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 23 & 24, 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
New Member ClassConference Room

Prayer on Entering

Merciful Lord, You know how easily we grow weary in the struggles of life. Thank You for the gift of community, for those who hold us up when we falter and pray for us when we cannot find the words. As You once worked through Aaron and Hur to sustain Moses, work through us to strengthen and support each other. Teach us to lean on one another with grace and to look to You as our ever-present help in times of trouble. In the name of Jesus, our strength and Savior.

Greeters

August 23rd - Cathy Drum

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

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

August 30st - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff

August 31st - 8:00 - Allen Crowe

August 31st - 10:30 - Pat Wilson

Communion Assistants

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

August 31 8:00am - Todd Little & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

August 24 - Shannon Cline

August 31 - Amy Crouch

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 555 (101, 115, 339) Sunday School - 140 General Fund: \$21,890.02 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91) Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,499.21

School Endowment Fund: \$195.00

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,326,128.43

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

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

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Ruth Circle - Peace House

TUESDAY

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

5:00pm - Church Council - Conference Room

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

1:30pm - Senior Session - Conference Room

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

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship

NO Pickle Ball - Gym Closed



St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School welcomes our church family and friends to our Ministry Fair on September 13 and 14. The Ministry Fair provides an opportunity for our church family and friends to see how to use their gifts in service to others and to be good stewards of their lives. The purpose of the Ministry Fair is to:

- present ministries, programs and service opportunities
- help members understand the impact that their time, talent and treasures have on our community
- invitation to Get Connected

Ministries will be setup up in the gym on Sept. 13/14 for you to find out more about them. Snacks will be served as you fellowship with other servants.

Come and See where you fit in.



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need conversational partners to help ESL students improve their English. Classes will be held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

Volunteers do not need to speak Spanish.

Thursdays - 5pm-7pm beginning September 18



For more information contact:

Centro Latino: 828-330-0447 or Jane Guelzow 828-638-7005

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
 - 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!



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.



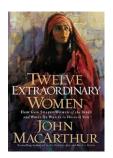
LWML QUARTERLY EVENT

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@gmail.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.



Senior Session

Wed., August 27 - 1:30pm

(in Conference Room)







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

Join us for a baby shower honoring Tristan, Carolyn &

Micah Jones

August 31, 2025 3:00 - 5:00pm

St. Stephens Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Registered at: www.babylist.com/kpuhbwnrf



Upcoming Confirmation Orientation

Date: Sunday, August 24, 2025

Time: Immediately after the 10:30 am worship service

Location: Fellowship Hall (Snacks Provided)

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 sslcms.org/confirmation or contact our Youth Director, Randall Cline.

WHAT ARE MITES?

Mites are coins collected by many Lutheran Churches across our nation. Although our pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters don't seem like much, collectively they form thousands of dollars to fund many different mission projects. Our LWML has participated in this effort for decades. We invite you to join us by picking up a small Mite Box beside the church office door in the narthex. As you fill your box with coins, prayer that they may be used to extend god's kingdom. Then place or empty your small box into the large Mite Box. We are reminded of this project every 5th weekend. Our next collection is coming up August 31st.

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

BEGINNING WITH THE

END IN MIND

ommuna

Confirmation, Christian Formation and the Life in the Congregation

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2025, CONOVER, NC

A conversation for every parent, grandparent, pastor, and concerned church member about why confirmed young people leave the church and what to do about it.

Friday, Sept. 19 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$40 per person (which includes lunch on Saturday) with quantity discount of \$33 per person if a congregation sends three or more people.

Register today at:

STPETERSCONOVER.ORG/WORKSHOP



Guest Speaker

DR. PETER NAFZGER

CONCORDIA SEMINARY





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



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

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- Low-Class Ratio
- Full-Day Program
- Before Care
- After-School Care



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

Exodus 17:8-13

8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Hebrews 12:4-24

4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the

grace of God: that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled: 16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent. though he sought it with tears. 18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus. the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Luke 13:22-30

22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to him. "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' 26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' 27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

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 SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LWML & LLL OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

MARK & KIM BOLICK FAMILY. Kim's mom, Linda Sigmon, was called to glory on 8/17.

DORIS HERMAN FAMILY. Doris was called to glory on 8/19.

BONNIE WARF FAMILY. Bonnie was called to glory on 8/18. Friend of David & Martha Propst.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARTHA KILLIAN GARNER SETTLEMYRE CARROLL SHOOK

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

VIRGINIA CALDWELL
LARRY & BETTY BAKER
RONNIE & DIANE LEWIS
TIM & TONYA BOLIEK
BOBBY & KELLI BUTLER FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The birth of MICAH RUSSELL JONES on 8/20 to Vicar Tristan & Carolyn.

TONY & KERRY COOK who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on 8/16.

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

BECKY POE

HOSPITALIZED

BRUCE SIGMAN, Atrium Charlotte, gallbladder removal, father of Justin KEVIN HUFFMAN, Baptist BILL HOWARD, CVMC

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

ROSE DRAKE, arterial surgery, August 26
CHRIS HALLE, liver transplant, nephew-in-law of Betty Flowers
TINA BROOKS, 2nd liver transplant

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

VIRGINIA CALDWELL, Heritage Care

HARVEY RILEY, home recovering from back surgery

JUDY TRAINUM, home recovering from back surgery

CYNTHIA HEWITT, compression fracture back

BRUCE CLONTZ, The Green's Rehab

SCOTT TRAVIS, health issues, nephew of Sherry Craig

SHIRLEY OWENS, fell & broke 4 ribs, mother of Gail Drum

SARAH BRUMMETT, recovering from surgery for a broken ankle, baby is ok

LORI HOLLOWAY, home recovering from surgery

BAILEY CLINE, J. Iverson Riddle, Morganton, son of Tim & Jenny

SILVIA WELKE, recovering from a heart attack/heart cath, grandmother of Holly Pennington

RHYNE MAYNARD, health concerns

RAENELL HINES, health issues, cousin of Sandra Turner

DAVID POE, recovering from a heart cath

EILEEN MCDOUGALL, recovering from back/surgery, cousin of Coach Mike