

**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 6 & 7, 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

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

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

10:30am – LWML Executive Board – Peace House

6:00pm – Lifegroup Fellowship Meal – Fellowship Hall

6:00pm – School Board – Science Room

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

TUESDAY

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

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm – Elders – Conference Room

6:00pm – Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Woman's Bible Study – Peace 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

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

11:00am – Funeral Service for Doris Herman

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Beginners and Families

4:00pm – Pickle Ball – Experienced Pickles

Prayer on Entering

O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up our cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Greeters

September 6th - Cathy Drum
September 7th - 8:00am - Sharon Little
September 7th - 10:30am - Linda Fritz

September 13th - Chris, Danyelle & Connor Wyatt
September 14th - 8:00am - Allen Crowe
September 14th - 10:30am - Eric & Nikki Fisher

Communion Assistants

September 7 8:00am - Dwight Hollar & Tony Spencer
September 14 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent & Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

September 7 - Cynthia Hewitt
September 14 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 491 (83, 108, 295) Sunday School - 127
General Fund: \$16,751.69 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$28,306.91)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,038.22
School Endowment Fund: \$95.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$2,326,072.35



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.

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.

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.

New LWML Circle

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.



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.

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.




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.



Walk For Life

LOVE LIFE, CHOOSE LIFE
 SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

REGISTER HERE




join team "WOOF"



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

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

LifeGroup
Kickoff Feast and Fellowship

**Fellowship
Hall**

**September 8
6PM**

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



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.



A festive poster for St. Stephens Lutheran School Spirit Night. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting flags hangs across the width. Below the flags, on the left, is a circular silhouette graphic of two men in cowboy hats standing in a desert landscape with saguaro cacti. Below this graphic, the text "LOS COMPADRES" is written in a stylized, outlined font, with "MEXICAN RESTAURANT" in a smaller, solid font underneath. To the right of the graphic, the event title "St. Stephens Lutheran School Spirit Night" is written in a large, bold, purple font. Below the title, the date and time "Thursday, Sept. 11 5-9pm" are displayed in a bold, black font, followed by "Dine-in only" in a slightly smaller, bold, black font.

St. Stephens Lutheran School Spirit Night

Thursday, Sept. 11
5-9pm
Dine-in only

LOS COMPADRES
MEXICAN RESTAURANT



A colorful poster for a car show. On the left, a red classic convertible car is shown from a front-three-quarter view. Above the car, a large, stylized sign reads "Car Show" in a cursive font. To the left of the car, a blue starburst graphic contains the text "CAR \$25 THE REGISTRATOR". Above the car, a red banner reads "CASH PRIZE Best in Show". To the right of the car, a large, white, rounded rectangle contains the text "ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL PRESENTS CARS FOR A CURE". Below this, a red banner reads "10AM-2PM". To the right of the car, a blue shield logo with a white "S" and "L" inside is labeled "WARRIORS". Below the logo, a yellow ribbon graphic is labeled "PROCEEDS DONATED TO". To the right of the ribbon, a red banner reads "REGISTER HERE" with a QR code below it. Below the QR code, the text "CAROLINA CARING Cardinal Kids" is written. To the right of the QR code, a red banner reads "FOOD TRUCKS RAFFLE PRIZES KIDS ZONE". Below this, a black banner reads "SEPTEMBER 20, 2025".

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL PRESENTS CARS FOR A CURE

Car Show

CASH PRIZE Best in Show

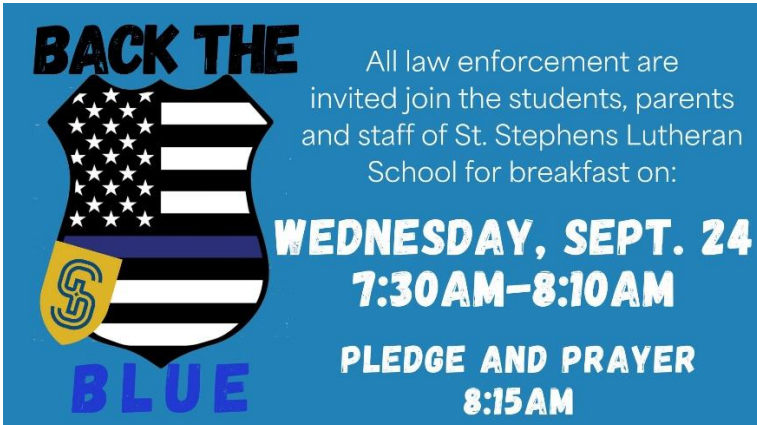
10AM-2PM

FOOD TRUCKS RAFFLE PRIZES KIDS ZONE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

PROCEEDS DONATED TO CAROLINA CARING Cardinal Kids

REGISTER HERE



A blue poster with a white American flag design. The top half of the flag is white with black stars, and the bottom half is blue with white stars. A yellow shield with a white "S" and "L" inside is positioned over the bottom left corner of the flag. To the right of the flag, the text "All law enforcement are invited join the students, parents and staff of St. Stephens Lutheran School for breakfast on:" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the date and time "WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24 7:30AM-8:10AM" are displayed in a large, bold, white font. Below the date and time, the text "PLEDGE AND PRAYER 8:15AM" is written in a bold, white font.

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

Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

Philemon 1-21

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister
and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ. 4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers,
5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the
Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your
faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing
that is in us for the sake of Christ. 7 For I have derived much joy and
comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints
have been refreshed through you. Paul's Plea for Onesimus
8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to
do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul,
an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you
for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my
imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed
useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my
very heart. 13 I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that
he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the
gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order
that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own
accord.

15 For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, 16 no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. 17 So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. 18 If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Luke 14:25-35

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. 34 “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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

ST. PETER'S 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

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF TROY DEAL - Troy was called to glory on 8/31.

KAREN LITTLE FAMILY. Her husband, Don Little, was called to glory on August 30. Don was a retired LCMS pastor.

DEAN KNIGHT & FAMILY. Janice was called to glory on 9/1.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

RUTH WILLIS

JO WILHELM

WILLINE AUSTIN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

JUSTIN & TIFFANI TRAVIS FAMILY

MARK & TIFFANY WHITE FAMILY

AMY BEHELER FAMILY

MARTHA KILLIAN

LORI HOLLOWAY & JON

PRAYER OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The marriage of **MCKENZIE BECKER** and **KYLE MORITZ** on September 5.

HOSPICE CARE

CONNIE ZIEHR, Pastor Dave's mother

HOSPITALIZED

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

CATHERINE WINKLER, FRMC

KEVIN HUFFMAN, CVMC

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

CYNTHIA HEWITT, compression fracture back

LORI HOLLOWAY, home recovering from surgery

BILL HOWARD, home recovering

TINA BROOKS, recovering from 2nd liver transplant surgery

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

RHYNE MAYNARD, health concerns

EVAN CLONTZ, jaw injury

ROSE DRAKE, recovering from arterial surgery

BECKY MATHEWS

KATHY MORETZ, recovering from a fall

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

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

SCOTT CARPENTER, health issues, brother of Kevin

SUSAN REDDICK, pneumonia

GAYLE WHITE, broken pelvic