

**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 5 & 6, 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

Heavenly Father, You revealed Your gracious love through Your Son, Jesus Christ, and invite all who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest. Grant us childlike faith to trust in Christ alone for our salvation, so that we may find peace for our souls; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

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

September 12 - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
September 13 - 8am- Judy Gurganious
September 13 - 10:30am- Eric & Nikki Fisher

Communion Assistants

September 6 - 8:00am - Steve Cain & Dave Pingel
September 13 - 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

September 6 - Sheila Poovey September 13 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 601 (93, 119, 389) Sunday School - 199
General Fund: \$21,736.31 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$2,713.40
School Endowment Fund: \$250.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$3,916,595.37

**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

MONDAY - SCHOOL & OFFICES CLOSED - LABOR DAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

2:00-8:00pm - Youth - County Fair

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

TUESDAY

1:00pm - Elizabeth Circle - Old Conference Room

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

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

5:30pm - Elders - New Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am - Women's Bible Study - New Bible Study #107

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

THURSDAY

10:00Am - Life Group (Larry Bowman) New Conference Room

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

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

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth Modular

SATURDAY

11:30am - LWML Quarterly Meeting - New Fellowship Hall

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

6:30pm - Ministry Fair - Gym

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - 1:00pm - Ministry Fair - Gym

10:30am - Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball - Gym

5:00-8:00pm - Youth Bible Study & Fellowship - Youth Modular

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

You Name It!

We'd love your ideas! Please keep suggestions focused on **Biblical and historical** names, words, or themes rather than names of individuals.

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.



The image shows three different interior spaces of a new building, each labeled with a letter in a white box. Space A is a large conference room with a long white table and blue chairs. Space B is a lounge area with a grey sectional sofa, a coffee table, and a fireplace. Space C is a meeting room with a long wooden table and blue chairs.



Pregnancy Care Center

Walk For Life

LOVE LIFE, CHOOSE LIFE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

REGISTER & DONATE HERE




join team "WOOF"

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 monies 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!



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



YOUNG FAMILIES GATHERING

Get Connected - Grow your Village

Wednesday, September 16 @ 6pm
(in Mission & Ministry Fellowship Hall)

Families with infants and toddlers up to age 3, join us for a
casual meal, fellowship and family centered discussion.

RSVP by Sept. 11 to Kristy Smith at ksmith@sslcms.org



*Kids return to school, temperatures cool (we hope!)
 Fall is in the air!
 If you'd like to grow and help Jesus sow
 Come to the Ministry Fair!*

The weekend of September 12 and 13 is your opportunity to come and see and get connected to the many ministries offered through St. Stephens. While worshipping together is central to who we are as a church family, serving is also an important aspect of living like Jesus.

Visit the ministry fair following worship on Saturday, September 12th, or during the Bible hour (9:15 to 10:15 with snacks) and following the 10:30 service on Sunday morning, September 13th to learn more about the people and the purpose behind our many programs and ministries. Ask questions, discover connection and prayerfully consider offering your time and talents.

*Service doesn't end when we say, "Amen!"
 Service continues with "Go in peace, and serve the Lord!"
 We are called to love and share.
 Make a plan now to come see who, what and how?
 Come to the Ministry Fair!*

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

Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

Mark Your Calendars!

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!

9/18-20 | Family Weekend @ Camp Linn Haven

Come enjoy the beauty of God's creation at Camp Linn-Haven! Slow down, explore the outdoors, make family memories, and celebrate the blessing of being part of God's family in Christ. Want to join us for the weekend or just for the day? Contact Randall!

9/27 | 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!

Want to Get Connected?

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



LWML Rada Knives

LWML Fundraiser
is selling

RADA CUTLERY

online

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

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 offerings accepted.

To plan accordingly, please RSVP to Kristy at ksmith@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**



Handbells
Thursdays
5:45pm-6:45pm

Parish Choir
Thursdays
7:00pm-8:00pm



Contact Robert Smith rsmith@sslcms.org for more information.

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

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!

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

Today's Readings

Zechariah 9:9-12

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. 10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Romans 7:14-25

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Matthew 11:25-30

25 At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

YOUNG ADULTS

AUGUSTANA 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

ANN BOWMAN FAMILY (Marty & Kelly Killian/Joe & Jackie Bowman).

Ann was called to glory on August 29.

FAMILY OF JO ANN MEEKS (Mother of Sue Seabock). Jo Ann was called to glory on September 2.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARGARET DEAL

BECKY ECKARD

CAROLYN GARREN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

KEVIN & LYNNE CARPENTER FAMILY

ERVIN BOLICK

GIL & ANNIE BRAUCH

TOMMY & JUDY CAMPBELL

MARK & KIM CLINE

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

ELAYNE LAMBRECHTS, mother of Deanna Dickinson

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

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 VonDohln

CAROL EWALD, dementia

DAVE KRYDER, stage 4 cancer

JEFF KUYKENDALL, cancer

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

RECOVERING

GINNY QUINLAN, at home recovering from knee surgery/infections

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

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)

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

ERIC KILLIAN, health issues, stepson of Karen Killian

TERESA PHILLIPS, broken shoulder