

**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

First Sunday of Advent

November 29 & 30, 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

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

3:00pm – 6:00pm – Pickle Ball – Open Court

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

MONDAY

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

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

10:30am – LWML Executive Board – Peace House

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

TUESDAY

1:00pm – Comfort Dog Ministry – Conference Room

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

6:00pm – Comfort Dog Ministry – Conference Room

WEDNESDAY – NO SCHOOL – OFFICE CLOSED

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

10:30am – Mid-Week Advent Service

6:30pm – Mid-Week Advent Service

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

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

7:00pm – SSLS Preschool & Kindergarten Christmas Program – Sanctuary

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

3:00-9:00pm – Youth – Shop & Lights

3:00pm – 6:00pm – Pickle Ball – Open Court

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

Prayer on Entering

Grant us, O Lord, Your Spirit, that we recognize and believe in the witness of Jesus coming in flesh, prepare and proclaim Him who comes here in Word and Supper, and welcome Him with joy when He comes in His glory at the end of all days; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of all the ages.

Greeters

November 29th - Brent & Donna Townsend
November 30th - 8am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher
November 30th - 10:30am - Michael & Katie Vaughn

December 6th - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
December 7th - 8am - Sharon Little
December 7th - 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

November 30 8:00am - Steve Cain & David Pingel
December 7 8:00am - James Fogle & Dwight Hollar

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

November 30 - Cynthia Hewitt
December 7 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 520 (82, 106, 332) Sunday School - 152
General Fund: \$19,646.88 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$7,374.57
School Endowment Fund: \$195.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,966,141.70
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$1,043,691.17

Today's Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, 3 and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Romans 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. 11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24:36-44

36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Advent 2025

MIDWEEK SERVICE

10:30 AM

6:30 PM

12/3 • 12/10 • 12/17

QUILTERS

Wednesday,
Dec. 3
9am - 3pm
(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.



Operation ELF

Help us bring comfort and joy to our community.

Tags are available on the
A-frame bulletin board in the
narthex . Please return gifts by
Dec. 14

This year Operation Elf will bring Comfort and Joy to our community in a couple of ways. Check the bulletin board in the narthex for suggested gift items for the following organizations:
Trinity Village - a wish list of gift ideas for residents

Salvation Army / Corner Table / Cooperative Christian Ministries - we are entering a very cold season and hygiene bags are requested.

Tags will be ready on Wednesday, November 26 at Thanksgiving Eve services and next weekend services

Lost and Found

A neckless was found in the church parking lot a couple of weeks ago. If it is yours, please call or come by the church office and describe it to us.

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!

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

12/14 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.

12/14 Youth Christmas Parties

Get ready for a fun, festive hangout with friends. We'll have Christmas music, games, and a Dirty Santa Gift Exchange (totally optional - \$10 max). Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert.

Middle School Party: 2-5 PM

High School Party: 6-9 PM

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

Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.

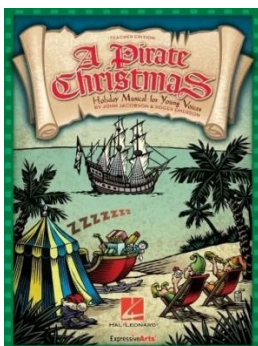


St. Stephens Lutheran School News

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



St. Stephens Lutheran
School
1st - 8th grade present

**A PIRATE
CHRISTMAS**

Friday, Dec. 12
7:00pm



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

Reserve your "juror" seat by emailing
kbutler@sslcs.org or call the school office at
256-9865

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 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!





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, or Doris Sigmon at djssigmon@charter.net to register. Please join in to brighten Christmas for our special members.

5th Sunday Mite Box Collection

Our Mite gifts are small coins we collect as individuals throughout the year. With these gifts, we share Christ's love with those we cannot reach in person. Pray for the workers in mission fields who serve in our behalf. Even though our LWML emphasizes our giving each 5th weekend, the Large Mite Box is always available in the church narthex ready to accept our contributions.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study is gearing up for a new series beginning 1/7/26. We meet weekly at 10:00 am at the Youth House. We would love to have you join us! Please contact Sonni Thornton at (919) 749-5881 for more information.

Thank You

I would like to thank Lunch Box for Seniors group for the delicious meals you bring me each month. They are very much appreciated.

Helen Suttlemyre

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are out in the narthex to pick up. They are in numerical order. A list is provided if you do not remember your number. **If you are an online giver, you will not have offering envelopes.** If you have questions about your offering envelopes, please call Tashia at the church office.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ALASKA MISSION TEAM

SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH in Taylorsville, NC

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

FIRST RESPONDERS & CIVIL SERVANTS

FIRE FIGHTERS & POLICE

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

KAREN SIGMON FAMILY. John was called to glory on 11/22.

FAMILY OF CHRIS MUNDY. Chris was called to glory on 11/22.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

NANCY HICKS

KAY HOLLAR

PAT HOLLAR

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

MIKE & STEPHANIE MCGUIRE FAMILY

KENNETH MAYNOR

MIKE & ERIN MOREAU FAMILY

HAZEL MURRAY

DUSTIN & DANA REID FAMILY

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of **COOPER ALLEN BINNS** on November 16 to Carson & Heather.

Proud grandparents are Keith & Sue.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

ROBYN DRUM BOLEMAN

HOSPITALIZED

RUBY HALL, High Point Medical, recovering from surgery

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

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

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

JIM SETZER, cancer, friend of Bob & Marsha Watson

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

PATSY BURGESS, pancreatic cancer, friend of Ronda Reid

MANDY FREELAND, breast cancer, neighbor/friend of the VonDohlens

RECOVERING

KEN & KATHY MORETZ

SHARON RADKE, home recovering from shoulder surgery

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

KENNETH VESPER, rehab, St. Louis, brother-in-law of David Pingel

DOROTHY WILLIS, broken hip, grandmother of Erica Moretz

SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

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

RICK HERMAN, recovering from a heart attack, brother-in-law of Dave & Diane Guelzow

KATHY BOLIEK, recovering from burns on her feet

TIMOTHY MARTIN, recovering from bypass surgery

RON BRYANT, Trinity Village, friend of Pastor Ross Davis