

**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

6th Sunday After Pentecost

July 19 & 20, 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-----Peace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar-----Colossians-----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

Prayer on Entering

O Lord, give us a lively faith, and help us to listen to Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Bob & Pat Hollar's 65th wedding anniversary on July 17 by their family.

Greeters

July 19 - Keith & Sue Binns
July 20 - 8:00am - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher
July 20 - 10:30am - John & Karen Nain

July 26 - Brent & Donna Townsend
July 27 - 8:00am - Jason & Faye Honeycutt
July 27 - 10:30am - Teri Cain

Communion Assistants

July 20 8:00am - Dwight Hollar & James Fogle
July 27 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow & Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

July 20 - Amy Crouch July 27 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 564 (167, 111, 286) Sunday School - 144
General Fund: \$32,973.94 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$10,784.97
School Endowment Fund: \$405.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,573,216.59

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/Baptism

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

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

MONDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

TUESDAY

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:15pm - Church Council - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

FRIDAY

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry - 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

3:00-5:00pm - Farewell Reception Vicar Josh & Sarah

3:00pm - Pickle Ball - Beginners and Families

4:00pm - Pickle Ball - Experienced Pickles

**GYM WILL BE CLOSED JULY 28 - AUGUST 10 FOR
THE FLOOR TO BE STRIPPED AND WAXED.**



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")

Mark Your Calendars!

7/18-7/24 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering - Endure

Please pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of all students attending the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering - Endure, that they may grow deeply in faith through Bible studies, sessions, and worship, and be strengthened to endure with perseverance and hope. Pray also for safe travels to and from New Orleans for all participants.

7/27-8/2 Camp Linn Haven Teen Servant Week

Please pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of all teens attending Camp Linn Haven Teen Servant Week, empowering them to serve the community of Western North Carolina with joy, faith, and a servant's heart.

8/10 6-9p ManHunt!

Bring your crew and sharpen your stealth skills for an epic evening of fun and friendly competition.

8/12 1-4p Back-to-School Pool Party!

Make a splash at our Back-to-School Pool Party! All middle and high school students are invited for an afternoon of swimming, food, and fun as we kick off the school year.

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!

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



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

10AM-2PM

ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



PRESENTS

CARS FOR A CURE



PROCEEDS

CAROLINA
CARING
Cardinal Kids

DONATED TO

Car Show

CAR

\$25

PRE-REGISTRATION

**CASH
PRIZE**

Best in Show



FOOD
TRUCKS

KIDS
ZONE

RAFFLE
PRIZES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

**2304 SPRINGS RD.
HICKORY, NC 28601**

REGISTER HERE



Today's Readings

Genesis 18:1-14

18 And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth 3 and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, 5 while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." 6 And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." 7 And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9 They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." 10 The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" 13 The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Colossians 1:21-29

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

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. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

TEXAS AND EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA RECOVERING FROM FLOODING

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

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

ANN BOWMAN

VIRGINIA CALDWELL

RUTH COOK

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

CORY & JESSICA WESTBY FAMILY

CATHERINE WINKLER

DIANE MAYNOR

KEITH & SUE BINNS FAMILY

CRAIG & SHANNON HOLLAR FAMILY

THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

BETH RIVERA FAMILY. Her brother, Jeffrey, was called to glory on July 11.

JORDAN ROCKENSEUSS GRAHAM FAMILY. Her father-in-law, Brian, was called to glory on July 5

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **SCARLETT GREY SIMPSON, ELISE CAROLINE SIMPSON, SAWYER JANE SIMPSON & ISLA GRACE SIMPSON**, children of Wesley & Meagan, baptized on July 20. Their sponsors are Kevin Cornwell, Leah Granger, Bryan Granger, Sara Morrison, Kim Williams, Adam Pinkerton, Anna Stinson, and Paul Morrison.

SANDY MATTHEWS who is celebrating her 70th birthday on July 25.

BOBBY & PAT HOLLAR who are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on July 20.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

TROY DEAL, Brookdale Statesville

LESLIE BARNETTE, cancer, mother of Jason Honeycutt

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

HARVEY RILEY, upcoming back surgery

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

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

ROSE DRAKE, arterial surgery

CHRIS HALLE, liver transplants, nephew-in-law of Betty Flowers

JILL HALLSTROM, knee surgery

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

CHUCK POOVEY, renal mass, father of Danny

FRANK DICKERSON, cancer, friend of David & Martha Propst

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

KEN BRADBERRY, treatments/surgery

CHRIS PENLEY, principal of Newton-Conover High School, is recovering from a lightning strike

JENNIFER, breast cancer treatments, friend of Ben & Cheryl Simpson

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

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

KENNY MULL, home recovering

JERRY FISHER, home recovering

DAVID DRUM, home recovering

TONY HARMON, injured in a hiking fall

SCOTT TRAVIS, health issues