

**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](http://www.sslcms.org)

School: 828-256-2166  
[www.sslswarriors.org](http://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

**Blueprint for Blessing**

**November 15 & 16, 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-Ladies: Led by Regina Propst--*Thankfulness in the Old Testament*--Parlor  
New Member Class-----Conference Room

## **Prayer on Entering**

Gracious and Holy God, when sin closed the door to Your presence, You built a way back in. Through priests and sacrifices, You revealed that holiness could only be approached through atonement. In the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, our great High Priest and spotless Lamb, who offered Himself once for all upon the cross—tearing the curtain and opening the way into Your presence forever. By His mercy, make us a royal priesthood, that our lives may be living sacrifices, bringing Your presence into every place we live, work, and serve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **Greeters**

November 15<sup>th</sup> - Judy Buff & Linda McNeely

November 16<sup>th</sup> - 8am - Judy Gurganious

November 16<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am - Tabitha Worley & Teri Cain

November 22<sup>nd</sup> - Brenda Little & Cathy Drum

November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 8am - Pat Wilson

November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

## **Communion Assistants**

November 16 8:00am - Cory Westby & Tony Spencer

November 23 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

## **Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am**

November 16 - Sheila Poovey    November 23 - Amy Crouch

## **Our Response to God Last Week**

Last Sunday's Attendance - 506 (98, 107, 301)    Sunday School -  
General Fund: \$37,272.29 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)  
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$4,235.27  
School Endowment Fund: \$510.00  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,938,489.19  
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$1,042,846.42

## **Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran**

### **SATURDAY**

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

### **SUNDAY – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – 11:45am**

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am–Contemporary Worship

12:00-4:00pm – Youth – Lunch/The Corner Table Backpack – Youth House

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

5:00-8:00pm – High School Hangtime – Youth House

6:00pm – Lifegroup (Dwight Hollar) – Conference Room

### **MONDAY**

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

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm – Esther Circle – Conference Room

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

### **TUESDAY**

8:15am – Veteran’s Breakfast followed by Chapel at 9am

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

### **WEDNESDAY**

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

6:30pm – SSLS Kindergarten Open House

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

5:00pm – Set Up For Merry Market

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

### **SATURDAY**

9:00am – 2:00pm – MERRY MARKET

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

### **SUNDAY**

8:00am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am–Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00pm – 11:00pm – Youth Operation Christmas Child

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

6:00pm – Lifegroup (Dwight Hollar) – Conference Room

# Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 16 11:30am

Agenda: 2026 Budget & Goals

## PACK A SHOEBOX

Send Good News & Great Joy Around The World



**Filled shoeboxes  
must be returned  
by November 20.**

Thanks to each of you who have chosen a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive the boxes you have prepared.

Excellence in  
Christian  
Education  
Since 1943



# ST. STEPHENS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

[www.sslswarriors.org](http://www.sslswarriors.org)

COME VISIT  
KINDERGARTEN



## OPEN HOUSE

For Parents Only

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 6:30pm

Please RSVP 828-256-2166

\*A discounted registration fee will be given to those who attend.

November 26

*Thanksgiving Eve*

10:30 am with Holy Communion

6:30 pm with Holy Communion



## Wanna Go?

Tuesday, Dec. 9

6:30pm

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

10  
tickets  
remain

Join us for an evening at Narrowway 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](mailto:ksmith@sslcms.org)

## **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!**

#### **11/16 12p-4p The Corner Table (Backpack Program)**

Grab lunch in the Youth House before helping pack food bags for local kids through The Backpack Program. It's a fun way to serve and make a difference for children in our community!

#### **11/22 8a-3p Merry Market Cafe' Fundraiser**

Have fun and spread holiday cheer, all while supporting the Youth Ministry. Funds raised go towards future Youth events and retreats.

#### **11/23 5-8p Manhunt!!!**

Relax, refuel, and reconnect with food, friends, and faith-filled discussion in The Youth House! We'll dive into our U Matter series-because your life, your faith, and you matter to God. Then get ready to run for glory in an epic night of fun and friendly competition with Manhunt!

#### **11/26 3p-11p Operation Christmas Child**

Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children around the world by processing shoebox gifts. Sign-up and more information can be found @ [www.sslcms.org/youth](http://www.sslcms.org/youth)

#### **12/7 3-9p Shop & Lights**

We're heading out for an evening of fun, friends, and festive lights! First stop, Hanes Mall for dinner and holiday shopping. Then we'll make our way to Tanglewood Park to experience the spectacular Festival of Lights. Sign-up and more information can be found @ [www.sslcms.org/youth](http://www.sslcms.org/youth)

**Looking to serve or want to learn more about Youth Ministry?**

Visit [sslcms.org/youth](http://sslcms.org/youth) for all the latest

**HELP VICAR TRISTAN LEARN HOW  
WE CAN BETTER SERVE OUR  
COMMUNITY!**

**Fill out this quick  
survey to share your  
perspective and shape  
his mission outreach  
project**



**Support our Mission team  
with FUN PASTA**

**Get ready for the family gatherings  
with pasta shapes.**

**FUN PASTA has different themes  
(sports, animals, holidays) for any  
occasion.**

**Orders can be placed at  
[www.sslcms.org/funpasta](http://www.sslcms.org/funpasta)**

**JOIN US FOR  
PICKLEBALL  
SUNDAY**

**3-4:30 PM**  
FAMILIES & BEGINNERS

**4-6 PM**  
EXPERIENCED PICKLES



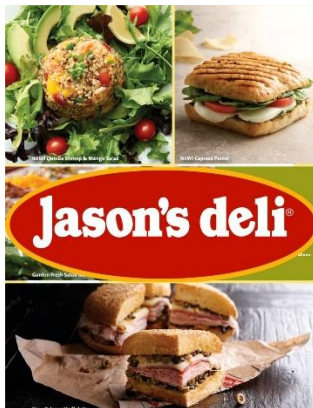
**St. Stephens Lutheran School News**  
Excellence in Education since 1943

**Make A Joyful Noise**  
(Psalm 98:4)

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

**NOVEMBER**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| NOV 19    | SSLS SPIRIT NIGHT AT<br>JASON'S DELI                    |
| NOV 20    | KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE<br>6:30 PM                      |
| NOV 21    | HICKORY CHRISTMAS PARADE AT 6 PM<br>WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY |
| NOV 22    | SSLC MERRY MARKET<br>9AM-2PM                            |
| NOV 26-28 | THANKSGIVING BREAK<br>SCHOOL CLOSED                     |



**Join us for  
Spirit night**

**Wednesday,  
November 19  
5-9pm**

Thank you for supporting



**ST. STEPHENS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## Cards For Homebound Members

Once again the Elizabeth Circle of LWML will be sending cards from our congregation to our home bound members. Please write the name(s) of the home bound member(s) on the outside of the envelope along with your name on the insides of the cards. You do not need to seal, as this makes the cards too difficult for our members to open. Secure them with a ribbon or rubber band and drop them in the marked bins in the narthex. Please keep them in alphabetical order by last name as it appears on the list. This expedites the sorting process. We will collect them and then deliver them along with a gift at Christmas to these members. This is a special joy for them to receive, and we hear how they keep them all year and do not throw them away. Please involve your children, Sunday School students or Lutheran School students, if possible. They love drawings from children, stickers, etc., even on the outside of the envelopes. The lists will be included in the bulletin or can be found in the welcome center in the narthex. We will begin sorting cards on Tuesday, December 2, and getting gifts ready to be distributed shortly thereafter. The deadline for having them back in will be Monday, December 1. Thank you in advance for your participation in this worthwhile project that will brighten Christmas for our homebound members.

Willine Austin  
Allen Bolick  
Ervin Bolick  
Ann Bowman  
Bob & Linda Carney  
Ralph Cazire  
Ruth Cook  
Cassie Deal  
Margaret Deal  
Carolyn Garren  
Phil Gnadt  
Amy Hall  
Nancy Hicks  
Kay Hollar  
Pat Hollar

Marie Huffman  
Thelma Huffman  
Martha Killian  
Hazel Lovelace  
Rebecca Moffett  
Clark & Sherry Norris  
Jean Rollins  
Garner Settlemyre  
Charles Shook  
Betty Sigmon  
Kay Weaver  
Jo Wilhelm  
Ruth Willis  
Catherine Winkler

## 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!



## SSLS Endowment Fund Quarter Ending 9/30/25

| Investment Category        | 12/31/2024            | 9/30/2025             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash                       | \$616,010.48          | \$608,333.35          |
| Bond Funds                 | \$0.00                |                       |
| Savings Account (Thrivent) | \$241,636.86          | \$247,038.56          |
| Stock Mutual Funds         | \$724,925.57          | \$782,621.83          |
| Stocks                     | \$161,779.72          | \$200,520.88          |
| Real Estate                | \$223,200.00          | \$223,200.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$1,967,552.63</b> | <b>\$2,061,714.62</b> |



## Order in the Court!

is a mock trial being presented by  
SSLS middle School

We are looking for JURORS on the  
following "court" dates:

**Monday, Dec. 15 (2:30-3:10)**

**Tuesday, Dec. 16 (1:40-3:10)**

No law degree required – just a willingness to listen,  
observe, and deliver a verdict. Join us in supporting our  
students as they bring courtroom drama to life

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Reserve your "juror" seat by emailing  
[kbutler@sslcms.org](mailto:kbutler@sslcms.org) or call the school office at  
256-9865

## Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation for your prayers, visits, calls and cards during my recent hospitalization. I am so blessed to be part of such a loving church family.

*Bobby Hollar*



The LWML invites the congregation to join in Christmas caroling to our home bound members and those in care facilities. We will meet at 2:30pm on Sunday, December 7, in the Fellowship Hall to divide into groups and plan visitation. All ages are welcome with children 5th grade and younger being accompanied by their parents. After caroling, we will return to the fellowship hall for cookies and hot chocolate. The choir and praise team members are encouraged to help lead groups in singing. **If you would like to join in, please contact Regina Propst or Teresa Ritchie at [lwmlpresident@sslcms.org](mailto:lwmlpresident@sslcms.org), or Doris Sigmon at [djssigmon@charter.net](mailto:djssigmon@charter.net) to register.** Please join in to brighten Christmas for our special members.



### Merry Market Volunteers needed

With Merry Market being one of our largest events, we are in need of volunteers in several areas.

- **Friday Night** – assist vendors with unloading (allows you to pre-shop)

#### **Saturday**

- Greeters - We are allowing access to Merry Market from Spencer Rd. through the sanctuary (only if we have volunteers willing to monitor the sanctuary entrance from Spencer Rd).
- Hospitality - As you shop, check on the vendors to see if they need anything
- Alaska Mission Table - Gift Baskets drawing and selling of donated items.
- Clean up at 2pm - The school helped us set up and we need to clean up so the gym is ready for school on Monday (or pickleball on Sunday)

If you can serve at this event and help our Mission team, please contact Jodi Gurganious at [jgurganious@sslcms.org](mailto:jgurganious@sslcms.org) or the church office at 828-256-9865.

## Today's Readings

### Leviticus 16:2-3; 16-19

2 and the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. 3 But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

16 Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. 17 No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel.

18 Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. 19 And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the people of Israel.

## Hebrews 9:11-15

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

## Mark 10:42-45

42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

# LET US PRAY FOR.....

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

YOUNG ADULTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

MOUNTAINSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Linville, NC

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

FIRST RESPONDERS & CIVIL SERVANTS

FIRE FIGHTERS & POLICE

TARYN CLINE, new job on the River Cruise

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

FAMILY OF VIRGINIA CALDWELL, Virginia was called to glory on 11/8.

## PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

RUTH COOK

CASSIE DEAL

MARGARET DEAL

## FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JADI GURGANIOUS

RUBY HALL

JUSTIN & SHANNON HEFNER FAMILY

CYNTHIA HEWITT

BEVERLY DORNBURG

## HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

## **HOSPITALIZED**

**KENNETH VESPER**, St. Louis, broken vertebrates & kidney issues,  
brother-in-law of David Pingel

**RUBY HALL**, High Point Medical, recovering from surgery

## **PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS**

**DINKY EDDINS**, breast cancer

**GIL BRAUCH**, cancer

**ROBYN DRUM BOLEMAN**, acute leukemia

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

**LINDA TILLEY**, cancer

**DELANEY JESSUP**, cancer

**SHERRY NORRIS**, breast cancer

**KAY WEAVER**, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

**CHARLES HUTCHINSON**, aggressive cancer has returned, friends of  
Tom & Kristy Smith

**SHARON JONES**

**JIM SETZER**, cancer, friend of Bob & Marsha Watson

**DEBBIE**, cancer, awaiting test, friend of Coach Mike Davis

## **RECOVERING**

**KEN & KATHY MORETZ**

**DIANE DAVIS**, eye issues

**SHANNON CLOHESY**, home recovering

**SHARON RADKE**, home recovering from shoulder surgery

**GREYSAN BEARD**, recovering from a car accident - niece of Betty  
Flowers

**JOSHUA SPENCER**, health issues, son of Barbara Underwood

**TRISTAN STARNES**, health issues, former SSLS Warrior

**BOBBY HOLLAR**, eye issues

**MATT HAMBY**, health issues

**ALLEN LIPPARD**, recovering from a stroke, father of Shannon Cline

**CHERYL FRYE**, health issues

**BARBARA POPE**, health issues, sister of Linda Carney

**J P NELSON**, kidney transplant

**DEAN LEDBETTER**, kidney donor

**ANDREW SHELL**, Trinity Village, father of Devon Payne