

**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 Rollins, 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 1 & 2, 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

Lord God, we give thanks to You, for Your mercy endures forever. By Your Word and Holy Sacraments increase in us Your gifts of grace that we may share in Your great love showing Your mercy to all according to their need; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

The flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God by Boyce & Janie Lookadoo in honor and celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary on August 8.

Greeters

August 1 - Brenda Little & Cathy Drum
August 2 - 8am - Sharon Little
August 2 - 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

August 8 - Brenda Little & Cathy Drum
August 9 - 8am - Sharon Little
August 9 - 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

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

August 9 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

August 2 - Cynthia Hewitt August 9 - Betsy & Lila Hendricks

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 518 (92, 108, 318) Sunday School - 142

General Fund: \$26,091.77 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,722.47

School Endowment Fund: \$275.00

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

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,762,742.33

**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

11:45am - Congregational Meeting

MONDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

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

TUESDAY

1:00pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

4:00PM - **MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE**

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

6:00pm - Lifegroup Leader Meeting - M & M Fellowship Hall

6:30pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

WEDNESDAY

9:00am - 3:00pm - Quilters - Conference Room

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

12:00-6:00pm - Youth - Bo's

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

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



*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.

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.

Thank You

Thank you to Teresa Ritchie, Regina Propst, Doris Sigmon, Pat Wilson, Michael & Cynthia Parsons, and Steve & Teri Cain for cleaning the vicar house in preparation for the new vicar and family.



Wanna Go?

Thursday, August 13
9am-3pm

Travel to Boone to learn about the history, mission, and projects of Samaritan's Purse and enjoy lunch at Daniel Boone Inn.

Cost: \$40

(Includes, transportation, lunch, gratuity and a donation to Samaritan's Purse)

RSVP by Aug. 6 to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Saturday, August 15 - 5:30pm

Sunday, August 16
8am & 10:30am

Students of all ages bring your backpack for a special blessing.



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



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

SAVE THE DATE....

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



GIFT CARD

"Pound" Vicar Timothy and
Ariana, Tiana and Santiago
with gift cards of all sorts to
get settled in to Hickory.

Beginning Aug. 1/2, welcome cards and
gifts can be placed in the marked basket
in the narthex.

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.

QUILTERS

Wednesday,
Aug. 5
9am - 3pm
(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.

Women's *Wednesday Bible Study*

Starting August 26
10:00am in Youth House

RSVP: Sonni Thornton - 919-749-5881

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	6:00 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.

Today's Readings

Psalms 136:1-9

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever; 4 to him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever; 5 to him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever; 6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever; 7 to him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever; 8 the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever; 9 the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;

Romans 9:1-5

1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
ALASKA MISSION TEAM
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, Linville
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
PRE-TEEN WEEK CAMP LINN HAVEN

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DELANEY JESSUP FAMILY, Delaney was called to glory on July 24.
DEREK SMITH FAMILY, Derek was called to glory this week. Friend of
Cindy Johnson Family.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

HAZEL LOVELACE
REBECCA MOFFETT
JEAN ROLLINS

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

ALLEN & KAREN BOLICK
JAMES & LORNA BRADSHAW
CHRIS & STACEY MARTIN FAMILY
MCKENLEY HOUSTON & NOVA
CHRIS & SHEILA DYSON

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

BOYCE & JANIE LOOKADOO who celebrate their 59th wedding
anniversary on August 8.

The birth of **GRAYSON MICHAEL EDWARDS**, to JD & Kennedy on July
17. Grayson is the grandson of Will & Spencer Eckard and great-grandson
of Martha Killian

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

ROBERT BARNETTE, burn unit Baptist, friend of Jerry & Teresa Ritchie

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

SHERRY CRAIG, upcoming test in Winston

LINDA BRISTOW, cataract surgery

LARRY BOWMAN, back surgery August 4

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

CHESTER BERRY, starting cancer treatments, friend of Lee London

RECOVERING

KATRINA CONWELL, health issues

JERRY RITCHIE, health issues, home recovering

CAROLE HUFFMAN, home recovering

DEB KASTNER, health issues

RICK POOVEY, recovering at home from hip replacement

GINNY QUINLAN, at home recovering from knee surgery/infections

REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

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

JUDY TRAINUM, recovering at home from surgery

FRAN CLARK, recovering at home from hip replacement surgery

THETTA LAFONE, home recovering, health issues

JOHN OLSON'S FATHER, recovering from stroke, Indiana