 **BACK 2 SCHOOL** 

Pool Party

Monday, August 17 | 6:30pm - 9:00pm
Kool Park Pool

Sponsored by the SSLS PTL

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please do not drop off.

St. Stephens Lutheran School
First day of school
Wednesday, August 19

 *Calling All Passionate People!!*

Mentor Fair
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
9:00am-10:00am

Come and share your career, interests, hobbies and expertise with interested SSLS 4th-8th graders....

Become a Mentor. Ignite a Passion. Shape Tomorrow.

E-mail or call April Bell to sign-up or find out more!
adrake@sslcms.org (919) 609-6906

Today's Readings

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

1Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

6"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— 7these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." 8The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . . 13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry 14 in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. 15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . . 28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Matthew 15:21-28

21 Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Come and See Ministry Fair

Snacks will be available during the ministry fair

Saturday, Sept. 12
after 5:30pm worship

Sunday, Sept. 13
9:15am-1pm
(Sunday school hour will be a fellowship hour in the gym)

Have you been blessed with musical talent? Maybe you want to get involved with children's or youth ministry? Do you enjoy baking? Are you able to do light construction?

Our congregation has many opportunities for you to be involved.

Get connected with the ministries here at SSLC.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
COMFORT DOG MINISTRY
SALEM 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

WILL & SPENCER ECKARD FAMILY, Will's mother, Betty Bentley, was called to glory on Aug. 2

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

JO WILHELM
RUTH WILLIS
CATHERINE WINKLER

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JACK & PAT HOVIS
ERIC & MARYIA JOHNSON FAMILY
ALLEN KILLIAN
HELEN SUTTLEMYRE
SHARON MAYNOR

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of **JACK CODY CANTERBURY SIGMON** to Jackson & Jenni on July 12. Jack is the great-grandson of Doris Sigmon.

JOHN & KAREN NAIN, who celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on August 16.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow

HOSPITALIZED

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

SCOTT CARPENTER, serious health problems with his liver, brother of Kevin

UPCOMING SURGERIES, TESTS, or RESULTS

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

TABITHA WORLEY, waiting for test results

LINDA BRISTOW, cataract surgery

KEN HALLER, cataract surgery, father of Cindy Johnson

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 VonDohn

CHESTER BERRY, starting cancer treatments, friend of Lee London

RECOVERING

RICK POOVEY, recovering at home from hip replacement

GINNY QUINLAN, at home recovering from knee surgery/infections

REGGIE CRAIG, health issues

JUDY TRAINUM, recovering at home from surgery

FRAN CLARK, recovering at home from hip replacement surgery

THETTA LAFONE, home recovering, health issues

LARRY BOWMAN, home recovering from back surgery

ROBERT BARNETTE, home recovering, friend of Jerry & Teresa Ritchie

MARC HJERPE, health issues, friend of Coach Mike Davis

LYNN TEETERS, health issues