

**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](http://www.sslcms.org)

School: 828-256-2166  
[www.sslwarriors.org](http://www.sslwarriors.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 30 & 31, 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-----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**

Heavenly Father, thank You for making us a part of Your family. Give us hearts eager to give, hands ready to help, and voices quick to speak grace and encouragement. Shape us into a community that lives not for ourselves but for the good of others and the glory of Your name. May our service be a reflection of Your mercy and our lives be a witness of Your love. All for One, One for All. In Jesus' name we pray.

## **Greeters**

August 30<sup>st</sup> – Linda McNeely & Judy Buff  
August 31<sup>st</sup> – 8:00 – Allen Crowe  
August 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 – Pat Wilson

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Cathy Drum  
September 7<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 – Sharon Little  
September 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 – Linda Fritz

## **Communion Assistants**

August 31 8:00am – Todd Little & Ralph Mueller  
September 7 8:00am – Dwight Hollar & Tony Spencer

## **Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am**

August 31 – Amy Crouch      September 7 – Cynthia Hewitt

## **Our Response to God Last Week**

Last Sunday's Attendance – 561 (76, 105, 380)    Sunday School – 166  
General Fund: \$23,423.23 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)  
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$5,848.55  
School Endowment Fund: \$195.00  
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,323,034.13

## **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

### **MONDAY - OFFICES CLOSED - LABOR DAY**

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

10:30am - LWML Executive Board - Peace House

### **TUESDAY**

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

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

### **WEDNESDAY**

9:00am - Quilters - Conference Room

10:00am - Woman's Bible Study - Tasteful Beans

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

6:30pm - Mary Circle - PJ's Restaurant

### **THURSDAY**

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:45pm - Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

7:00pm - Parish Coir - Sanctuary/Choir Room

### **FRIDAY**

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

### **SATURDAY**

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship

### **SUNDAY**

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am - Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00-5:00pm - LWML Quarterly Meeting - Fellowship Hall



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.



**Merry MARKET**

**SATURDAY**  
**November 22 • 9a-2p**  
 St. Stephens Lutheran Church MS

**50 VENDORS!**

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT!**

**2304 SPRINGS ROAD • HICKORY**

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



**CAMP LINN HAVEN**  
LINCOLN, MO

**CAMP LINN HAVEN FAMILY WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 5-7**

**JOIN THE WAITING LIST!**

**CONTACT DONNA LEE**

## 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

*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!**

**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](https://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!

**9/14 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.

**9/14 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.

**10/31-11/2 SED High School Gathering**

High school students are invited to join us at Watermarks Camp for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and fun around the theme “No Other Name.” Sign-up and more information can be found at [sslcms.org/youth](https://sslcms.org/youth)

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

Visit [sslcms.org/youth](https://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!

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](http://www.babylist.com/kpuhbwnrf)**



**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](mailto:ksmith@sslcms.org)**

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



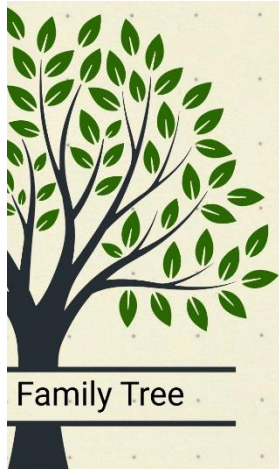
**JOIN US FOR  
PICKLEBALL**



**3-4:30  
PM** FAMILIES &  
BEGINNERS

**MEETS  
AGAIN  
SUNDAY 9/7  
IN THE GYM**

**4-6  
PM**  
EXPERIENCED  
PICKLES



## LWML QUARTERLY EVENT

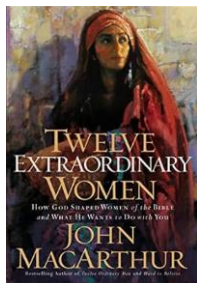
Rhonda Roederer, genealogist, presents:

“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.js@gmail.com](mailto:thorntons.js@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](mailto:thorntons.js@gmail.com).

## Missed Confirmation Orientation?

If you weren't able to attend the Confirmation Orientation, it's not too late to get started!

Families with students seeking to confirm their baptismal faith, or those wanting to learn more about what confirmation is, can find everything they need at [sslcms.org/confirmation](http://sslcms.org/confirmation).

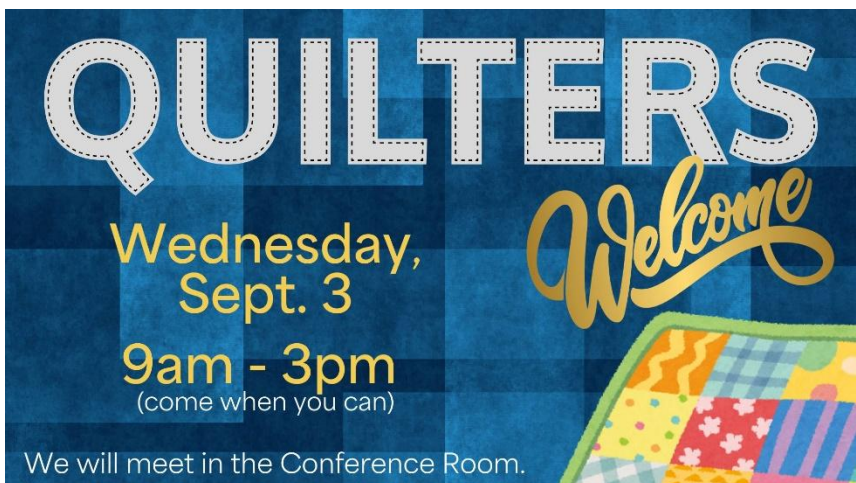
### Next Steps for Families:

- Review the Confirmation Plan, Slides, and Covenant
- Complete the sign-up form online
- Submit a signed Confirmation Covenant

### Mentors and Prayer Partners Needed:

We're also looking for adults to serve as mentors and prayer partners for our confirmation students - walking alongside them, helping answer questions, and committing to pray with and for them.

For details or to get connected, visit [sslcms.org/confirmation](http://sslcms.org/confirmation) or contact our Youth Director, Randall Cline.



## **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

## **LifeGroup Kickoff Feast & Fellowship**

As we kick off LifeGroups this fall, all LifeGroup participants & those interested in LifeGroups are invited to the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, September 8, at 6:00 PM** for food and fellowship. The church will be providing the drinks and main dish (Olive Garden). Please bring side dishes and desserts.

To help us know how many to set up for, please RSVP by calling the church office or signing up on the website/app [sslcms.org/LGmeal](https://sslcms.org/LGmeal)



# BEGINNING WITH THE *Communal* END IN MIND

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. PETER'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
↔ CONOVER, NC ↔

## WHAT ARE MITES?

You may have been contributing Mites for years. If not, our LWML invites you to participate in this simple mission project. Little Mike boxes are always available in the narthex next to the office door. Take one and put your extra change in it along with a prayer that these coins be used to support various mission needs. Deposit your Mites into the large Mite Box in the narthex next to the office door. Our LWML appreciates you joining us in this mission effort.



**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

## SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SEPT 1	LABOR DAY/SCHOOL CLOSED
SEPT 15-19	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
SEPT 19	EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:30 A.M.
SEPT 20	"CARS FOR A CURE" CAR SHOW 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
SEPT 24	BACK THE BLUE BREAKFAST 7:30 A.M.
SEPT 25	SSLS ICE-CREAM SOCIAL 6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
SEPT 26	WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY

# NOW HIRING

## Part-time Spanish teacher

Passionate about education? Love working with children? We would love to have you on staff.  
Call 828-256-2166 to learn more.

**10AM-2PM**

**ST. STEPHENS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
**PRESENTS**

**CARS FOR A CURE**

**Car Show**

**CAR \$25**  
PRE-REGISTRATION

**CASH PRIZE**  
Best in Show

**PROCEEDS**  
CAROLINA CARING  
Cardinal Kids  
DONATED TO

**FOOD TRUCKS** **KIDS ZONE** **RAFFLE PRIZES**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

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

**REGISTER HERE**

## Today's Readings

### Proverbs 25:2-10

2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. 3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable. 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; 5 take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. 6 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, 7 for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. What your eyes have seen 8 do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? 9 Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, 10 lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

### 1 Peter 4:8-11

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Luke 14:1-14

14 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. 2 And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. 3 And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" 4 But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. 5 And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" 6 And they could not reply to these things. 7 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place.

10 But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." 12 He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

**LET US PRAY FOR.....**

**SPECIAL PRAYERS**

**BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER**

**ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa**

**TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG**

**ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN**

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

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, fire in a classroom**

**COMMUNITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, tragic shooting at Ascension Catholic School**

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE**

**PAT FREDELL FAMILY.** Her brother, Dale Spencer, was called to glory on 8/21.

**DAVID POE FAMILY.** Becky was called to glory on 8/22.

**JASON HONEYCUTT FAMILY.** His mother, Leslie Barnette, passed away on 8/26.

**ROBERT & REGINA PROPST FAMILY.** Their nephew, Kevin Harris, was called to glory on 8/24

**PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS**

**CHARLES SHOOK**

**BETTY SIGMON**

**KAY WEAVER**

**FIVE FAMILY PRAYER**

**RUSTY & HELEN WOY FAMILY**

**SCOTT & KATIE CLONTZ FAMILY**

**LINDA DRUM**

**GARY & CAROLYN MANN**

**ROBERT & ADA SMITH**

**HOSPICE CARE**

**CONNIE ZIEHR,** Pastor Dave's mother

**TROY DEAL,** Brookdale Statesville

**JANICE KNIGHT,** friend of Charles & Janie Miller

### **HOSPITALIZED**

**KEVIN HUFFMAN**, Baptist

**RASHAD GRIGGS**, Baptist, great-grandson of Charles & Janie Miller

### **UPCOMING PROCEDURES**

**ANGELA SAIN**, back surgery 9/4, friend of Linda Fritz

### **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

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

**GERRY HOEKZEMA**, cancer, friend of Larry & Beth Bowman

**WALLACE SMITH**, cancer, father-in-law of Gena Watson Smith

**STEVE HASTINGS**, cancer, family friend of Savannah Lee

### **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**, home recovering

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

**LORI HOLLOWAY**, home recovering from surgery

**BILL HOWARD**, home recovering

**TINA BROOKS**, recovering from 2<sup>nd</sup> liver transplant surgery

**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

**EILEEN MCDUGALL**, recovering from back/surgery, cousin of Coach Mike

**BRUCE SIGMAN**, recovering from gallbladder removal, father of Justin

**EVAN CLONTZ**, jaw injury

**ROSE DRAKE**, recovering from arterial surgery

**BECKY MATHEWS**, home recovering from heart cath

**KATHY MORETZ**, recovering from a fall

**JIM JANICK**, recovering from a heart attack & kidney cancer, neighbor of David & Jennifer Eckard