

**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

Blueprint for Blessing

November 8 & 9, 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

Almighty God, from Eden to the Tabernacle to the manger, Your plan has always been to dwell with Your people. Though we, like Israel, have often built idols of our own making, You have built a way back into Your presence through Your only begotten Son. As the Word made flesh, He tabernacled among us, revealing Your glory and grace. By His death and resurrection, You have made us living temples of Your Spirit. Build us up in faith, shape us by Your Word, and fill us with Your presence, that we may reflect Your glory and grace in all we say and do; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

The flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Carroll Shook by his family.

Greeters

November 8th - Keith & Sue Binns
November 9th - 8am - Pat Wilson
November 9th - 10:30am - April Drake

November 15th - Judy Buff & Linda McNeely
November 16th - 8am - Judy Gurganious
November 16th - 10:30am - Tabitha Worley & Teri Cain

Communion Assistants

November 9 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

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

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

November 9 - Shannon Cline

November 16 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 621 (133, 124, 364) Sunday School - 184
General Fund: \$26,881.51 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,140.50
School Endowment Fund: \$395.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,934,253.92
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$1,042,846.42



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 Jadi Gurganious at jgurganious@sslcms.org or the church office at 828-256-9865.

Honoring Our Military Veterans & Active Military This Weekend

Please remember to thank a Veteran or Active Military member for their service this weekend, as the Elizabeth Circle of LWML presents patriotic ribbons to each of them. Your service matters, and a grateful congregation expresses our thanks to each of you.



Wanna Go?

Tuesday, Dec. 9
6:30pm

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

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

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.

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!

11/9 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.

11/9 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.

11/9 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.

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.

11/26 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

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

Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 16 - 11:30am

Town Hall meeting:
Monday, November 10 at 5:15pm

Agenda: 2026 Budget & Goals

**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

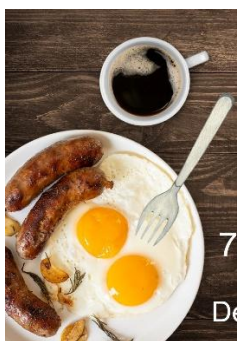


Support our Mission team
with **FUN PASTA**

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



MENS BREAKFAST

Saturday, Nov. 15
7:30am - Fellowship Hall

Devotion, food and fellowship

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

Please join the staff and
students of SSLS for:

Veteran's Day Breakfast & Chapel

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

8:15am - Breakfast

9:00am - Chapel

Call Debbi in the school office to RSVP.



NOVEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

NOV 11

VETERAN'S DAY BREAKFAST & CHAPEL
8:00AM

NOV 19

SSLS SPIRIT NIGHT AT
JASON'S DELI

NOV 20

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE
6:30 PM

NOV 21

HICKORY CHRISTMAS PARADE AT 6 PM
WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY

NOV 22

SSLC MERRY MARKET
9AM-2PM

NOV 26-28

THANKSGIVING BREAK
SCHOOL CLOSED

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
Virginia Caldwell
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 Settlemyle
Charles Shook
Betty Sigmon
Kay Weaver
Jo Wilhelm
Ruth Willis
Catherine Winkler

Please add Bob & Linda Carney

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
TOTAL	\$1,967,552.63	\$2,061,714.62

Thank You

We cannot thank everyone enough for coming to say their goodbyes to Bill. We are so thankful by the love you all showed to us. We would also like to thank you for the cards and calls we received. Thank you and bless you.

Carol Howard & Family

Larry Baker - Army/National Guard
Billy Beard - Army
Grady Bowman - Army
James Bradshaw - Army
Gil Brauch - Army
Jeff Brinn - Army
Stephanie Shade Byrd - Army
Herman Christenbury Jr. - Navy
Dean Cline, Sr. - Army
Brian Clohesy - Navy
Steve Davis - Army
Larry Fox - Air Force
Phil Gnadt - Army
Bobby Hollar - Army
Jason Honeycutt - Army
Rodney Houston - Army
Joe Howard - Army
Bill Huffman - Army
Jerry Huffman - Air Force
Kirk Hymes - Marines
Steve Ikerd - Marines
Michael Isenhour - Coast Guard
Randy Isenhour - Army
Harold Kent - Army
Allen Killian - Army
Amanda Lail - Air Force
Montie Lail - Navy
Jim Lane - Navy
Toby Laws - Air Force
Andrew Ledford - Navy
Rex Ledford - Army/National Guard
Alex Little - Army

Melissa Mace - Army/National Guard
Gary Michael - Army
Bob Miller - Army
Charles Miller - Army
Lynwood Miller - Army
Mike Miller - Army
Carl E. Moser Jr. - Army
Jonathan Mullen - Marine
Eric Page - Army
Keith Payne - Marines/Army
Mark Pennell - Army
David Pingel - Air Force
Dustin Polt - Navy
Billy Price - Navy
John Quinlan - Army
Peter Rangolan - Marines
Harvey Riley - Army
David Rittenhouse - Army
Walter Schoenegge - Army
Michael Seale - Air Force
Danny Sexton - Army
Charles Shook - Navy
Ken Tilley - Army
Howard Wagoner - Air Force
Eric White - Marines
John Wood - Army
Chris Wyatt - Marines
Alan Yancey - Army

If you are a veteran and your name is not on this list, please call
the church office.

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 – Confirmation Unit Check In

12:00-3:00pm – Middle School Hangtime – 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

5:15pm – Town Hall – Choir Room

6:00pm – School Board – Science

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

5:30pm – Elders – Conference Room

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

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 – Men’s Club Breakfast & Meeting – Fellowship Hall

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – 11:45am

8:00am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am–Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

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

Today's Readings

Exodus 25:1-9

25 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. 3 And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, 4 blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, 5 tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood, 6 oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, 7 onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. 8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

9 Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Exodus 32:1-6

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

2 So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the

land of Egypt!” 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.” 6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

John 1:1-3, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL BOARD
UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & TOWN HALL
SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH in Hickory, NC
OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD
VICTIMS & SURVIVORS OF HURRICANE MELISSA

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

BETTY SHOOK & FAMILY. Carroll was called to glory on 11/2.

FAMILY OF BILL WILLARD SMART. Bill was called to glory on 10/30, a neighbor of Bobbie Flowers.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

ANN BOWMAN
VIRGINIA CALDWELL
RALPH CAZIRE

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

BOB & SUE VOGT
ALLEN CROWE
JUSTIN & JENNIFER DEAL FAMILY
CATHY DRUM
JERRY & TASHIA FISHER FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of **SCOTT RAYFORD FLINCHUM** to Caitlin & Damon on 10/29.
Proud grandparents are David & Sandra McCrary.

MATT & TAMMI HOUSTON, who celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary on 11/4.

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

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

J P NELSON, kidney transplant, 11/10 - Duke Hospital

DEAN LEDBETTER, kidney donor, 11/10 - Duke Hospital

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

RECOVERING

KATHY MORETZ, home recovering, foot surgery

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, home recovering