

**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 20 & 21, 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

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

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

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

MONDAY

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

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm – Ruth Circle – Peace House

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

TUESDAY

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:00pm – Church Council – Conference Room

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

7:30 – 8:10am – SSLS Back the Blue Breakfast

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

6:30 – 8:00pm – SSLS Ice Cream Social - Greenfield

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

FRIDAY

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

2:00pm – Lifegroup – David Rittenhouse's

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00 – 1:00pm – Confirmation Unit 1 Check In - Sanctuary

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

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 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

BACK THE



BLUE

All law enforcement are invited join the students, parents and staff of St. Stephens Lutheran School for breakfast on:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24
7:30AM-8:10AM

PLEDGE AND PRAYER
8:15AM

Prayer on Entering

O Lord, in Your abundant mercy, You invite us into holy conversation with You; increase our faithfulness to You that we continually bring You our supplications, prayers, and thanksgivings; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Greeters

September 20th – Linda McNeely
September 21st – 8:00am- Pat Wilson
September 21st – 10:30am – John & Karen Nain

September 27th – Keith & Sue Binns
September 28th – Phillip & Sarah Starnes
September 28th – Tim & Tonya Boliek

Communion Assistants

September 21 8:00am - Cory Westby & Ralph Mueller
September 28 10:30am – David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30 am

September 21 – Teresa Ritchie September 28 – Shannon Cline

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance – 552 (105, 103, 344)
General Fund: \$29,577.37 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,557.20
School Endowment Fund: \$195.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,073,910.61

Thank You

Thank you to SSLC for your generosity both financially through the scholarship and for all of your prayers as we continue our adventures in St. Louis and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. We continue to be amazed by the support and encouragement from God through his people, the church. We give thanks to God for each of you and the faith you continue to show into your community. May God continue to bless each of you and strengthen you as you continue to walk by faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lamar Stewart & Family

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!

9/21 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.

9/28 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.

9/28 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.

10/10 5-11p SCarowinds

Join us for a night of thrills & chills as we travel to SCarowinds for haunted houses, terrifying rides, and nonstop screams! Sign up and more information can be found @ www.sslcms.org/youth

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." More information @ 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

Ladies! Are you new to the area?
Join us for a Women's Newcomer
Group starting
Wednesday, September 24
+ 10:00am +
in the Peace House
Register TODAY with Kristy
at ksmith@sslcms.org
 Do not need to be a member
 of the church to attend.

Sock & Underwear Drive
 Donate NEW socks and
 underwear for a local
 elementary school
Boys and Girls
size 5 - 14/16
 Donated items can be dropped off in the
 Mission Box in the narthex.






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.

Today's Readings

Amos 8:4-7

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, 5 saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale,

that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, 6 that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" 7 The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

Matthew 9:9-13

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

LET US PRAY.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
PARISH CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM
SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTRY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD
FIRST RESPONDERS & CIVIL SERVANTS
CAROL, ANDREW & AUBREY, prayers for God's guidance, relatives of
Char Ewald.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

KEVIN HUFFMAN FAMILY. Kevin was called to glory on September 9.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

CASSIE DEAL
CAROLYN GARREN
AMY HALL

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JEAN SPENCER
JOHN & RENEE WOOD FAMILY
CHUCK & DIANE SLIVENSKY
BETTY BOSTAIN
SONNY CHRISTENBURY

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother
BILL HOWARD

HOSPITALIZED

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

UPCOMING TESTING/PROCEDURE

SHELBY PENNINGTON, upcoming test for Lupus, sister of Pastor Shea
KENNY MULL, upcoming surgery on 9/26

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
CATHERINE WINKLER, home recovering
CYNTHIA HEWITT, compression fracture back
BILL HOWARD, home recovering
ROSE DRAKE, recovering from arterial surgery
GAYLE WHITE, broken pelvic
JOHN NYE, recovering from pneumonia
BRENDA CAZIRE, health issues
RASHAD GRIGGS, great-grandson of Charles & Janie Miller
ANGELA SAIN, recovering from back surgery, friend of Linda Fritz
SCOTT CARPENTER, health issues, brother of Kevin
COREN ROBERTSON, recovering from a wreck
NICK OSTERHOUDT, recovering from knee surgery
BRANDON, VICKI & FINN COSTAGNA, recovering from a nasty virus, daughter of Gary & Hope
BILL SHEPARD, health issues, friend of Mike Miller
JULIE GRACE, suffering from dementia, friend of Cindy Johnson
MARGARET DEAL, home recovering
MARY ALICE MADDEN, recovering from a fall/broken shoulder, great-grandmother of Savannah Lee