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 + 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 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 of Pentecost

October 11 & 12, 2025

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 <u>print</u> 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 RoomMartha
Propst, Jane Guelzow, Sue Seabock & Cynthia Hewitt
Kid Connect/ Grades 1 & 2:Ed Wing #222 Andrea Trent
Kid Connect/ Grades 3-5:Ed Wing #220Teresa Ritchie
Jr. High Life Group: Led by Randall & Shannon ClineYouth House
Sr. High Life Group: Darel Reese & Jon GuelzowYouth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton PowellPeace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/VicarScriptureFellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar2 PeterSchool Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie ClontzBible LessonsChoir Room
Adults: Led by Dean LedbetterPsalmSchool Bldg. Room #109
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina PropstThe Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the
Midst of Endless Demands by Lisa TerkeurstParlor
New Member ClassConference Room

Prayer on Entering

Almighty God, You show mercy to Your people in all their troubles. Grant us always to recognize Your goodness, give thanks for Your compassion, and praise Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God by David & Sandra McCrary in honor of their 33rd wedding anniversary on October 10 and in celebration of their granddaughter's, Annie Bolling, baptism on October 12.

Greeters

October 11th - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt October 12th - 8am- Allen Crowe

October 12th - 10:30am- Tim & Tonya Boliek

October 18th - Cathy Drum & Brenda Little October 19th 8am - Jason & Faye Honeycutt

October 19th 10:30am - Phillip & Sarah Starnes; JP Nelson

Communion Assistants

October 12 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent & Eddie Warren

October 19 8:00am - James Fogle & Cory Westby

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

October 12 - Amy Crouch October 19 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 509 (73, 103, 333) Sunday School - 160 General Fund: \$35,249.99 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$5,950.24

School Endowment Fund: \$810.00

Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,093,579.41

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$862,390.38





- Youth vs. Adult Kickball Tournament
- Food
- Autumn Art & Crafts
- and many more!









We invite our Church and School families to come together for fun and fellowship.



Who gets to hoist the trophy this year?



YOUTHvs
Adults
Kickball Game

Adults - 2 Youth - 4 Sunday, October 26 12pm-3pm



Saturday, October 18 9am-12pm



COME CLEAN YOUR PEW (AND MORE)

- Bring your rubber gloves, buckets, rags, dusters and vacuum cleaners
- We WILL provide cleaning solutions.
- · Snacks and drinks available.
- Any and ALL help is greatly appreciated.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 16 - 11:30am

Town Hall meeting: Monday, November 10 at 5:30pm

Agenda: 2026 Budget & Goals

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")

10/12 7p-11p Lake Hickory Haunts

Join us for a thrilling night at Lake Hickory Haunts! Bring your friends for an evening of frights and fellowship as we experience one of the area's top haunted attractions together. Sign up and more information can be found @ www.sslcms.org/youth

10/19 12-3p Middle School Hang Time

Relax, refuel, and reconnect with food, friends, and faith-filled discussion in The Youth House! We'll dive into our series U Matter, because your life, your faith, and you matter to God.

10/19 5-8p High School Hang Time

Relax, refuel, and reconnect with food, friends, and faith-filled discussion in The Youth House! We'll dive into our series U Matter, because your life, your faith, and you matter to God.

10/26 12-3p Youth vs. Parents Kickball Classic Stick around after service for a cookout and the epic showdown: Youth vs. Parents in the Kickball Classic! Will the Parents finally reclaim the trophy, or will the Youth hold their championship title?

10/31-11/2 SED High School Gathering

High school students are invited to join us at Watermarks Camp for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and fun around the theme "No Other Name." More information @ sslcms.org/youth

11/9 12p-1p Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately after the 10:30 am worship service for the Confirmation Unit Check-in.

Looking to serve or want to learn more about Youth Ministry? Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.

St. Stephens Lutheran School News

Excellence in Education since 1943

Make A Joyful Noise

(Psalm 98:4)

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

GENIUS HOUR PROJECTS: Our 7th and 8th graders are diving into their Genius Hur projects and would love some advice from real-world experts. Would you be open to answering a few questions from students, either by email or in a short interview? If so, please contact Kelli Butler at Kbutler@sslcms.org for details. We are looking for experts in the following fields...Acting, Marine Biology, Strongest Bridges, Devotional Book, Art, Baseball Gear, Organization, Photography and Forensics.



Help With Bereavement Meals

If you are not a member of Lutheran Women in Mission and would like to help provide funeral meals when we need extra food, please contact Pat Wilson or send an email to lwml.gresident@sslcms.org. You may also contribute financially to the LWML bereavement meal fund to help cover the costs by marking your donation to LWML funeral meals.

LWML Foothills Zone Rally

The Foothills Zone Rally will be held October 19th, 2025 at Augustana, from 3-5 pm. Gifts from the Heart will be monetary donations for Sipe's Orchard Home. The program will be presented by Sipe's Orchard Home as well. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with other LWML members in our zone.

Quilters Need Knot Tiers

Quilters are looking for a couple of "mission minded" persons to tie knots for an hour or so a month. No sewing skills needed. We especially need quilters between 11:00am and 1:00pm the first Wednesday of each month. Your efforts will bring warmth and joy to a number of people. Are you interested? Contact Regina Propst (828) 244-0305 or Lenora Isenhour (828) 308-5231.

Thank You

We would like to thank all those who were involved in any way with the service for Bruce Clontz. Special thank you to the pastors, Robert Smith, and the Mary Circle for providing a delicious meal and comfort too. We are so blessed

The Clontz Family



Water Bottle Drive

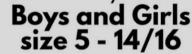
We will be collecting gently used or unwanted water bottles for Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries for the month of October.

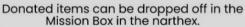


Water bottles can be placed in the Mission Box in the narthex.

Sock & Underwear Drive

Donate NEW socks and underwear for a local elementary school









Wanna Go?

Tuesday, Dec. 9 6:30pm

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

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

A deposit of \$25 is required to reserve your seat. RSVP by Nov. 20 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



Children's Christmas Service Saturday, Dec 20 5:30pm

We have begun preparing! Don't miss out on a chance to be a part of this special worship service.

Opportunities for musicians, singers, readers, & ushers. All ages welcome. Register and receive a worship t-shirt!



Out of the Office

Pastor Shea is on vacation - Oct 13-16 Sharon Maynor is on vacation - October 14-18 Jadi Gurganious is on vacation - October 23-26 Tiffany Sigmon is on vacation - October 15-17

Mission Team Meeting

You are invited to our upcoming Mission meeting on Sunday, October 12 at 12pm in the Conference Room. This will be an opportunity to learn more about current mission opportunities (Alaska, Backpack Outreach, etc.) and how to get involved and discuss new service opportunities for you to make a difference by spreading the love of Jesus. For more information, contact Jadi Gurganious at 828-234-9236 or jgurganious@sslcms.org

Operation Christmas Child

LWML members are asking you to choose a box or boxes and fill with appropriate gift items to be shared with children around the world. This may be the only gift many of these children will receive. More importantly, this gift will give missionaries an opportunity to tell children about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

BOXES MUST BE RETURNED BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH.

Staff Anniversaries

Amber Boston (Music Teacher - 5 years); Glenda Setzer (5 years - Preschool Helper); Devon Payne (Teacher - 5 years); Kristin Priola (Teacher - 10 years); Natasha Whitaker (Teacher - 15 years); Bethany Kahill (PS Helper - 30 years); Debra Anderson (PS Teacher - 25 years); Jadi Gurganious (Mission Facilitator - 25 years); Pastor Ziehr (20 years)

Celebrate the Church workers of St. Stephens Lutheran



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL.1:3).

With this same gratitude, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

For all church workers, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ.

Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!

Some ways to thank a Church Worker

- <u>Thanks</u>. Send a "thank you" card or note.
- Prayer. Your church workers need prayer.
- <u>Honor</u>. Make a donation in church workers honor to a church/school mission ministry.
- Personal. Gift cards to local restaurants, store, online shopping

The staff of St. Stephens Lutheran Church and School

Deb Anderson, Fam. & Comm. Liaison

Taylor Bosley, Kindergarten

Brandon Buff, IT & Facility

Ross Chiles, Principal

Kimberly Clontz, PS teacher asst.

April Drake, Middle School Teacher

Amity Enci, Lunchroom

Kathryn Fisher, Kindergarten

Rebecca Flowers, 1st grade

Teacher Rae Fritz, Physical Education

Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator

Kelly Hooper, 4th Grade

Tristan Jones, Vicar

Lisa Killian, Cafeteria

Savannah Lee, Communications

Pam Manfredi, Cafeteria

Mary Grace Neill, 2nd grade aide

Devon Payne, 2nd grade

Sheila Poovey, Cafeteria

Glenda Setzer, Preschool

Tiffany Sigmon, Recep. & Visitor Engmnt.

Robert Smith, Trad. Music Director

Renee Stiles, Cafeteria

Jessica Wecaster, PS teacher

Adam Wilson, Maintenance

David Ziehr, Pastor

Debbi Becker, School Admin Asst.

Amber Boston, Music

Kelli Butler, Middle School Teacher

Randall Cline, Youth Ministry

David Day, Praise Team Director

Rose Drake, Cafeteria

Beverly Fagan, Morning Care

Tashia Fisher, Church Admin. Asst.

Laura Frank, Middle School

David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor

Ragan, Hayman, 3rd grade aide

Kevin Johnson, Media

Bethany Kahill, PS Teacher

Donna Lee, Children's Ministry

Karen Ly, PS teacher

Sharon Maynor, Administrator

Angela Parlier, Preschool Director

Shea Pennington, Pastor

Kristin Priola, Resource

Nora Shaver, After school

Kristy Smith, New Member Coord.

Cheryl Stiles, Middle School

Krystal Travis, Athletic Director

Natasha Whitaker, 3rd grade

Rachel Wilson, 5th grade

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

<u>SATURDAY</u>

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 - Mission Team Meeting - Conference Room

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

7:00-11:00pm - Youth - Lake Hickory Haunts

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 - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am - Woman's Bible Study - Youth House

1:00pm - Building Committee Meeting - Conference Room

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

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

5:45pm - Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

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

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

SSLS No School - Teacher Workday

FRIDAY

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

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth House

SSI S No School - Fall Break

SATURDAY

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

9:00am - Cleaning Day - Sanctuary

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

Today's Readings

Ruth 1:1-19

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, 5 and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. 6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find rest. each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10 And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters: why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, 13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." 14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clund to her. 15 And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you." For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. 19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

2 Timothy 2:1-13

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 lt is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. 7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. 8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him: 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him: if we deny him. he also will deny us: 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithfulfor he cannot deny himself.

Luke 17:11-19

11 On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." 14 When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

LET US PRAY FOR......

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY BIBLE HOUR SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

CAROL HOWARD & FAMILY. Bill was called to glory on October 3.

GEOFF STOLL FAMILY. His father was called to glory on October 8.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARTHA KILLIAN
JEAN ROLLINS
GARNER SETTLEMYRE

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

PAM SIGMON
ERIC & GAYLE WHITE
JESSE & SONNI THORNTON FAMILY
DIANE WOODY
TINA WOOD FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **ANNIE LORETTA BOLLING**, daughter of Corey & Kristin, on October 12. Her sponsors are Caitlin Flinchum and Garrett Bolling.

LARRY & BETH BOWMAN, who celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on October 11.

DAVID & SANDRA MCCRARY, who celebrate their 33rd wedding anniversary on October 10.

CHURCH & SCHOOL WORKERS OF ST. STEPHENS, LCMS

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

HOSPITALIZED

BENJAMIN TAYLOR, kidney transplant, friend of Charlie & Jill Long **KENNETH VESPER**, hospitalized in St. Louis, UTI & bacterial blood infection, brother-in-law of David Pingel

UPCOMING TESTING/PROCEDURE

JURIS KUPRIS, open heart surgery, neighbor of Windy Pruitt **MELISSA JOHNSON**, heart condition, friend of Ben & Cheryl Simpson **JOE ISAAK**, health issues, upcoming test

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ROBYN DRUM BOLEMAN, acute leukemia

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

SHERRY NORRIS, breast cancer

JP NELSON, ISO Living Kidney Donor

ALICE MCDANIEL, breast cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

KEVIN MCCALL, cancer, son of a friend of Linda McNeely

KAITLYN FREEMAN, breast cancer, friend of Teresa Ritchie

RECOVERING

VIRGINIA CALDWELL, Heritage Care

GAYLE WHITE, broken pelvic

BRENDA CAZIRE, health issues

JERRY FISHER, health issues, husband of Tashia

KAREN SHADE, health issues

ERVIN BOLICK, recovering from a fall/compression fracture in his spine

KENNY MULL, home recovering from surgery

GARY MATHEWS, recovering at home

DAVID DAY, home recovering, internal defibrillator

KATHY MORETZ, home recovering, foot surgery

KIMBERLY TUFT, home recovering, foot surgery