

**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 8 & 9, 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 most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; 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 Darin & Karen Shook in honor and celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary on August 7 and Karen's birthday on August 5th.

Greeters

August 8th- Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
August 9th 8AM- Judy Gurganious
August 9th 10:30- Teri Cain

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

Communion Assistants

August 9 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren
August 16 - 8:00am - Tony Spencer & David Rittenhouse

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

August 9 - Betsy & Lila Hendricks August 16 - Teresa Ritchie

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 503 (82, 102, 319) Sunday School - 123
General Fund: \$23,367.84 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,654.37
School Endowment Fund: \$825.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,879,096.92

**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

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

MONDAY

9:00am - Lighthouse (Pastor Guelzow) - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

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

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

4:00pm - Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) - M & M Bible Study #107

1:00pm - Elizabeth Circle - Conference Room

5:30pm - Elders - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

6:30pm - SSLS Parent Orientation (NO Students)

FRIDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00-3:00pm- SSLS Open House for Students

2:00pm - Life Group - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth Modular

SATURDAY

7:30am - Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting - School Cafeteria

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY - BACKPACK BLESSING

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship/Teacher Commissioning

Out Of The Office

Pastor Shea will be on vacation August 7 -14 for his sister's wedding.



Thank You

Thank you for all the many prayers for our family. It's hard to express the gratefulness we feel for all the words of comfort, cards, and phone calls we have received during this difficult season of our life. It's so uplifting to know our church family surrounds us with love to ease the loss we feel. May each one of you be blessed for your thoughtfulness.

Ricky & Nannette Cline family

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, calls, and cards. I am doing great. Thank you so much. *Robin Pappas*

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!



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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

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



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.

8/15 | 9:00-5:00 PM Outdoor Adventure Group



We're heading out to Julian Price Park for a day packed with hiking, waterfalls, and time together in God's creation. Show up ready—ready to walk, ready to jump in the water, and ready for a good day with your crew. Sign up and more information 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.

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.

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.

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.



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



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



GIFT CARD

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

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.



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

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

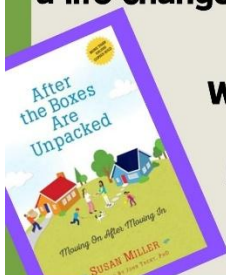
All women are invited to attend.

Rachel Circle 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

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.

Today's Readings

Job 38:4-18

4[The Lord said to Job:] "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding, 5Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8"Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, 9when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, 10and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, 11and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed?' 12"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, 13that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? 14It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. 15From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. 16"Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? 17Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? 18Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this."

Romans 10:5-17

5Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. 6But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7or "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Matthew 14:22-33

22Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. 25And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. 27But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 28And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

PARISH CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM

SALEM 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

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DEREK SMITH FAMILY & FRIENDS. Derek was called to glory, friend of Cindy Johnson.

ABBIE SETZER FAMILY & FRIENDS. Abbie passed away, friend of Doug Gilbert.

ROBIN DOYLE FAMILY & FRIENDS. Robin was called to glory.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

GARNER SETTLEMYRE

BETTY SIGMON

KAY WEAVER

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

TOM & KRISTY SMITH

ERIC & NICOLE FISHER

JOHN & CECILIA OLSON FAMILY

CORY & CANDICE GURGANIOUS FAMILY

CLARK NORRIS

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

DARIN & KAREN SHOOK who celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary on August 7.

DAVID & HELEN JANISKO who celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on August 10.

RICK & SHEILA POOVEY who celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on August 11.

The baptism of **BECKLEE CAROLINE ECKARD**, on August 9. Becklee is the daughter of David & Jennifer.

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

SHERRY CRAIG, upcoming test in Winston

LINDA BRISTOW, cataract surgery

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

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

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 (John), recovering from stroke, Indiana

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

LARRY BOWMAN, home recovering from back surgery