

**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 + 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

Season of Pentecost

September 13 & 14, 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

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Johnny Buff by his family

Flowers placed at the entrance of the church are given to the glory of God in honor & celebration of Peggy Allison's 90th birthday on September 14 by her family.

Greeters

September 13th- Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt

September 14th - 8:00am- Allen Crowe

September 14th - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

September 20th - Linda McNeely

September 21st - 8:00am- Pat Wilson

September 21st - 10:30am - John & Karen Nain

Communion Assistants

September 14 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent & Eddie Warren

September 21 8:00am - Cory Westby & Ralph Mueller

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

September 14 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

September 21 - Teresa Ritchie

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 553 (97, 101, 288, 67) Sunday School - 172
General Fund: \$48,008.42 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$9,973.98
School Endowment Fund: \$810.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,064,476.33



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Come and See Ministry Fair

Snacks will be available during the ministry fair

Saturday, Sept. 13 - after 5:30pm worship
Sunday, Sept. 14 - 9:15am - 1pm
(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.



St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School welcomes our church family and friends to our **Ministry Fair THIS WEEKEND**. 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 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.

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!

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.

9/21 12-4p Service Opportunity

Grab some food at The Youth House, then team up with friends to serve! We'll be helping out with yard work and small projects in our community. Come ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

9/28 12p-1p Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately after the 10:30 am worship service for the Confirmation Unit Check-in.

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

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

Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.

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



**Join Comfort Dog Team Woof
Walk for Life - September 27**

The walk begins at the Pregnancy Care Center on September 27th at 9am. The walk is roughly 3 miles but we encourage those who do not want to walk the whole way to just do what they are comfortable with. We ask that every team has a goal of raising \$1,200 since that is what it takes to put one woman through our services! If you are interested in joining Team Woof, please see the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to a team member.

A purple-themed poster for a "Walk For Life" event. In the top left corner is the logo for the "Pregnancy Care Center of Canawha Valley", which includes a heart and a stethoscope. Below the logo is the text "REGISTER HERE" in purple, followed by a QR code. To the right of the QR code, the text "Walk For Life" is written in large, bold, white serif font. Below that, in smaller white capital letters, is "LOVE LIFE, CHOOSE LIFE" and "SEPTEMBER 27, 2025". At the bottom right, there is a white paw print icon and the text "join team 'WOOF'" in white lowercase letters.

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.**



Wanna Go?

**Thursday, Oct. 9
9:00am**

**Join us for a day trip to
Old Salem, Winston Salem.**

Cost: \$50 (transportation & tickets)

**RSVP by September 20 to
Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org**



**Trinity Village
sponsors**

**Purple Pancake Breakfast
\$10 Drive-Thru**

Proceeds benefit local Alzheimer's Association

**Friday, September 19th
7am-9am**

(Luther Manor Entrance)

**For more information OR to preorder,
contact Sharon Benfield at
828-328-2006 x.13600**



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 15-19 PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

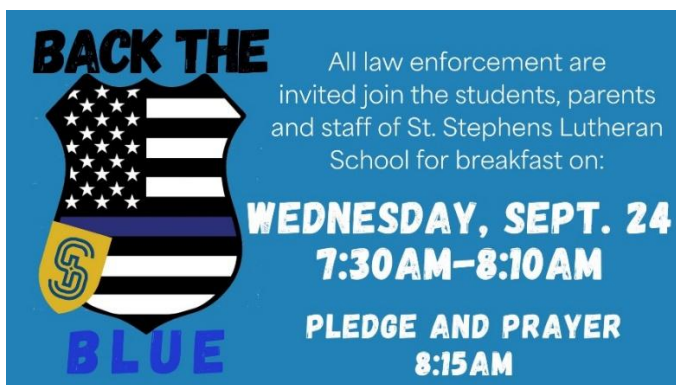
SEPT 19 EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:30 A.M.

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



Thank You

A special thank you to Brandon & Krystal Travis for an awesome job of painting our Warrior on the Concession Stand.



Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

6:30pm – Ministry Fair – Gym

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – 1:00pm – Ministry Fair – Gym

10:30am–Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00 – 3:00pm – Middle School Hangtime – Youth House

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

5:00-8:00pm – Sr. High Hangtime – Youth House

MONDAY

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

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm – Lifegroup Fellowship Meal – Fellowship Hall

7:00pm – Men’s Bible Study – Youth House

TUESDAY

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:15pm – Finance & Facilities – Conference Room

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Woman’s Bible Study – Youth House

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

THURSDAY

NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

10:30am – Lifegroup – (Larry Bowman) – Conference Room

5:45pm – Handbell Choir – Sanctuary

7:00pm – Parish Choir – Sanctuary/Choir Room

FRIDAY

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

11:30am – SSLS Early Dismissal

2:00pm – Lifegroup – David Rittenhouse’s

SATURDAY

7:30am – LLL Breakfast & Meeting – Fellowship Hall

9:00am – Cars for a Cure

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

12:00-4:00pm – Youth Servant Opportunity – Youth House

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-24

11 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. 17 "As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. 18 Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? 19 And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet? 20 "Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

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1 Timothy 1:12-17

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ALASKA MISSION TEAM

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN

END OF VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION

FAMILY OF CHARLIE KIRK, shot and killed on September 10.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

TODD CLONTZ, DAVID & VICKIE CLONTZ, BILLY & BARBARA PRICE, LINDA BOLICK, AND EXTENDED FAMILY. Bruce was called to glory on September 9.

BUGS RULLMAN, CHUCK & TIA JUSTICE, JEFF & DINKY EDINNS, ARLYS RULLMAN, AND EXTENDED FAMILY. Carl was called to glory on September 11.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

ALLEN BOLICK

ANN BOWMAN

RUTH COOK

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

CONY PEREZ

LARRY FOX

ARLYS RULLMAN

KEVIN & JENNIFER SHERRILL

JOE & DANIELLE ISAAC FAMILY

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The marriage of **VICTORIA CLARKE** and **SHANNON HINSON** who were married on September 13. Victoria is the daughter of Fran & Bobby.

KEN & KATHY MORETZ, who will celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary on September 14.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

HOSPITALIZED

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

CATHERINE WINKLER, FRMC

KEVIN HUFFMAN, CVMC

BENJAMIN TAYLOR, kidney transplant, friend of Charlie & Jill Long

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

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

CYNTHIA HEWITT, compression fracture back

LORI HOLLOWAY, home recovering from surgery

BILL HOWARD, home recovering

ROSE DRAKE, recovering from arterial surgery

BECKY MATHEWS

ANGELA SAIN, recovering from back surgery, friend of Linda Fritz

SCOTT CARPENTER, health issues, brother of Kevin

GAYLE WHITE, broken pelvic

COREN ROBERTSON, recovering from a wreck

JOHN NYE, recovering from pneumonia

BRENDA CAZIRE, health issues