

**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 + Josh Marlatt, 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

5th Sunday After Pentecost

July 12 & 13, 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, Chris Martin, Stacy Martin, & 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: -----Youth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton Powell-----Youth House
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar-----Colossians-----Fellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar-----James-----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

Prayer on Entering

Heavenly Father, You have shown us what it means to love through the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ. Teach us to walk in His ways and open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors. Strengthen us to be intentional in our faith and witness. Help us to love not just in words, but in action—serving others with the same grace You have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Sadie Flowers' birthday on July 18 by her mom and dad.

Greeters

July 12 - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff

July 13 - 8:00am- Pat Wilson

July 13 - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

July 19 - Keith & Sue Binns

July 20 - 8:00am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher

July 20 - 10:30am - John & Karen Nain

Communion Assistants

July 13 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

July 20 8:00am - Dwight Hollar & James Fogle

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

July 13 - Sheila Poovey

July 20 - Amy Crouch

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 500 (80, 93, 327) Sunday School - 119

General Fund: \$26,514.95 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$6,029.97

School Endowment Fund: \$515.00

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,563,260.87

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship/Holy Communion/Baptism

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

MONDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

5:00pm - School Endowment Board - Conference Room

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:15pm - Finance & Facilities - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

FRIDAY

4:30am - Youth leave for National Youth Gathering

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

SATURDAY

7:30am - Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship/Baptism

2:00-4:00pm - Stitching at St. Stephens - Parlor

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

Farewell Reception for
**Josh & Sarah
Marlatt**

Sunday, July 27

3:00-5:00pm

in the Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served.
Please bring your gifts
and best wishes.

Hosted by LWML



JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL

CANCELED

IN AUGUST: GYM IS CLOSED

3-4
PM

GYM

-6
PM
EXPERIENCED
PICKLES



LWML Rada Knives

LWML Fundraiser
is selling

**RADA
CUTLERY**
online

SHOP NOW at
sslcms.org/lwml
or scan QR code

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

Camp Linn Haven Family Weekend

Pre-Registration Required. Limited Spaces Available. Online registration begins at 12pm Sunday, August 3 at sslcms.org

Family Fun & Fellowship & Campfire Devotions & Praise
Sunday Morning Bible Hour and Worship Service

16 years up \$100.00

12-15 years old \$85.00

2 -11 years old \$75.00

***payable to Camp Linn Haven on arrival**

Family Style Meals included:

Friday (dinner not provided)

Saturday (breakfast, lunch, & dinner)

Sunday (breakfast & lunch)

Cabin Accommodations & Campsites Available



Youth News

Building relationships in Christ to develop and strengthen faithful followers for life.

Sunday Morning Bible Study (9:15am):

- Middle School (The Youth House side "B")
- High School & Young Adult (The Youth House side "A")

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

Young Adult Ministry

Are you 18-24 and looking for a place to grow in faith and community? Join our Young Adult Ministry! We meet on Sundays at 9:15 AM at the Peacemaker House to connect and study. This summer, we are also gathering on Thursdays at 5:30 PM for fellowship, food, and time in the Word. Contact Randall Cline to get connected!

July 13-19 - Middle School Week Camp Linn Haven
July 18-24 - National Youth Gathering - New Orleans
July 27 - August 2 - Teen Servant Week Camp Linn Haven

School Supplies Needed

This August, we want to make a difference in a child's education by collecting school supplies and distributing them at SSLS, local schools, via LWML missions, and the back-to-school event at the Hickory Fairground in August.

While out shopping or shopping online, please consider purchasing the items listed below and return them to the mission box in the church narthex by Aug. 20

Non Spiral composition notebooks	2 block erasers
#2 Pencils with erasers	Dry erase markers
Scissors - blunt tip	pack of paper (wide rule and college rule)
Box of Crayola 24 ct. crayons	Washable markers
Colored Pencils	Pocket Folders
Glue sticks	Pencil pouch
Highlighters	Mechanical pencils
Spiral Notebooks	Expander file

NOTE: If you would like to do your shopping on Amazon, please scan the QR code to be directed to the wish list. Items purchased from this list will ship directly to the church.





St. Stephens Lutheran School News

Excellence in Education since 1943

LOVE, HOPE, SERVE, AND ACHIEVE

(Romans Chapter 8:1-4)

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



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
2304 Spryngs Rd, Hickory, NC 28601
sslworriors.org


Centered in Christ,
St. Stephens Lutheran School
Provides an Inspiring Education
That Empowers Students to
Achieve Their God-Given Gifts.

• LOVE • • HOPE • • SERVE • • ACHIEVE •

NOW ENROLLING KINDERGARTEN 2025-2026 (Students must be 5 on or before August 31)

Call For A School Tour Today! (828) 256 - 2166


- State-Certified Teachers
- Low-Class Ratio
- Full-Day Program
- Before Care
- After-School Care



Support SSLS Library

Please help us get new books which have been chosen based on student interests and requests. Your purchase will ship directly to the school.

Scan the QR code or visit
sslcms.org/ssls-library



SSLS Library Wish List



SSLS Endowment Fund Year End 2024

Investment Category	12/31/2024	3/31/2025
Cash	\$616,010.48	\$631,888.84
Bond Funds	\$0.00	
Savings Account (Thrivent)	\$241,636.86	\$243,404.46
Stock Mutual Funds	\$724,925.57	\$717,911.65
Stocks	\$161,779.72	\$168,326.69
Real Estate	\$223,200.00	\$223,200.00
TOTAL	\$1,967,552.63	\$1,984,731.64

This report reflects a distribution to SSLS of \$55,461.95 in May 2024 for the 2024/2025 school year

Today's Readings

Leviticus 18:1-5

18 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. 3 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. 4 You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.

Colossians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10:25-37

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, MARION, NC

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

ELDERS

TEXAS AND EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA RECOVERING FROM FLOODING

RANDALL CLINE AND YOUTH attending Middle School Week at Camp Linn Haven

SANDY MATTHEWS, LAURA BAHLMANN, SAVANNAH LEE, CAROLYN WATSON, KRISTY SMITH, AND FAITH COMFORT DOG attending the National LCC Comfort Dog

Conference in Chicago, July 15-18

RANDALL CLINE, YOUTH AND CHAPERONES attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 18-23

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

WILLINE AUSTIN

ALLEN BOLICK

BRUCE CLONTZ

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

MARK & LAURA PENNELL

JACK & DANA ROBERTS

JAMES & CAROLYN SPENCER

LEISA TOWERY

RICHARD & DEDE STARNES

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **HENRY RYAN EDDINS**, son of Zachary & Lauren, on July 12. His sponsors are Ian Justice and Maddy Ogelsby.

CATHERINE WINKLER who celebrates her 97th birthday on 7/14

DEAN & SUSAN LEDBETTER who celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on 7/14

DARREL & CINDY RHAME who celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary on 7/8

CINDY RHAME, who celebrated her 73rd birthday on 7/8

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

HARVEY RILEY, upcoming back surgery

ROBERT BINDER, upcoming heart surgery, brother-in-law of Pam Clohesy

DAVID DRUM, upcoming surgery July 15

DAWN CLARK, kidney stone removal, Baptist 7/21, mother of McKenley Houston

ROSE DRAKE, arterial surgery

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

TROY DEAL, Brookdale Statesville

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

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

CHUCK POOVEY, renal mass, father of Danny

FRANK DICKERSON, cancer, friend of David & Martha Propst

LESLIE BARNETTE, cancer, mother of Jason Honeycutt

DALE SPENCER, cancer treatments, brother of Pat Fredell

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

J T WARNKE, Ascites, Fairbanks, AK, friend of C E & Donna Moser

DARNELL MITCHELL, cancer, friend of Allen Killian

RECOVERING

DORIS KAYLOR, Conover Rehab, mother of Doris Goff and aunt of Andra Pingel

KENNETH VESPER, rehab facility after surgeries, brother-in-law of David Pingel

BAILEY CLINE, health issues, son of Tim & Jenny

KATHY MORETZ, fracture in left foot

BOBBIE FLOWERS, Covid

DAKOTA BROWN, complications from childbirth, niece of Kelli Brown

BOBBY BUTLER, home recovering from neck surgery

DEAN HUDSON, recovering from surgery, friend of Tim & Ronda Reid

EILEEN MCDUGALL, broken back/surgery in August, cousin of Coach Mike

HOSPITALIZED

KENNY MULL, Diverticulitis, FRMC