

**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 September 19 & 20, 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---Ephesians---Creation Room
New Members - Led by the Pastors-----New Conference Room

Prayer on Entering

Heavenly Father, You have not dealt with us in the way we deserve but in mercy, giving Your only Son into our death and raising Him to deliver us to everlasting life. Help us to know the riches of Your grace that we may not begrudge You, Your exceeding generosity, but depend upon it for our salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

September 19 - Cathy Drum & Brenda Little
September 20 - 8AM- Pat Wilson
September 20 - 10:30- April Bell & Teri Cain

September 26 - Linda McNeely
September 27 - 8AM- Gregg & Vickie Fletcher
September 27 - 10:30- Michael & Katie Vaughn

Communion Assistants

September 20 - 8:00am - Todd Little & Ralph Mueller
September 27 - 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

September 20 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix September 27 - Teresa Ritchie

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 578 (100, 118, 360) NO Sunday School
General Fund: \$27,469.45 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,552.00
School Endowment Fund: \$100.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,971,031.49

**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

3:00-6:00pm – Pickle Ball – Gym

6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – New Conference Room

MONDAY

9:00am – Lifelight (Pastor Guelzow) – 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) – New Conference Room

5:00pm – Church Council – Church Office Conference Room

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Women's Bible Study – Creation Room

10:30am – Rachel Circle

6:00pm – After the Boxes – Creation Room

6:30pm – Life Group (Paul Miller) Youth Modular

THURSDAY

10:30am – Life Group (Larry Bowman) New Conference Room

NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:30pm – Want To Have Dinner – New Fellowship Hall

5:45pm – Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

7:00pm – Life Group (Richard Starnes) New Conference Room

7:00pm – Parish Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

FRIDAY

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

2:00pm – Life Group – David Rittenhouse's home

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth Modular

SATURDAY

9:00am – Walk for Life – Pregnancy Care Center

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship

10:30am – Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00-1:00pm – Confirmation Check In – Sanctuary

12:00-5:00pm – Youth Service Opportunity – Youth Modular

3:00-6:00pm – Pickle Ball - Gym

6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – New Conference Room



For over 40 years, Pregnancy Care Center of Hickory has been serving the women of the community and upholding the sanctity of human life through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. The cost for a woman to complete the program is \$1,200. This year's **Walk for Life** goal is to fund life-affirming services for 40 women. You can help reach this goal by joining Team "WOOF" and walking with us on Saturday, September 26 @ 9:00 am at the Pregnancy Care Center of Hickory. All money given in support of PCC Hickory will be matched by the Comfort Dog Ministry. See a Comfort Dog representative in the narthex to get more information or click on the QR code to register.

Can't walk? Consider making a donation to benefit our walkers. Let's see how many of those 40 women we can support!



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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

9/27 | 12:00-1:00 PM | Confirmation Check-in



Confirmation students and their families will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. We'll check in, answer any questions, and make sure everyone is on track as we continue through Confirmation together.

9/27 | 12:00-5:00 PM Service Opportunity



Fuel up, grab your gear, and let's get after it! One crew will give The Youth House a fresh coat of paint while the other heads back into the community to finish replacing deck boards. Bring your energy, get your hands dirty, and let's serve together!

10/3 | 6:00-10:30 PM | Lake Hickory Haunts



Who's brave enough to go first? We're heading out for a night of haunted attractions, ridiculous reactions, and plenty of laughs. Bring a friend and find out who's fearless—and who's hiding behind everyone else! Sign up & get more info at sslcms.org/youth.

10/11 | 12:00-3:00 PM | Mall Rats



Calling all middle schoolers! Join us as we kick things off at The Youth House with lunch and continue our Fruit of the Spirit discussion with Joy & Peace. Then we're heading to the mall to hang out, roam around, and have some fun.

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.

PICKLEBALL RESUMES

SUNDAYS

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



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, September 24 at 5:30pm
in the Mission and Ministry Center.

Enjoy a meal (lasagna) and fellowship with others.
No charge, but a freewill offering is accepted.

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

LWML Foothills Zone Rally

Oct. 11 - 3-5pm

St. Stephens Lutheran Church - New Fellowship Hall

**Speaker: Pastor Peter Frank will
share his experiences in Israel**

RSVP by Oct. 4 to lwmlpresident@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!

New Ministry Opportunity

The Elders are seeking lay volunteers from St. Stephens to care for the congregation, helping ensure every member feels known, encouraged, and connected in Christ. Through prayer, listening, personal contact, calls, and/or compassionate follow-up, these lay volunteers share Christ's love in practical and faithful ways. If you would like to learn more or if you are interested in being considered to serve in this way please, please speak with an elder, contact the church office, or email Tony Spencer at Tony.Spencer58@gmail.com.



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 AND SCHOOL

ROOTED IN CHRIST

COLLECTION

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM —
COLOSSIANS 2:7

20%
OF EVERY
PURCHASE GOES
BACK TO
ST. STEPHENS!

STORE DATES
SEPTEMBER 10-27

FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY

SCAN TO SHOP!

open house

**MONDAY, SEPT 21
6PM**

- Tour the campus
- Meet our students
- Ask questions
- Learn about UCHS
- Current & Future high schoolers welcome!

More information at
www.uchigh.com

***only a few spots remain for
26-27 school year**

Register Here



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FALL FESTIVAL



and

**Mission & Ministry
Building celebration**

Sunday, October 18, 2026
following the 10:30 worship

- Main meal BBQ (please bring a side to share)
- Children's activities
- Crafts
- Outdoor games
- and more!



**Our church and school families are
invited to join together for a time of
fun and fellowship.**

Today's Readings

Isaiah 55:6-9

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Philippians 1:12-14; 19-30

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. 27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.

10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ALASKA MISSION TEAM

MOUNTSIDE 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

JESSICA & GARRY BUTLER FAMILY. Jessica's mother, Jeanna Clark, was called to glory on September 14.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

THELMA HUFFMAN

MARTHA KILLIAN

HAZEL LOVELACE

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

DAVID & DIANE GUELZOW

SEAN & WENDY HOVIS FAMILY

BARBARA HUFFMAN

BRAD & DONNA KILLIAN FAMILY

JIM LANE

HOPITALIZED

GINNY QUINLAN, FRMC

TIM HEFNER, FRMC, triple bypass surgery

SAMMY NEUBAUER, pneumonia & liver disease, nephew of Tom & Kristy Smith

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow

JOYCE MCCARTY, grandmother of Adam Wilson

FRANK WELLS, friend of Paul & Annette Miller

GIL BRAUCH, Hospice House Robinson Road

UPCOMING SURGERIES, TESTS, or RESULTS

DIANE SLIVENSKY, upcoming heart surgery 9/23 FRMC

RHYNE MAYNARD, upcoming heart MRI at Duke

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

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

PAULA SPENCER, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst

ZACHARY, cancer, former student of Janet VonDohlen

CAROL EWALD, dementia

DAVE KRYDER, stage 4 cancer

JEFF KUYKENDALL, cancer

MARC SIGMON, cancer treatments, friend of David & Jennifer Eckard

TONY BUMGARNER, cancer, brother of Sheila Poovey

PAT SEALE, oral cancer

CHRISTA RISSER, cancer, mother of Heidi Beliveau

MARC, brain cancer, friend of David Eckard

RALPH CASSANO, bladder & bone cancer, family friend of Kristy Smith

RECOVERING

REGGIE CRAIG, health issues

THETTA LAFONE, home recovering, health issues

MARC HJERPE, health issues, friend of Coach Mike Davis

LYNN TEETERS, health issues

LINDA TILLEY, recovering from a fall

ERIC KILLIAN, health issues, stepson of Karen Killian

TERESA PHILLIPS, recovering from broken shoulder/heart cath

SANDRA WALKER, health issues/rehab, sister-in-law of Betty Flowers

KATHY BOLCH, severe eye issues, sister of Sherry Craig

KELLI BROWN, recovering from shoulder surgery

A FAMILY MEMBER OF Jill and Charlie Long, health issues

JERRY RITCHIE, recovering from a fall

STEPHANIE, double mastectomy, friend of Miriam Mecimore

JESSICA MANUEL, recovering from torn bicep surgery, daughter of Mike &

Diane Davis