

**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

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026

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----Genesis----School Bldg. #108
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz-----Bible Lessons-----Choir Room
Adults-Ladies: Led by Regina Propst-----"Is God Speaking to Me?" -----Parlor
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109

Prayer on Entering

Lord Jesus Christ, You have called us by grace, claimed us as Your own, and sent us into the world You love. Open our eyes to see that we are not placed where we are by accident, but by Your design and purpose. Lead us by Your Spirit to seek, recognize, and respond to Your work in our homes, workplaces, classrooms, and communities. Strengthen us to live as people who are sent out as everyday missionaries. This is the way. To You be the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Greeters

February 7th - Brent & Donna Townsend
February 8th 8am - Pat Wilson
February 8th 10:30am - Need a Volunteer

Communion Assistants

February 8 10:30am - Chris Barringer, Eric Kent, Eddie Warren

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

February 8 - Sheila Poovey

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 225 (ice storm - one service Saturday morning at 10:30am)
General Fund: \$12,868.77 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,539.01
School Endowment Fund: \$100.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,062,960.82
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,088,238.64

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

NO EVENTS

SUNDAY

NO EVENTS

MONDAY

NO EVENTS

TUESDAY

1:00pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Parlor

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:30pm - Comfort Dog Ministry (Handlers) - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

6:30pm - Comfort Dog Ministry - Conference Room

WEDNESDAY

NO Quilters - See you in March

10:00am - Women's Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth House

1:00pm - Senior Session - Conference Room

5:00pm - SED - parlor

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

6:30pm - Mary Circle - Conference Room

THURSDAY

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

NOON - BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm - Handbell Choir - Sanctuary

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

7:00pm - Lifegroup - (Richard Starnes) - Parlor

FRIDAY

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

2:00pm - Lifegroup - David Rittenhouse's

5:30pm - Halo Bible Study - Youth House

SATURDAY

5:30pm - Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00-4:00pm - Jr. & Sr. High - Corner Table Backpack Program

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

6:00pm - Life Group (Dwight Hollar) - Conference Room



Honor and
Remember with
**ALTAR
FLOWERS**

The 2026 Flower chart is available
for weekend signups on the bulletin
board in the narthex.

A photograph of a white ceramic vase filled with a bouquet of purple lavender flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing the characteristic whorled structure of lavender blossoms.

We have changed to a new florist, **Thistle Dew Nicely**, located on Union Square. The phone number is 828-322-3242. The gentlemen's name is Leroy Kennedy.

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!

2/8 | 12:00-4:00 PM Corner Table Backpack Program

Hang out in the Youth House, grab some lunch, and then jump in to help pack food bags for local kids through the Backpack Program. It’s an easy, hands-on way to serve others, have fun together, and make a real difference in our community!

2/15 | 4:00-11:00 PM Skiing @ Sugar Mountain

We’re hitting the slopes at Sugar Mountain. Grab your friends, bundle up, and get ready for an epic night of skiing, laughs, and winter vibes. Sign up and more information at:

sslcms.org/youth

2/22 | 12:00-1:00 PM Confirmation - Unit Check-in

Confirmation students and their families will meet in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 AM worship service. This is a chance to reflect on learning so far, ask questions, and stay connected as we continue this faith journey together.

2/22 | 5:00-8:00 PM Middle & High School Hang Time

We continue our **You Live It** devotional series with another evening of food, connection, and faith-filled discussion in the Youth House. Each week builds on the last, helping students see how faith is lived out daily.

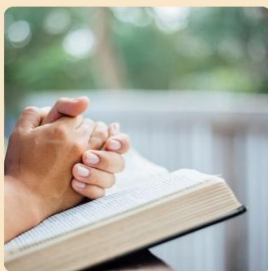
Want to Get Connected?

Parents and families are always encouraged to reach out with questions or to learn how to partner in their student’s faith journey. Visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.

Have a devotional that you have loved?
Looking for one to dig into this year?

Join us for a
Devotional Exchange
with fellowship and refreshments

Sunday, February 15
following the 10:30 service



RSVP by Feb. 12 to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org



Join us for an evening at Narrowway
Christian Dinner Theater,
Fort Mill, SC

Wanna Go?
Sunday, March 29
5:00pm
(bus leaves SSLC at 3pm)

A deposit of
\$25 is
required to
reserve your
seat.

Cost: \$75
(Ticket, dinner, & transportation)

RSVP by Feb. 28 to Kristy at
ksmith@sslcms.org

QUILTERS

Wed.

**Canceled for
February**

7-3pm

(come when you can)

Welcome

We will meet in the Conference Room.



A blue banner with a repeating pattern of a stylized 'S' inside a circle. The word 'NEW' is written vertically in white on the left. The word 'MEMBERS' is in large white capital letters. The word 'CLASS' is in large blue capital letters inside a white rounded rectangle. Below this, a white rounded rectangle contains the text 'Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Conference Room.' in blue. At the bottom, a blue bar contains the text 'RSVP to Tiffany at Tsigmon@sslcms.org or call the church office.' in white.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Conference Room.

RSVP to Tiffany at Tsigmon@sslcms.org or call the church office.

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



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

February 13 - 16 - No school

February 19 - Bible Bee



Senior Session

Wednesday, February 4*

(*New date due to ice storm)

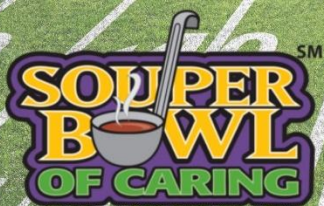
1:00pm

in Conference Room

RSVP to Kristy Smith ksmith@sslcms.org

Providing a focal point for aging resources, as well as opportunities designed to extend independent living and enrich the quality of life for older adults.

Presenter: Vickie Blevins, Executive Director



**HELP US CHANGE
THE GAME
AND TACKLE
HUNGER**

Help us support the Backpack Program by donating Ramen (packages) and Oatmeal (box of individual packs) now thru February 8.

Items can be placed in Super Bowl teams bins in Narthex.



Team/School Spirit Day

**Saturday & Sunday
Feb. 7/8**

**Wear your favorite team
or team colors and
worship with us.**

February is:

Faith Comfort Dog Month

Join in fun activities for the
month of February.



For more information about the Comfort Dog
Ministry, Contact Top Dog, Sandy Matthews
email: comfortdog@sslcms.org
cell: 828-244-8393
website: www.sslcms.org/comfortdog

February 1

See a special video from Lutheran
Church Charities

February 8

Share a valentine with Faith and
receive a special valentine from her

February 15

Happy Birthday Faith!

Join Faith and her Team in the gym
to celebrate her 5th birthday.
Enjoy some birthday cake and visit the
photo booth and get your picture
taken with Faith.

February 22

- A second chance to have your
picture taken with Faith in her
photo booth
- Sign up to go on a ride-along with
Faith and her handler.

Today's Readings

Micah 6:1-8

1 Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, or the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord."

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with[a] thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,[b] and to walk humbly with your God?

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach[a] to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but

to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards,[b] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being[c] might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him[d] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

John 17: 13-25

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.^[a] ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them^[b] in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself,^[c] that they also may be sanctified^[a] in truth.

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL BOARD

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

ST. PETERS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS

POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

THOSE IMPACTED BY THE WINTER STORM

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

TASHIA & ANTHONY FISHER, Tashia's husband/Anthony's father, Jerry, was called to glory on 1/27

BECKY MATHEWS & HAROLINE SETZER, their cousin, Steve Killian, was called to glory

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

AMY HALL

KAY HOLLAR

PAT HOLLAR

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

MIKE & ROMONA LONG

GARY & BECKY MATHEWS

DARRIN & KIM MILLER

BRUCE & PAIGE MONK FAMILY

JOY MORROW FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

KENNETH VESPER's Return Home after an 8-month recovery in hospital & rehab from a severe fall off a ladder, brother-in-law of David Pingel.

The birth of **MAELEIGH BLEU WILLIS** to Cody Willis & Makenah Melvin on Jan. 25. Granddaughter of Cory & Candice Gurganious

HOSPITALIZED

PAM BENFIELD, fluid around heart, aunt of Randall Cline

DENNIS COMBS, FRMC, heart issues, Bobbie Flowers

MARSHA WATSON, CVMC

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

LISA DAVIS, upcoming cancer surgery, friend of Mark & Kim Bolick

LEE DIETRICH, ICU Charlotte, son-in-law of Pat Fredell

SARA FERRAI, broken knee, surgery in March, former exchange student of the Johnson's

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

SHERRY NORRIS, breast cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

SHARON JONES

EARL WYATT, liver cancer, uncle of Chris Wyatt

MARIE BUFF, cancer, wife of Jerry, sister-in-law of Rick & Judy

JOE MATHIS, cancer, brother-in-law of Karen Shade

DONALD TRAVIS, cancer, father of Justin Travis

LORI MILLS, cancer, family of Keith Payne

JUDY MOSER, chemo treatments starting next week at Duke, friend of Linda Fritz

RECOVERING

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

JACK ROBERTS, College Pines rehab/broken hip, husband of Dana

ALLEN CROWE, health issues

MIKE DRUM, heart issues

CINDY BRINN, home recovering from eye surgery

LINDA LAIL, Trinity Village, Rehab

MADISON STARNES, blood clot in lung, daughter of Phillip & Sarah

REGGIE & SHERRY CRAIG, health issues

DARRELL & CINDY RHAME, health issues

KAREN SHADE, home recovering

ERNIE HALL, recovering at home

JERRY RITCHIE, recovering at home

CYNTHIA HEWITT, recovering at home

NICHOLAS COLATO, recovering from a concussion

JOHN MALONEY, health issues, nephew of Jason & Faye Honeycutt

SHARON MULL, health issues, sister of David Propst