

**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

LWML WEEKEND

October 4 & 5, 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 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: Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Psalm-----School Bldg. Room #109
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina Propst---*The Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the*
Midst of Endless Demands by Lisa Terkeurst-----Parlor
New Member Class-----Conference Room

Prayer on Entering

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Greeters

October 4th - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff

October 5th 8am- Pat Wilson

October 5th 10:30am- Eric & Nikki Fisher

October 11th - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt

October 12th - 8am- Allen Crowe

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

Communion Assistants

October 5 8:00am - Steve Cain & Dave Pingel

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

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

October 5 - Sheila Poovey

October 12 - Amy Crouch

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 602 (103, 137, 362) Sunday School - 165

General Fund: \$24,489.27 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,716.28

School Endowment Fund: \$95.00

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

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,087,629.17

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

Out of the Office

Pastor Ziehr, Pastor Shea, Vicar Tristan, Savannah Lee, Sandy Matthews SED
Church Workers Conference Oct. 6-8.

Ross Chiles, Kelli Butler, Rachel Wilson & April Drake are attending the SED
Educators Conference Oct. 8-10

Pastor Shea is on vacation - Oct 13-16

Sharon Maynor is on vacation - October 14-18

Jadi Gurganious is on vacation - October 23-26

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

12:00-4:00pm – Youth Servant Opportunity – Youth House

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

MONDAY

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

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

10:30am – LWML Executive Board – Pease House

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

TUESDAY

4:00pm – Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) – Parlor

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

6:00pm – Lifegroup Leader's Meeting – Youth House

WEDNESDAY

9:00am – 3:00pm – Quilters – Conference Room

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

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 Choir – Sanctuary/Choir Room

FRIDAY

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

2:00pm – Lifegroup – David Rittenhouse's

5:00 – 11:00pm – Youth – SCarowinds

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

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 – 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

2026 LCMS Convention

The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is July 18–23, 2026, in Phoenix, AZ. For Synod conventions, each congregation is represented, together with all the congregations of your electoral circuit, by a pastor of one of the congregations in the circuit and a layperson of another congregation of the circuit, both of whom are elected by the circuit (additionally, one pastor and one lay alternate are elected in case the delegates would be unable to attend).

In advance of the convention, each circuit must elect delegates by October 18. (St. Stephens is part of Circuit 17 of the Southeastern District.) Thus, on September 21, Circuit 17 met and elected our “delegates” for the 2026 convention. Here are the results:

Pastoral Delegate – Rev. Peter Frank (St. Peter’s)

Lay Delegate – Cory Westby (St. Stephens)

Alternate Pastoral Delegate – Rev. Alec Fisher (Christ)

Alternate Lay Delegate – David Daniels (Salem)

If you’re interested in learning more about the LCMS convention, see:

lcms.org/convention/national

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

**Saturday,
October 18
9am-12pm**



**CHURCH CLEANING
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- 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.



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

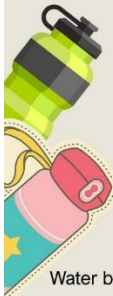
FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26, 2025
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

**SAVE
THE DATE**

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



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
Boys and Girls
size 5 - 14/16



Donated items can be dropped off in the
Mission Box 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”)

10/10 5-11p SCarowinds

Join us for a night of thrills & chills as we travel to SCarowinds for haunted houses, terrifying rides, and nonstop screams! Sign up and more information can be found @ www.sslcms.org/youth

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

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)

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

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

OCT 9	PARENT'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION 7:45AM-8:30AM GRADES K-3
OCT 10	PARENT'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION 7:45-8:30AM PRESCHOOL & GRADES 4-8
OCT 16	SCHOOL CLOSED/TEACHER WORKDAY
OCT 17	SCHOOL CLOSED FALL BREAK
OCT 23	SCHOOL PICTURE DAY
OCT 24	WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY SCHOOL HALLOWEEN DANCE AT 6:30PM



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LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Thank You

Thank you very much for your generosity in donating school supplies during July and August. The Esther circle of our LWML divided and delivered these to the following schools in our area: St. Stephens Elementary, St. Stephens Lutheran, Webb Murray Elementary, Clyde Campbell Elementary, Lyle Creek Elementary and Snow Creek Elementary. The office personnel and teachers we saw as we made the deliveries were very pleased and thankful.

LWML

Everything we do as Lutheran Women in Mission begins with Christ's Word that brings faith. In Romans 10, Paul reminds us that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, are sent to speak this Word so that others might believe, calling hearts to repentance and joyfully announcing forgiveness in Jesus' name. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we continue to support and encourage missionaries, uplift those who proclaim the Gospel, and extend the compassion of Christ to all people. It is the hearing of this Good News—the message of Christ crucified and risen—that motivates us to share His love in word and deed. All glory be to Jesus!

Join the mission today! Whether through prayer, financial support, or hands-on service, you can be part of LWML's efforts to share Christ with the world. Together, we proclaim the Good News so that all may hear and believe. Email Teresa Ritchie or Regina Propst at lwmlpresident@sslcms.org to join or for more additional information.

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

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

- **Thanks**. Send a "thank you" card or note.
- **Prayer**. Your church workers need prayer.
- **Honor**. 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

Today's Readings

Isaiah 62:1-7

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. 6 On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, 7 and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

Romans 10:11-17

11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they 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? 15 And 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! 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Luke 24:44-53

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for [a](#) the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." 50 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple blessing God.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

FINANCE & FACILITY BOARD

SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST RESPONDERS & CIVIL SERVANTS

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DANA & SUSAN HOPKINS. Susan's mother, Donna Clark, was called to glory.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

THELMA HUFFMAN

HAZEL LOVELACE

REBECCA MOFFETT

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

KEN & PAM MANFREDI

EUGENE AND LIBBY PHARR

RHYNE & DIANE MAYNARD

NICK MAYNARD & KENNEDY

CARROLL & BETTY SHOOK

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

GARY MATHEWS, CVMC

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

BILL HOWARD

UPCOMING TESTING/PROCEDURE

SHELBY PENNINGTON, upcoming test for Lupus, sister of Pastor Shea

DAVID DAY, internal defibrillator 10/8

KATHY MORETZ, foot surgery 10/8

KIMBERLY TUFT, foot surgery 10/10

JURIS KUPRIS, open heart surgery, neighbor of Windy Pruitt

MELISSA JOHNSON, heart condition, friend of Ben & Cheryl Simpson

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

GERRY HOEKZEMA, cancer, friend of Larry & Beth Bowman

WALLACE SMITH, cancer, father-in-law of Gena Watson Smith

STEVE HASTINGS, cancer, family friend of Savannah Lee

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

SCOTT CARPENTER, health issues, brother of Kevin

NICK OSTERHOUDT, recovering from knee surgery

JERRY FISHER, health issues, husband of Tashia

FAITH TUCKER, recovering at home, granddaughter of Betty Bostain

ERIC TUCKER, Afib, son of Betty Bostain

DAVID POE, home recovering from a heart procedure

KAREN SHADE, health issues

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

KENNY MULL, home recovering from surgery