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 School: 828-256-2166 www.sslcms.org 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

The Invitation Series

August 16 & 17, 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 <u>print</u> 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 RoomMartha
Propst, Chris Martin, Stacy Martin, & Cynthia Hewitt
Kid Connect/ Grades 1 & 2:Ed Wing #222 Andrea Trent
Kid Connect/ Grades 3-5:Ed Wing #220Teresa Ritchie
Jr. High Life Group: Led by Randall & Shannon ClineYouth House
Sr. High Life Group:Youth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton PowellPeace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/VicarScriptureFellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar2 PeterSchool Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie ClontzBible LessonsChoir Room
Adults: Led by Dean LedbetterPsalmSchool Bldg. Room #109
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina PropstThe Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the
Midst of Endless Demands by Lisa TerkeurstParlor
·

Prayer on Entering

Lord Jesus Christ, we give You thanks that You have graciously invited us to belong to the family of God. Lead us as Your church, Your Body here on earth to touch people with Your grace, to show them Your love, and to invite them to hear the Gospel so that more people may come to follow You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God by John & Karen Nain in honor and celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on August 16.

Greeters

August 16th- Brent & Donna Townsend August 17th 8:00 - Allen Crowe August 17th 10:30 - Amy Crouch

August 23rd - Cathy Drum

August 24th - 8:00 - Gregg & Vickie Fletcher

August 24th - 10:30 - Tim & Tonya Bolick

Communion Assistants

August 17 8:00am - Steve Cain & David Pingel

August 24 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

August 17 - Sheila Poovey August 24 - Shannon Cline

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 548 (91, 108, 349) Sunday School - 140 General Fund: \$25,905.84 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$53,256.78

School Endowment Fund: \$510.00

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,549,814.3

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY - Backpack Blessing

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship/Commission of SSLS Teachers & Staff NO Pickle Ball - Gym Closed

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Esther Circle - Conference Room

6:30 - 9:00pm - SSLS Back to School Family Night at Kool Park

TUESDAY

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

5:15pm - Finance Board - Conference Room

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

SSLS FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL - 11:30am Dismissal

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

THURSDAY

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

<u>FRIDAY</u>

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

11:30am-1:00pm - Confirmation Orientation - Fellowship Hall

NO Pickle Ball - Gym Closed

3:00-5:00pm - Middle School Youth Hang Time - Youth House

5:00-8:00pm - High School Youth Hang Time - Youth House



Snacks will be available during the ministry fair

Saturday, Sept. 13 - after 5:30pm worship Sunday, Sept. 14 - 9:15am - 2pm (Sunday school hour will be a fellowship hour in the gym)

Have you been blessed with musical talent? Maybe you want to get involved with children's or youth ministry? Do you enjoy baking? Are you able to do light construction?

Our congregation has many opportunities for you to be involved.

Get connected with the ministries here at SSLC.







LIVESTRONG®

AT THE YMCA OF CATAWBA VALLEY



2025 LIVESTRONG AT THEY SCHEDULE:

Cancer Survivor Program KEEP FIGHTING BACK

Hickory Foundation YMCA: January 6 - March 28

Lincoln Co Family YMCA:

March 3 - May 15

Phifer Family YMCA:

April 1 - June 21

Sally's YMCA:

August 18 - Nov 5

Hickory Foundation Y August 25 - Nov 13

What I IVESTRONG provides:

- Individualized Workouts
- Spirit of Community Increase Energy Levels
- Improve Body Image & Self-Esteem
- · Regain Strength and Balance
- Reduce Stress Increase Immunity

ymcacv.org/programs



Next Session of LIVESTRONG starts in August:

Sally's YMCA - August 18th Hickory Foundation YMCA - August 25th

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is a FREE 12-week small group program designed for adult cancer survivors who have become de-conditioned or chronically fatigued from their treatment. LIVESTRONG program was created to help survivors build muscle mass and strength, increase flexibility and endurance and improve functional ability. YMCA membership is included in this no-cost program.

Knowledge is Power, Unity is Strength. Attitude is Everything, This is LIVESTRONG



Need more information?

Contact Lala Kozischek at lalak@ymcacv.org for an appointment with a Livestrong Coach at lalak@ymcacv.org or 828.324.9622



Vendor Registration will be **ONLINE** (no in person) at www.sslcms.org this year. Registration begins at 7:00am Tuesday, Sept 2.

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!

8/24 11:30-1p Confirmation Orientation

Families with students who are seeking to confirm their baptismal faith or learn more about confirmation are invited to join us after the 10:30 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. More details and sign-up at sslcms.org/confirmation.

8/24 12-3p Middle School Hang Time

Relax, refuel, and reconnect with food, friends, and faith-filled discussion in The Youth House.

8/24 5-8p High School Hang Time

Relax, refuel, and reconnect with food, friends, and faith-filled discussion in The Youth House.

9/1 2-8p County Fair

Join us for an afternoon at the county fair filled with rides, games, fried food, and plenty of laughs with friends. Don't miss the fun! Sign-up and more info at sslcms.org/youth.

9/5-9/7 Camp Linn Haven Family Weekend

A weekend in the mountains for worship, fun, and fellowship! Students, get ready for an amazing trip, and if you're not signed up yet, consider joining us!

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!

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



GREETERS NEEDED

We are in need for greeters at 10:30 service. Please see Tiffany Simon at the welcome desk to sign up.



Ladies! Are you new to the area?

Join us for a Women's Newcomer Group starting Wednesday, September 24 10am – in the Modular

Register TODAY with Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

Do not need to be a member of the church to attend.



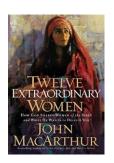
LWML QUARTERLY EVENT

Rhonda Roederer, genealogist, presents:
"Her Footsteps - How Women in your
Ancestry Shaped You"

Be prepared as Rhonda unlocks the past, inspires the future, and brings families together...one generation at a time.

Sunday, September 7
3-5pm in the Fellowship Hall

All ladies are welcome.



New Women's Bible Study - Twelve
Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped
Women of the Bible, and What He Wants to
Do with You by John Macarthur. You are
invited to join us on Wednesdays starting
September 3 at 10am at Tasteful Beans,
located in the Hickory Furniture Mall on Highway
70, to discover how true faith can leave a lasting
legacy. Come and take a deeper look at women
who were ordinary, common, and in some cases

even ostracized and reject by society, yet each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God. As you meet these 12 Extraordinary Women (Ruth, Anna, Sarah, Martha & Mary, Hannah, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Eve, Samaritan Woman) and get to know more about their lives and character, they will challenge you, motivate you, encourage you, and inspire you with love for the God whom they trusted, served, and loved. For more information or questions, contact Sonni Thornton at 919-749-5881 or thorntons.is@qmail.com

New LWML Circle - We would like to invite all ladies who are not currently in a LWML Circle to check out the new Rachel Circle. Our purpose is to build relationships with new members and visitors. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 10am at Tasteful Beans, located in the Hickory Furniture Mall on Highway 70. For more information or questions, contact Sonni Thornton at 919-749-5881 or thorntons.js@gmail.com.

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

<u>NOTE:</u> 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.



Thank You

A big THANK YOU to JEM Clean for cleaning the floors, carpets and rugs in the church and school.



Senior Session Wed., August 27 - 1:30pm (in Conference Room) Statistone EYE.

A member of the clinical leadership team of Graystone Eye will discuss general eye health and what to look for as our eyes age.

RSVP to Kristy Smith at ksmith@sslcms.org

Upcoming Confirmation Orientation

Date: Sunday, August 24, 2025

Time: Immediately after the 10:30 am worship service

Location: Fellowship Hall

Families with students in 7th grade or above **seeking to confirm their baptismal faith** or who **would like more information about what confirmation is** are encouraged to attend our Confirmation Orientation at St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School.

During this meeting, we will review the confirmation plan, which includes both the **one-year Bible Instruction** and **Catechism Instruction**.

Before the meeting:

- Review the Confirmation Plan, Slides, and Covenant (available at <u>sslcms.org/confirmation</u>)
- Bring a signed Confirmation Covenant
- · Sign up online if you haven't already

Mentors Needed:

We are seeking adults willing to serve as mentors for our confirmation students. Mentors will meet with students during Unit Check-Ins, help answer any questions that may arise, and commit to praying for and with them throughout their journey.

For more information or to sign up as a student or mentor, visit <u>sslcms.org/confirmation</u> or contact our Youth Director, Randall Cline.



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







Part-time Spanish teacher, Aides, Afterschool

Passionate about education? Love working with children? We would love to have you on staff.

Call 828-256-2166 to learn more.



Today's Readings

Hebrews 11:17-31 -12:2

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. 20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. 21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff, 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones. 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible, 28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. 29 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 guenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment, 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated - 38 of whom the world was not worthy-wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised.

40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 1:35-51

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples. 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staving, and they staved with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said. "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter), 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote. Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

LET US PRAY FOR......

<u>SPECIAL PRAYERS</u> BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUNG ADULTS
TEACHERS, STAFF AND STUDENTS as they return to school
OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

DAVID & ANDRA PINGEL FAMILY. David's cousin, Sharon Reichel, was called to glory on August 8.

DORIS GOFF & ANDRA PINGEL FAMILY. Their mother/aunt, Doris Kaylor, was called to glory on August 12.

JAMES FOGLE & MIRIAM MECIMORE FAMILY. Their niece, Rachel Fogle, was called to glory on August 10.

TOMMY STINE FAMILY. Tommy was called to glory on August 13.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARTHA KILLIAN HAZEL LOVELACE REBECCA MOFFETT

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER
DALE ROCKENSUESS
DEBBIE ISENHOUR
KEN & KATHY MORETZ
TRACY & JENNIFER WARLICK FAMILY
SANDY WESTBY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

JOHN & KAREN NAIN, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on August 16.

RICK & SHEILA POOVEY, celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on August 11.

The baptism of **ALVA LOVISA OLSON**, daughter of John & Cecilia, on August 17. Her sponsors are Sam Sackenheim and Jenna Fioravanti Sackenheim.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother
TROY DEAL, Brookdale Statesville
JANICE KNIGHT, friend of Charles & Janie Miller
LESLIE BARNETTE, cancer, mother of Jason Honeycutt

HOSPITALIZED

BAILEY CLINE, CVMC, health issues, son of Tim & Jenny LORI HOLLOWAY, Clemmons Medical Center BRUCE SIGMAN, Atrium Charlotte, gallbladder removal, father of Justin

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

ROSE DRAKE, arterial surgery

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

JARED SCHAFER, surgery for Enterovesical Fistula, friend of Cindy Johnson

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

TINA BROOKS, 2nd liver transplant

WANDA BRITTAIN, heart valve replacement, mother of Bobbie Starnes

JURIS KUPRIS, open heart surgery in October, neighbor of Windy Pruitt

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

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

DAVID BENFIELD, cancer, co-worker of Allen Crowe

ROBERT WHISNANT, radiation treatments, friend of David & Gail Drum

RECOVERING

SHAYLA GIBBS, expecting 2nd child/ having heart issues, friend of Janet Von Dohlen

VIRGINIA CALDWELL, Heritage Care

HARVEY RILEY, home recovering from back surgery

JUDY TRAINUM, home recovering from back surgery

CYNTHIA HEWITT, compression fracture back

CRAIG MORGAN, health issues, friend of JP Nelson

BRUCE CLONTZ. The Green's Rehab

JENNY PLASSMAN, recovering at home

SCOTT TRAVIS, health issues, nephew of Sherry Craig

SHERRY OWEN, fell & broke 4 ribs, mother of Gail Drum

SARAH BRUMMETT, recovering from a fall, baby is ok