

**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.sslwarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor

David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor + Tristan Jones, Vicar

Ross Chiles, 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 Gurganian, 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

Joining Jesus on His Mission

January 10 & 11. 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-----2 Peter-----School Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz-----Bible Lessons-----Choir Room
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina Propst-----"Is God Speaking to Me?" -----Parlor
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109

Prayer on Entering

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children, as everyday missionaries, and as inheritors of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

January 10th- Brent & Donna Townsend

January 11th 8am- Judy Gurganious

January 11th 10:30am- Teri Cain

January 17th- Keith & Sue Binns

January 18th 8am - Pat Wilson

January 18th 10:30am -- Brittany Wesson

Communion Assistants

January 11 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

January 18 8:00am - James Fogle & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

January 11 - Cynthia Hewitt January 18 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 485 (68, 106, 311) Sunday School - 135

General Fund: \$17,646.00 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,811.60

School Endowment Fund: \$710.00

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

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,351,839.46

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$1,792,144.75

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

12:00pm-6:00pm - Jr. & Sr. High Youth - Cliffhangers Climbing

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

6:00pm Lifegroup (Dwight Hollar) - conference Room

MONDAY

9:00am - Lifelight - Pastor Guelzow - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

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

TUESDAY

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Parlor

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm - Elders

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am - Women's Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth House

6:00pm Lifegroup (Paul Miller) - Youth House

THURSDAY

10:30am - Lifegroup - (Larry Bowman) - Conference Room

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm - Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

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

7:00pm - Lifegroup - (Richard Starnes) - Parlor

FRIDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry - Youth House

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth House

SATURDAY

7:30am - LLL Breakfast & Meeting - Fellowship Hall

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship

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

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

5:00-8:00pm - Jr. & Sr. High Hangtime - Youth House

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

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



Senior Session

Wednesday, January 28
1:00pm
in Conference Room

RSVP to Kristy Smith ksmith@sslcms.org by Friday, Jan. 23

Providing a focal point for aging resources, as well as opportunities designed to extend independent living and enrich the quality of life for older adults.

Presenter: Vickie Blevins, Executive Director

Honor and
Remember with
**ALTAR
FLOWERS**

The 2026 Flower chart is available
for weekend signups on the bulletin
board in the narthex.



Youth News

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study (9:15 am):

- Middle School (The Youth House side "B")
- High School (The Youth House side "A")

Mark Your Calendars!

1/11 | 12:00-6:00 PM Cliffhangers Climbing

We're heading to Cliffhangers for an afternoon of climbing and fellowship! Whether you're a first-time climber or a pro, this is a great opportunity to challenge yourself, have fun, and spend time with friends. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

1/18 | 12:00-1:00 PM Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. This is a chance to reflect on learning so far, ask questions, and stay connected as we continue this faith journey together.

1/18 | 5:00-8:00 PM Middle & High School Hang Time

We continue our **You Live It** devotional series with another evening of food, connection, and faith-filled discussion in the Youth House. Each week builds on the last, helping students see how faith is lived out daily.

1/23-1/24 Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation students are invited to a weekend focused on faith, relationships, and community. This retreat is for all Confirmation students, including those exempt from first-year Confirmation. Sign up and more information at:

www.sslcms.org/youth

1/25 | 2:30-9:00 PM Winter Jam 2026

Join us for an unforgettable night of powerful Christian music, faith, and friends as we head to Winter Jam '26! This high-energy experience is one you won't want to miss. Sign up and more information at: www.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 for all the latest.



Join us for an evening at Narroway
Christian Dinner Theater,
Fort Mill, SC

Wanna Go?

Sunday, March 29

5:00pm

(bus leaves SSLC at 3pm)

A deposit of
\$25 is
required to
reserve your
seat.

Cost: \$75
(Ticket, dinner, & transportation)

RSVP by Feb. 28 to Kristy at
ksmith@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

Thank You

Dear Members of St. Stephens, It is with a full heart of gratitude that I would like to thank you for the amazing outpouring of love and support your congregation has displayed over the past two years. You truly have extended your Christian love and fellowship over the miles in support of our family.

It has blessed my/our mother and me to have had your prayer support, notes, cards and encouragement of my brother, Dave, to visit as he has. Your sweet spirit of love for your Pastor truly blessed our mom, me, our whole family and the caregivers of her home. May God bless you all.

In Him,

Ellen Ziehr Lange & Family



St. Stephens Lutheran School News

Excellence in Education since 1943

Make A Joyful Noise (Psalm 98:4)

School Board Members - Scott Clontz, Chairman, Erica Moretz, David Janisko, Kim Yancey, and Shawn Sigmon

The advertisement for St. Stephens Lutheran Church and School features a blue header with a snowflake border. On the left, a photo shows a boy in a pink shirt writing at a desk. Below it, text reads 'NC OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTED HERE'. In the center, a yellow box promotes a 'Winter Open House' for parents on Thursday, January 22, 6:30pm, for Preschool - 8th grade, with a RSVP phone number. To the right, a photo shows students holding flags. The bottom right features a photo of students raising their hands, with text about providing a Christian education for over 80 years. The bottom left contains contact information: School Office: (828) 256-2166, Website: www.ssllwarriors.org, and Email: school@sslcms.org.

JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

JAN 19 MLK DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED

JAN 22 SSLS OPEN HOUSE 6:30 PM

JAN 23 WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY

JAN 26-30 BETA CLUB
SNOWBALL FUNDRAISER

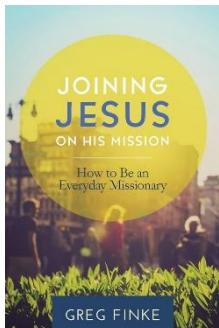
JAN 30 SPELLING BEE 1:30 PM
SSLS WINTER DANCE 6:30 PM

**Please Pray for the
SED Group that's serving Ethiopia
January 7-20**

- 1. Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon** - President, Southeastern District LCMS; Theologian on Biblical Vocation
- 2. Rev. David Ziehr** - Vice President, Southeastern District LCMS; Expert in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
- 3. Dr. Craig Olson** - Business Leader and Educational Consultant
- 4. Rebeka Cook** - Senior Coach and Consultant in Vocational Development
- 5. Rev. Phil Cook** - Missionary Pastor and Engineer
- 6. Max Harmon** - Director of Early Christian Education and Leadership
- 7. Rev. David Maack** - Executive Director of Social and Community Services
- 8. Deacon David Grandt** - Congregational Outreach Leadership Practitioner
- 9. Rev. Dr. Yared Halche** - Vocational Mission Leadership and Engagement Facilitator

The mission and vision of the Southeastern District is to connect people with Jesus so that lives are transformed and God's Kingdom grows!

Joining Jesus On His Mission



As we step into 2026, we embark on a shared journey of everyday mission. This January, we will be using *“Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary”* by LCMS pastor Greg Finke. This engaging and practical book (along with video bible studies) will help us discover what it means to join Jesus in the places we already live, learn, work, and play.

Jesus is already at work in the lives of people around us—neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends, and even strangers. Our calling is not to “add more to our plates,” but to recognize and join the mission He’s already carrying out. This is what it means to live out our **Core Values**:

- **We are Disciple-Makers** – The practice of everyday mission helps us grow in faith and nurture the faith of others.
- **We are Everyday Missionaries** – We believe we are called to connect people with Jesus exactly where we live, learn, work, and play.
- **We are Servant Leaders** – Jesus leads by serving; joining Him means loving and serving our neighbors in practical, real ways.
- **We are Kingdom-Driven** – Jesus is the heart of everything we do. As we follow Him, we seek His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Imagine what God can do as each of us joins Jesus right where we are! Over the coming months, we’ll explore practical ways to recognize His work and participate in it with joy. Whether at the dinner table, on the ball field, in the classroom, or at the office, Jesus is already on mission. He’s inviting you to join Him.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9

42 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6 “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8 I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Romans 6:1-11

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death

like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT MISSION TRIP TO ETHIOPIA

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH in Hickory, NC

OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

SAM NEUBAUER, life challenges, nephew of Kristy Smith

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DAVID & JENNIFER ECKARD FAMILY. His father, Robert, was called to glory on January 4.

ALEX & EMILY RECTOR & GARY & KIM PRUITT FAMILIES. Emily's father/Gary's brother, Alan Pruitt, was called to glory on January 2.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

ALLEN BOLICK

ERVIN BOLICK

ANN BOWMAN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

TOM & DORIS GOFF FAMILY

ALAN & KIM YANCEY

LAVONNE GOLDEN

TOM & JENNIFER GOTTFAMILY

TIM HEFNER FAMILY

HOSPICE CARE

PATSY BURGESS, friend of Ronda Reid

HOSPITALIZED

ALLEN CROWE, CVMC

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

TIFFANI TRAVIS, gallbladder 1/13

CINDY BRINN, eye surgery 1/14

DIANE MAYNOR, heart ablation 1/14

STEVE CAIN, hip replacement 1/21

LISA DAVIS, upcoming cancer surgery, friend of Mark & Kim Bolick

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

SHERRY NORRIS, breast cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

SHARON JONES

SALLY RADER, treatment for mold/autoimmune illness

GERRY HOEKZEMA, cancer, friend of Larry Bowman

JA'NEICE DAVIS, cancer, neighbor of David & Martha Propst

EARL WYATT, liver cancer, uncle of Chris Wyatt

RECOVERING

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

JOE BURNS, health issues/upcoming surgery in January on veins in his arms, grandson of Helen Suttemyre

PAM SIGMON, health issues

JACK ROBERTS, College Pines rehab/broken hip, husband of Dana

ALLEN CROWE, recovering from knee surgery

MIKE BENSON, health issues, brother of Melissa Mace

RUBY HALL, home recovering

LARRY HARRIS - Uncle of Angie Poovey, health issues

ANNA-GRACE DOVER, home recovering from spinal fusion surgery

KAREN SHADE, home recovering from surgery

PAT FREDELL, pneumonia

JERRY FISHER, health issues

SHELBY PENNINGTON, biopsy, ovarian cancer

DAVID DAY, heart ablation

JERRY RITCHIE, health issues

DENNIS COMBS, colitis, son of Bobbie Flowers

MIKE DRUM, heart issues

THE BELL FAMILY, health issues, friends of Betsy Hendrix