

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

Communion Assistants

February 22 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook
March 1 8:00am - Ralph Mueller & Dwight Hollar

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

February 22 - Cynthia Hewitt March 1 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 525 (80, 102, 343) Sunday School - 153
General Fund: \$29,214.51 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$3,555.65
School Endowment Fund: \$95.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$731,670.37
Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,439,393.53

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 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

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

1:00pm - Ruth Circle - Peacehouse

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

TUESDAY

2:15pm - Nominating Committee - Parlor

4:00pm - Lifegroup - Pastor Guelzow - Parlor

4:00PM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

5:00pm - Church Council - Conference Room

6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal

6:00pm - VBS Planning - Youth House

WEDNESDAY

10:30am - Mid-Week Lenten Service

6:30pm - Mid-Week Lenten Service

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

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

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. Sometimes we don't know the possibilities of things we could do, especially on our own. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can show you those gifting opportunities. 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!

2/22 | 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

4/24-4/26 SED Middle School Youth Gathering

6th–8th graders, don't miss this gathering! Join us in Williamsburg for an epic weekend of friends, worship, games, and unforgettable moments. This is one you'll be talking about all year. 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

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

Register this week!

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM
ALL PICKLES WELCOME



PLANNING
VBS
WE NEED YOU

Brainstorming ideas to
make this years VBS the
best yet!

Tuesday, Feb. 24
6:00pm
in the Youth Modular

Bring your energy and ideas.



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 26

BIBLE BEE 1:00PM

FEB 27

WAPC DRESS DOWN DAY

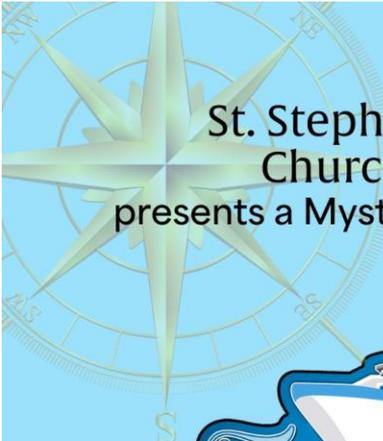
FEBRUARY



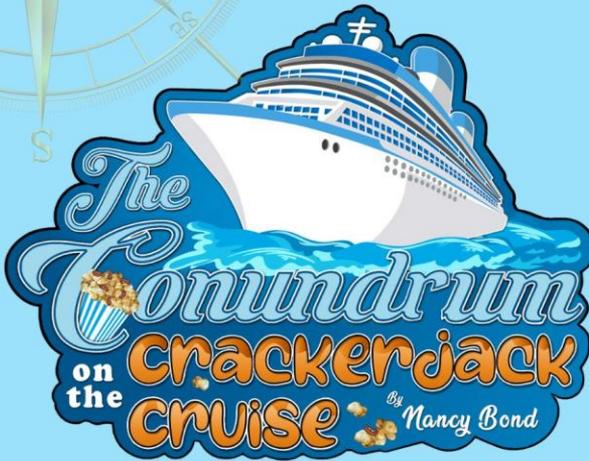
**Family Fun
Night @
Skateland**

**Monday, Feb. 23
6-8pm**

 SSLS PTL will cover admission and skate rental.



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



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

For more information about Comfort Dog Ministry, visit www.sslcms.org/comfortdog



PRAISE
REMEMBER
ASK
YIELD
EXCITEMENT
REJOICE

The LWML invites all ladies to prepare their hearts for the Lent season.

Prayer Service
Sunday, March 1
3pm-5pm

Refreshments to follow.



Sunday, March 1 - 12-6:00pm

Ticket: \$45
(Lunch and transportation included)

RSVP and payment is required by February 22th.

Donna Lee: dlee@sslcms.org

Randall Cline: rcline@sslcms.org

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

2nd grade and under must be accompanied by a parent / guardian



**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

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHICKEN PIE DINNER Fundraiser for Our Savior LWML



Saturday, February 28
Drive-Thru ONLY 4-6pm

Dinner Includes:
¼ Chicken Pie, green beans, gravy,
cole slaw, and a homemade dessert

\$15 Per Plate

A religious painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, with text overlaid. Jesus is shown in profile, wearing a yellow tunic and a red cloak, with his hands clasped in prayer. The background is dark and atmospheric, with a landscape and a figure in the distance.

Lent Midweek Services

10:30am & 6:30pm

February 25

March 18

March 4

March 25

March 11

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 19:5-6

5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:9-10

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

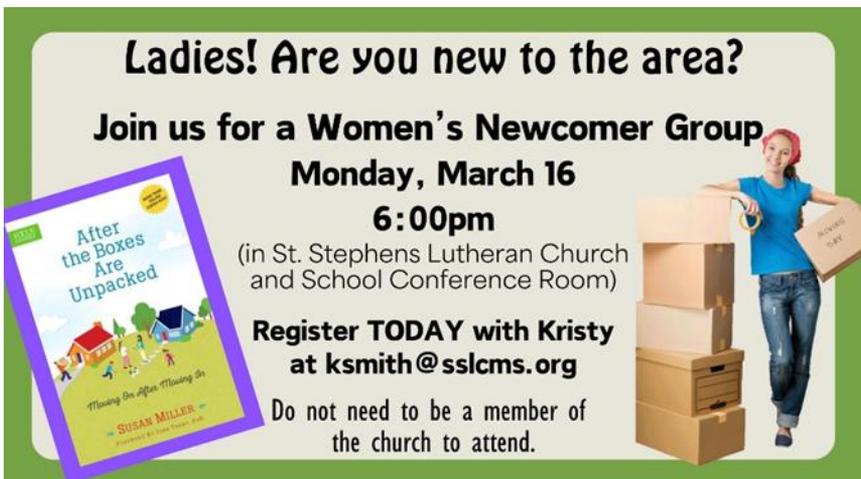
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 13:12-17

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Out of Town

Pastor Shea and Holly are out of town on vacation



Ladies! Are you new to the area?

Join us for a Women's Newcomer Group
Monday, March 16
6:00pm
(in St. Stephens Lutheran Church
and School Conference Room)

Register TODAY with Kristy
at ksmith@sslcms.org

Do not need to be a member of
the church to attend.



SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER
ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
ALASKA MISSION TEAM
SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa
TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG
MOUNTAINSIDE 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

JOE & DANIELLE ISAAK FAMILY. Joe's grandfather, Kermit Miller, passed away on February 13.

RICK BUFF & JUDY BUFF FAMILIES. Their sister-in-law, Marie Buff, was called to glory on February 14.

TOM & KRISTY SMITH FAMILY. Tom's brother, Jim, was called to glory on February 18.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

JEAN ROLLINS
GARNER SETTLEMYRE
BETTY SIGMON

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

DAN & JANET VON DOHLEN FAMILY
HOWARD & PATSY WAGONER
PATRICIA WALSH
HALEY WARD
WHITNEY WARD & ASHER

UPCOMING PROCEDURES

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

TABITHA WORLEY, upcoming test 2/19 & 4/9

KERRY COOK, heart catheterization 3/2, CVMC

HOSPITALIZED

MICHAEL RINK, cancer, friend of Allen Killian

MARSHA WATSON, CVMC

DAVID CLONINGER, CVMC, son of Donna Townsend

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

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

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

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

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

JERRY RITCHIE, home recovering

DENNIS COMBS, heart issues, Bobbie Flowers

LEE DIETRICH, son-in-law of Pat Fredell

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, recovering at home. Son of Teri Cain.

FINNIAN & CULLEN EDGELL, both recovering from tonsillectomy & adenoidectomy surgery

WESLEY, son of Kelly Killian

JASON PRUITT, health issues