

**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.ssllswarriors.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 27 & 28, 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, Jane Guelzow, Sue Seabock & 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: Darel Reese & Jon Guelzow-----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

Remember us, O Lord, not for what we deserve, but because of Your grace and because You have begun Your good work in us, and You promise to bring it to completion. As You have called us to Your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Bob & Marsha Watson's 50th wedding anniversary on September 29 by their family, Gena, Jeff, Michael, Sophie & Pheobe.

Greeters

September 27th - Keith & Sue Binns
September 28th 8:00am - Phillip & Sarah Starnes
September 28th 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

October 4th - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff
October 5th 8am- Pat Wilson
October 5th 10:30am- Eric & Nikki Fisher

Communion Assistants

September 28 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook
October 5 8:00am - Steve Cain & Dave Pingel

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

September 28 - Shannon Cline October 5 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 504 (93, 106, 303) Sunday School - 142
General Fund: \$31,177.62 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$11,756.53
School Endowment Fund: \$190.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,085,667.14
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$858,704.63

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

9:00am – 3:00pm – Quilters – Conference Room

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

2:00pm – Lifegroup – David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm – Halo – Youth House

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

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.



2026 LCMS Convention

The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is July 18–23, 2026, in Phoenix, AZ. For Synod conventions, each congregation is represented, together with all the congregations of your electoral circuit, by a pastor of one of the congregations in the circuit and a layperson of another congregation of the circuit, both of whom are elected by the circuit (additionally, one pastor and one lay alternate are elected in case the delegates would be unable to attend).

In advance of the convention, each circuit must elect delegates by October 18. (St. Stephens is part of Circuit 17 of the Southeastern District.) Thus, on September 21, Circuit 17 met and elected our “delegates” for the 2026 convention. Here are the results:

Pastoral Delegate – Rev. Peter Frank (St. Peter’s)
Lay Delegate – Cory Westby (St. Stephens)

Alternate Pastoral Delegate – Rev. Alec Fisher (Christ)
Alternate Lay Delegate – David Daniels (Salem)

If you’re interested in learning more about the LCMS convention, see: lcms.org/convention/national

Out of the Office

Pastor Shea is at the SED Circuit Visitor Meeting in Virginia, September 29-30

Pastor Ziehr is at the SED Circuit Visitor Meeting and SED Board Meeting, Sept 29 - Oct 2

In the event of a pastoral emergency contact Vicar Tristan at 832-671-8912

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!

9/28 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

10/26 12-3p Youth vs. Parents Kickball Classic

Stick around after service for a cookout and the epic showdown: Youth vs. Parents in the Kickball Classic! Will the Parents finally reclaim the trophy, or will the Youth hold their championship title?

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.



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

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

OCT 2	SSLS SPIRIT NIGHT VILLAGE INN PIZZA (SPRINGS RD) 4-9PM
OCT 9	PARENT'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION 7:45AM-8:30AM GRADES K-3
OCT 10	PARENT'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION 7:45-8:30AM PRESCHOOL & GRADES 4-8



Springs Rd.
location

Join SSLS for Spirit Night

Thursday, October 2

4pm - 9pm

Dine in or Take out

You must tell them that you are with
St. Stephens Lutheran

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

Thank You

Dear Family of St. Stephens:

We are so blessed to have such a caring church family that has loved us so well during and after Carl's passing. Thank you all for the cards, calls, texts, visits and food. We would like to thank the pastors for a beautiful service and especially Pastor Ziehr for the visits during Carl's final days this side of heaven. Also, thank you to the Esther Circle and the additional ladies that helped prepare and serve the delicious meal after the service. Thank you again and may the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ be with you all today and forever more.

Bugs, Tia and Dinky

I am very grateful for the cards, visits, prayers on my behalf over the past few days. While I still have a way to go, I am already on the road to recovery.

Matthew Hamby

October is Church Worker Appreciation Month



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26, 2025
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- Youth vs. Adult Kickball Tournament
- Food
- Autumn Art & Crafts
- and many more!

We invite our Church and School families to come together for fun and fellowship.



**SAVE
THE DATE**



Water Bottle Drive

We will be collecting gently used or unwanted water bottles for Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries for the month of October.

Water bottles can be placed in the Mission Box in the narthex.



Wanna Go?
Thursday, Oct. 9
9:00am

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

Cost: \$50 (transportation & tickets)

RSVP by Oct. 5 to
Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org

Few spots remaining

**Saturday,
October 18
9am-12pm**



**CHURCH CLEANING
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

- Bring your rubber gloves, buckets, rags, dusters and vacuum cleaners
- We WILL provide cleaning solutions.
- Snacks and drinks available.
- Any and ALL help is greatly appreciated.

Today's Readings

Amos 6:1-7

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes! 2 Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory, 3 O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence? 4 “Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, 5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, 6 who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! 7 Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

1 Timothy 6:6-19

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has

(continued on next page)

immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Luke 16:19-31

19 “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ 27 And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— 28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

KID CONNECT

SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

MOUNTAINSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTRY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

FIRE FIGHTERS & POLICE OFFICERS

GRASSY CREEK COMMUNITY, the church burned down last week

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

KAY HOLLAR

PAT HOLLAR

MARIE HUFFMAN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

WALT SCHOENEGGE

RUSTY & JOY ENNIS FAMILY

TERRY & JOYE HOLLAR

ANN BOWMAN

MICHAEL & TERRY DRUM

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The baptism of **MICAH RUSSELL JONES**, son of Vicar Tristan & Carolyn, on September 28. His sponsors are Kyle & Kate Hoffman.

The birth of **SARAH RUTH BULTER**, on September 16, to Garry & Jessica.

The birth of **ANNIE LORETTA BOLLING**, on September 18, to Corey & Kristin. Proud grandparents, David & Sandra McCrary.

The birth of **SUNNY MARIE SHULTZ**, on September 22, to Spencer & Jessica. Sunny is Savannah Lee's niece.

BOB & MARSHA WATSON who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 9/29.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

BILL HOWARD

HOSPITALIZED

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

KENNETH VESPER, hospitalized in St. Louis, UTI & bacterial blood infection, brother-in-law of David Pingel

UPCOMING TESTING/PROCEDURE

SHELBY PENNINGTON, upcoming test for Lupus, sister of Pastor Shea

DAVID DAY, internal defibrillator 10/8

KATHY MORETZ, foot surgery 10/8

JURIS KUPRIS, open heart surgery, 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

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

GAYLE WHITE, broken pelvic

BRENDA CAZIRE, health issues

SCOTT CARPENTER, health issues, brother of Kevin

NICK OSTERHOUDT, recovering from knee surgery

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, great-grandmother of Savannah Lee

NANCY HICKS, recovering at home from a fall

JERRY FISHER, health issues, husband of Tashia

FAITH TUCKER, recovering at home, granddaughter of Betty Bostain

ERIC TUCKER, Afib, son of Betty Bostain

MATTHEW HAMBY, recovering at home from heart cath.

DAVID POE, home recovering from a heart procedure