

**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

Blueprint for Blessing

February 14 & 15, 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-----In His Image by Jen Wilkin-----Parlor
Adults - Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days----- School Bldg. #109

Prayer on Entering

Lord God, master Builder of Your Church, we thank You that in Jesus You have replaced the Temple and Priesthood with something far greater—Your living presence among Your people. By Your Spirit, You gather us, build us, and bind us together into one body, the Church, where forgiveness is spoken, grace is given, and life is restored. Shape us as living temples and set us apart as a holy priesthood that we may live as Your blessed people in the world. Into Your hands we commend ourselves, confident that You who began this good work will bring it to completion, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Greeters

February 14th - Brent & Donna Townsend
February 15th - 8am- Judy Gurganious
February 15th - 10:30- Micheal & Katie Vaughn

February 21st - Cathy Drum & Brenda Little
February 22nd - 8am- Gregg & Vickie Fletcher
February 22nd - 10:30am- John & Karen Nain

Communion Assistants

February 15 8:00am - David Pingel & Todd Little
February 22 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

February 15 - Amy Crouch February 22 - Cynthia Hewitt

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 520 (80, 117, 323) Sunday School - 154
General Fund: \$42,039.23 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,697.96
School Endowment Fund: \$785.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$728,362.78
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,431,209.34

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

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

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

4:00-11:00pm - Middle & High School Youth - Skiing @ Sugar Mountain

MONDAY - NO SCHOOL

9:00am - Lighthouse - Pastor Guelzow - Conference Room

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Esther Circle - Conference Room

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 - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

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

10:00am - Nominating Committee - Parlor

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

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

7:30am - Men's Club Breakfast & Meeting

SUNDAY

8:00am - Traditional Worship

9:15am - Family Bible Hour

10:30am-Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

12:00-1:00pm-Confirmation - Unit Check-in

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

5:00-8:00pm-Middle & High School Hang Time

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

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

Joining Jesus Video Biby Study (Now Available)

Jesus is already at work in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and homes—long before we ever show up. This 10-week video Bible study invites you to open your eyes to where Jesus is already working and to join Him in the everyday places of life. You can access the videos and materials on our website at sslcms.org/joiningjesus (password: **JoiningJesus**) or in the app by clicking “**Joining Jesus Bible Study.**” Each week includes a downloadable discussion guide to help you reflect and grow as an everyday missionary. This is a great resource for LifeGroups, Bible studies, families, and personal growth. Come and see what Jesus is already up to—and step into the adventure of joining Him as He changes lives, including yours.

LCMS Foundation

We live in an “I can do it myself” culture. Sometimes we might be tempted to think a Christian estate plan is just a collection of documents (will, trust, POA). However, we need to look deeper into the factors influencing a good plan. A will might refer to a certain percentage of gift to family or ministry, but a beneficiary designation on an account like an IRA might supersede with different instructions. It is important to have help making sure these documents agree. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist. Contact Pastor John Denninger at John.Denninger@LFND.org.

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!

2/15 | 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.

3/1 | 12:00-6:00 PM Jonas Ridge Snow Tubing

Students...get ready to send it at Jonas Ridge! Big slides, big laughs, zero skill needed. Spots are limited and will go fast, so lock in your spot and don't miss out. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

3/8 | 12:00-3:00 PM Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Auction

Support our youth missions and retreats while enjoying great food and fellowship! Enter a chili, donate a dessert for the live auction, or just come hungry. Sign up and more information at: sslcms.org/youth

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.



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

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM
ALL PICKLES WELCOME



MENS
BREAKFAST

Saturday, Feb. 21
7:30am - Fellowship Hall
Devotion, food and fellowship



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

FEB 16

SCHOOL CLOSED
PRESIDENTS DAY

FEB 20

DONUTS WITH DAD 7:15 AM

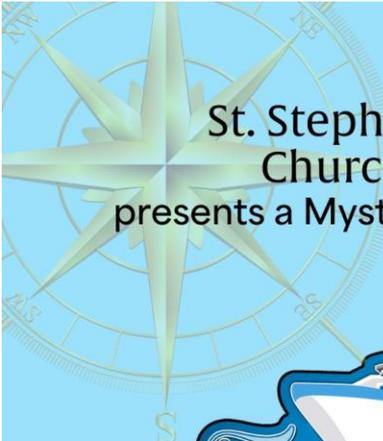
FEB 26

BIBLE BEE 1:00PM

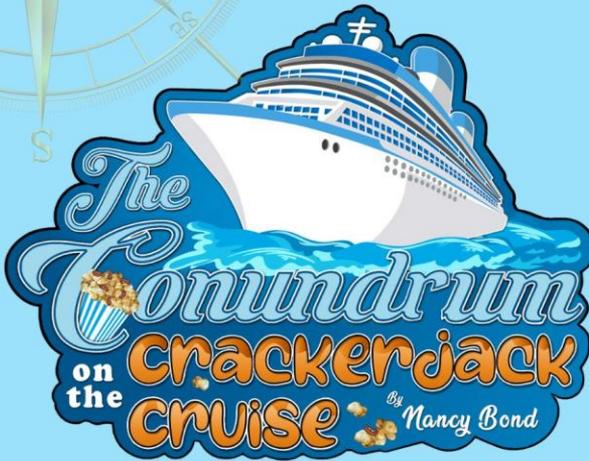
FEB 27

WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY

FEBRUARY



St. Stephens Lutheran
Church & School
presents a Mystery & Dinner Theater



Tickets on sale in school foyer Feb. 21/22

Sunday, March 22
4pm

**Tickets:
Adults \$25
Students (K-8) \$10

**Tickets can be purchased with
cash, check, card or venmo

Proceeds benefit Alaska Mission team

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: ww.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.



**ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN
YOUTH MINISTRY**



CHILI COOK-OFF

and **DESSERT AUCTION**

March 8, 2026 | 12-2pm

Sample a variety of chilis and vote for the peoples choice then bid on a dessert to sweeten the heat.



Do you have a favorite chili recipe or a favorite desert? Consider entering the chili-cookoff or making a desert for the auction.

For information
contact
Randall Cline
rcline@sslcms.org

\$10

**to sample
the chilis**

Proceeds from the event
benefits St. Stephens
Lutheran Youth Ministry.

**How much
are you
willing to
pay for
that dessert?**

SSLS School Endowment Fund Report Quarter Ending 12/31/2025

Investment Category	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
Cash	\$616,010.48	\$618,873.09
Bond Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Savings Account (Thrivent)	\$241,636.86	\$248,885.96
Stock Mutual Funds	\$724,925.57	\$797,866.59
Stocks	\$161,779.72	\$210,296.45
Real Estate	\$223,200.00	\$223,200.00
TOTAL	\$1,967,552.63	\$2,099,122.09



In anticipation of the cross Jesus took three of His disciples and retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. This Lent we will join Jesus in the Garden. We will look in all four Gospels to see His prayer, His teaching and His betrayal, as we prepare to celebrate His death and resurrection. In this season of solemn remembrance and repentance, we are going to slow down and spend five weeks with Jesus in the Garden. Come and join us each Wednesday at 10:30am or 6:30pm.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Saturday - March 28th

5:30pm - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Palm Sunday - March 29th

8am - Traditional Worship

10:30am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

10:30am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

6:30pm - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday - April 3rd

10:30am - Traditional Worship

6:30pm - Traditional Worship

Easter Saturday - April 4th

10am - Eggstravaganza

5:30pm - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday - April 5th

7am - Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

10:30am - Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion

Today's Readings

Exodus 24:8-18

8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." 9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. 12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13 So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14 And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." 15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Matthew 17:1-9

17 And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. 3 And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." 8 And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. 9 And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

LWML/LLL

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS

POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

THE FAMILY OF MARGARET MOORE. Margaret was called to glory on February 10. A co-worker of Kevin Carpenter.

JEMMA GREGORIE & FAMILY. Her stepfather was called to glory last weekend.

LEON & JESSICA MANUEL FAMILY. Leon's grandmother, Geneva Bowles, was called to glory on February 8.

SHARON LAVINE FAMILY. Her husband, Pete, was called to glory on 2/5

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

HAZEL LOVELACE

REBECCA MOFFETT

CLARK NORRIS

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

BRENDAN & HANNAH SHERRILL FAMILY

BEN & KAY SPATZ

BERT & LAURA SPATZ FAMILY

JONATHAN & NICOLE SPATZ FAMILY

BRANDON & KRISTAL TRAVIS FAMILY

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

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

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

ALLEN KILLIAN, upcoming procedure February 16, CVMC

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, colon cancer, upcoming surgery February 16. Son of Teri Cain.

HOSPITALIZED

MICHAEL RINK, cancer, friend of Allen Killian

MARSHA WATSON, CVMC

DAVID CLONINGER, CVMC, son of Donna Townsend

ERNIE HALL, FRMC

LYNN STARK, ICU, complication from kidney surgery, friend of Doug & Cindy Johnson

CHARLIE BOWMAN, Baptist, brain bleed, cousin of Kim Cline

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

DINKY EDDINS, breast cancer

GIL BRAUCH, cancer

ERVIN BOLICK, cancer

LINDA TILLEY, cancer

DELANEY JESSUP, cancer

KAY WEAVER, Squamous Cell (Skin) Cancer

SHARON JONES

EARL WYATT, liver cancer, uncle of Chris Wyatt

MARIE BUFF, hospice care, wife of Jerry, sister-in-law of Rick Buff & Judy Buff

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 at Duke, friend of Linda Fritz

BRANDON MOOSE, diabetic neuropathy in eyes, friend of Sheila Poovey

DARNELL MITCHEL, pancreatic cancer, friend of Kim Cline

RECOVERING

ARLENE DEAL, recovering at home

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

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

LINDA LAIL, home

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

SHARON MULL, health issues, sister of David Propst

BRUCE STUART, recovering from a brain bleed and seizure, friend of Cindy Johnson

LAURI NEUBAUER, recovering from amputation, sister of Kristy Smith

JERRY RITCHIE, home recovering

DENNIS COMBS, heart issues, Bobbie Flowers

LEE DIETRICH, son-in-law of Pat Fredell

BOB WATSON