

**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.sslwarriors.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 7 & 8, 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 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 7th - Brent & Donna Townsend

February 8th 8am - Pat Wilson

February 8th 10:30am - Need a Volunteer

February 14th - Brent & Donna Townsend

February 15th - 8am- Judy Gurganious

February 15th - 10:30- Micheal & Katie Vaughn

Communion Assistants

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

February 15 8:00am - David Pingel & Todd Little

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

February 8 - Sheila Poovey

February 15 - Amy Crouch

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 230 (snow storm - one service Friday evening at 6:00pm)

General Fund: \$16,553.67 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$4,238.17

School Endowment Fund: \$0

Church Expansion/Building Fund Funds Needed: \$4.4 Million

Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,029,084.09

Church Expansion Bills Paid So Far: \$2,130,804.73

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

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

3:00-6:00pm - Pickle Ball

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

MONDAY

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

10:00am - With Our Hands Ministry

6:00pm - School Board - Science Room

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

TUESDAY

10:00am - Nominating Committee - Parlor

1:00pm - Elizabeth Circle - Conference Room

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 - Women's Bible Study (Sonni Thornton) Youth House

1:00pm - LWML Ex. Board - Peace House

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 - SSLS NO SCHOOL/TEACHER WORKDAY

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

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

JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
SUNDAY

3-6 PM

ALL PICKLES WELCOME



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.

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.

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

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 Narroway
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

**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.



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 5 | SPELLING BEE 1:00PM |
| FEB 11 | CULVER'S SPIRIT NIGHT |
| FEB 13 | SCHOOL CLOSED |
| 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



**Join us for
Spirit Night**

**Wed., February 11
5:00-8:00pm
(Dine in or Take out)**



Thank you for
supporting St. Stephens
Lutheran School



February 18

10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Lent Midweek Services

10:30am & 6:00pm

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.

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

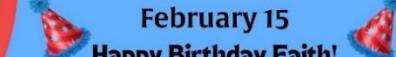
February 8

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.

For more information or to request a heart:

Connect with your local HMC ministry:
St. Stephens Lutheran
Church and School
2304 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-256-9865
www.ssclms.org



HeartsMC@lutheranchurchcharities.org

www.LutheranChurchCharities.org

3020 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062
866-455-6466 PHONE | 866-451-1476 FAX



Our mission is to bring the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need.

Ways to Give

Online www.LutheranChurchCharities.org

By Mail Lutheran Church Charities
3020 Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, IL 60062

By Telephone Call 866-455-6466

Sharing the
Love and Hope
of Jesus Christ



Sharing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ



Hearts of Mercy & Compassion (HMC) provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses or markers to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are encouraging the illness of a loved one. HMC provides a physical heart or cross to a cemetery, honor service, as an expression of love, or to an encouragement in the face of adversity. Grief, as a gift, each HMC provides the love and hope of Jesus through presence and prayer.

Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

As we journey together, we can share in each other's sorrows and celebrations. The heart itself is universal and conveys love. The color blue is the color of hope and the fish a symbol of God's saving grace. Your request, Lutheran Church Charities, working through churches, can provide an HMC at no charge.



Heart Dimensions
Small Heart = 4" x 4"
Medium Heart = 14" x 11 1/4"
Large Heart = 11 1/2" x 14 1/2"



Hearts of Mercy & Compassion can be given for circumstances such as:

- Death of a loved one
- Loss of a care
- in times of loneliness and fear
- Honoring Service
- Celebrating a victory
- Encouragement in the face of adversity
- An expression of love

Specialized Hearts of Mercy & Compassion can be provided for:

- **Hearts for Military Service:** This heart is purple, which is a combination of each of the six military branch colors, includes a crest from the appropriate military branch.
- **Hearts for First Responders:** This heart will have a thin line recall.
EMS/Paramedics – Thin White Line
Firefighters – Thin Red Line
Law Enforcement – Thin Blue Line
Public Safety Service – Thin Yellow Line



Today's Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' 17 And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.'

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 5:13-20

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

YOUNG ADULTS

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

AUGUSTANA 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 GERRY HOEKZEMA. Gerry was called to glory on 2/1, Larry Bowman family.

THE FAMILY OF JEFF HALLMAN. Jeff was called to glory on 2/4. Friend of Katrina Conwell.

CLARK NORRIS & JON & DAWN MULLEN FAMILIES. Clark's wife/Dawn's mother, Sherry, was called to glory on 2/4.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

MARIE HUFFMAN

THELMA HUFFMAN

MARTHA KILLIAN

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

KIRK & TRACY HYMES

DAVID POE

DARRELL & CINDY RHAME

BUD & MARY RILEY

CHRIS & KIMBERLY ROGERS 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

PASTOR ZIEHR, heart cath on February 9

HOSPITALIZED

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

MICHAEL RINK, cancer, friend of Allen Killian

PETE LAVINE, CVMC Pneumonia

DENNIS COMBS, FRMC, heart issues, Bobbie Flowers

MARSHA WATSON, CVMC

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, 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 at Duke, friend of Linda Fritz

RECOVERING

ARLENE DEAL, recovering at home

J P NELSON, kidney transplant

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

CINDY BRINN, home recovering from eye surgery

LINDA LAIL, Trinity Village, Rehab

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

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