

**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 29 & 30, 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 guests 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--M & M Bible Study #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-----M & M Bible Study #107
Forgiving What You Can't Forget by Lysa TerKeurst
New Members - Led by the Pastors-----M & M New Conference Room

Prayer on Entering

Eternal God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced the way of the cross to redeem us. Grant us faith to embrace the way of the cross as our way of life and to declare His redemptive presence to our world; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Darren & Amy Crouch's 25th wedding anniversary on September 1 by Grace, Carolyn, Susan & Dean and Dale & Priscilla.

Greeters

August 29 - Judy Buff & Linda McNeely
August 30 8am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher
August 30 10:30am - VOLUNTEER NEEDED

September 5 - Brent & Donna Townsend
September 6 - 8am - Sharon Little
September 6 - 10:30 am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

August 30 - 8:00am - James Fogle & Ralph Mueller
September 6 - 10:30am - Steve Cain & Dave Pingel

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

August 30 - Amy Crouch September 6 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 583 (94, 110, 379) Sunday School - 174
General Fund: \$23,564.25 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,549.00
School Endowment Fund: \$300
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,915,784.43

**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 & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship

12:00pm - Alaska Mission Team meeting - M & M Conference Room

12:00-5:00pm - Youth Servant Opportunity - Youth Modular

5:00-8:00pm - Youth After Hours: Fresh Fruit - Youth Modular

MONDAY

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

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

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

6:00pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

6:00pm - Lifegroup Kick-off Meal - M & M Fellowship Hall

6:30pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

9:00am - Quilters - Conference Room

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

6:00pm - Mary Circle - DeVinci's

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

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) - M & M Conference Room

MONDAY - SCHOOL & OFFICES CLOSED - LABOR DAY

Grief Support Group

Beginning

Friday, September 11 at 9am

Mission & Ministry Conference Room

(led by Pastor Gucklow)

CANCELLED

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



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

Mites

How amazing it is to think of the many places in God's creation our offerings go. How amazing it is to think of the many people whose lives are touched physically and spiritually by MITES. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, MITES are helping to proclaim the Gospel all over God's creation. The St. Stephnes LWML will send the MITES (coins we each save and donate) to the state and national offices to be distributed where most needed. Place your MITES in the large MITE box in the narthex to the right of the nursery door.

Thank You

THANK YOU to the following servants that made a difference at St. Stephens Elementary School: **Tony Cook, Scott Clontz, David & Vickie Clontz, Chuck & Tia Justice, Sherry Shannon, Coach Mike Davis, Alan Cobb, Tim Boliek, Tom Smith, Tom Morrison, Cory & Koty Gurganious, Danny Mecimore, Mark Jones, Tim Herman, Tony Spencer and Tristan Jones.** Over the course of several months the landscaping was improved for the start of school.

Dear St. Stephens Family:

Thank you for praying for me throughout the past year. I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the cards, gifts, meals, and text messages. Each act of kindness meant so much to me and made me feel deeply loved and blessed.

For those who may not know my story, I would like to share a brief update. In July 2025, I was diagnosed with Stage 2 triple-negative breast cancer, a rare and aggressive form of cancer. It was discovered during my annual mammogram, so I encourage all women to remain diligent with yearly checkups. With the support of many friends and family members, my biopsies and treatments began right away. This has been a difficult year, but through it all, God has remained faithful and has sent encouragement through each of you when I needed it most. I have now completed two regimens of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, that my cancer markers continue to be clear, and I am now moving into post-treatment checkups every few weeks.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – Philippians 4:13

Yours in Christ,
"Dinky" Rullman Eddins

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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

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.

9/13 | 5:00-8:00 PM Fresh Fruit: Glow & Grow

The Fruit of the Spirit continues! Join us for glow- in-the-dark dodgeball and an interactive devotion as we explore what it means to live out the fruit God grows in us. Come ready to glow, compete, and grow in Christ!

11/20-11/22 | High School Gathering: Made in His Image

Get ready for a weekend of worship, friends, fun, and God's Word! We'll dive into what it means to be Made in His Image and discover who God says we are and how He calls us to live. 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.

**PICKLEBALL
RESUMES
SUNDAYS
3-6 PM**
ALL PICKLES WELCOME



LWML Fundraiser
is selling
**RADA
CUTLERY**
online

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



LWML Rada Knives

**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.

Alaska Mission Meeting

Sunday, August 30
12pm
Mission & Ministry Conference Room

2027 Dates: June 16-26

Interested? Contact: Jadi
(jgurganious@sslcms.org)



Merry
MARKET

SATURDAY
November 21 • 9a-2p
St. Stephens Lutheran Church MS

50 VENDORS!
CHRISTMAS
SHOPPING EVENT!

2304 SPRINGS ROAD • HICKORY



Vendor
Registration
will be **ONLINE** (no
in person) at
www.sslcms.org
this year.
Registration
begins at **8:00am**
Tuesday, Sept 8.

RINGERS and SINGERS NEEDED and INVITED!
Do you have experience singing in choirs? Ringing in handbell
teams? You are needed!

 **Handbell
Choir** & **Parish
Choir** 

Practices begin THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

	<u>Handbells</u> Thursdays 5:45pm-6:45pm	<u>Parish Choir</u> Thursdays 7:00pm-8:00pm	
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Contact Robert Smith rsmith@sslcms.org for more information.

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!

God has created us to live in a relationship with one another and we believe that life always happens in the context of relationships. So if you are looking for a community to help you grow in your faith? A place to be real? A group to belong? Then LifeGroups is it; it's where friends become family!

Kickoff Lifegroup Fellowship Meal

As we kick off LifeGroups this fall, all LifeGroup participants are invited to the fellowship hall on **Tuesday, September 1, at 6:00 PM** for food and fellowship. The church will be providing the drinks and main dish (Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q). Please bring side dishes and desserts. To help us know how many to set up for, please RSVP by calling the church office or signing up on the website/app: (sslcms.org/LGmeal).

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!



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



QUILTERS

Wednesday,
Sep. 2
9am - 3pm
(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**We need conversational partners
to help ESL students improve
their English.**

**Thursdays - 5pm-7pm
Sept. 17 - Nov. 5
at St. Andrew Lutheran**



Volunteers do not need to speak Spanish.

For more information contact: Jane Guelzow 828-638-7005

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

BACK THE



BLUE

All law enforcement are
invited join the students, parents
and staff of St. Stephens Lutheran
School for breakfast on:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16
7:30AM-8:10AM

PLEDGE AND PRAYER
8:15AM

You Name It!

Our new building needs room names—and we want YOUR ideas! What should we call our new spaces?

Send your suggestions to the church office by email at communications@sslcms.org by September 6.



A



B



C

**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.



Today's Readings

Jeremiah 15:15-21

15 O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. 16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. 17 I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? 19 Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. 20 And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. 21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Romans 12:9-21

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

Never be conceited. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If

possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." 24Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? 27For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL BOARD

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

KAILYNNE WOOD, Navy - in the Strait of Hormuz, niece of Kelli Butler

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

CHESTER BERRY FRIENDS & FAMILY. He was called to glory on

August 20, friend of Lee London

DAVID PAYNE FAMILY. He passed away unexpectedly this week. David was the uncle of Kennedy Maynard & Haven Yelton.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

BOB & LINDA CARNEY

RALPH CAZIRE

CASSIE DEAL

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

SHARON SCRONCE

ALLEN & AUNDREA SIGMON FAMILY

JEREMIE & JULIE BOLICK

SANDRA TURNER

ROSE DRAKE

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

DARREN & AMY CROUCH who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on September 1.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow

JOYCE MCCARTY, grandmother of Adam Wilson

ANN BOWMAN

UPCOMING SURGERIES, TESTS, or RESULTS

BRIAN BOMAN, additional cataract surgery 9/8

DIANE SLIVENSKY, upcoming heart surgery 9/23 FRMC

RHYNE MAYNARD, upcoming heart MRI at Duke

DAVID BENEDICT, surgery, father-in-law of Seana Benedict

MARISA BENEDICT, testing, sister-in-law of Seana Benedict

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

PAULA SPENCER, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst

ZACHARY, cancer, former student of Janet VonDohn

CAROL EWALD, dementia

DAVE KRYDER, stage 4 cancer

RECOVERING

GINNY QUINLAN, at home recovering from knee surgery/infections

REGGIE CRAIG, health issues

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

LINDA TILLEY, recovering from a fall

CHRIS HALLE, recovering at home from liver transplant, nephew-in-law of Betty Flowers

SCOTT CARPENTER, recovering at home, brother of Kevin

MYRNA BOMAN, home recovering from knee replacement

BRIAN BOMAN, home recovering from cataract surgery

DAVID PROPST, home recovering from surgery (pacemaker)