

**Connecting All to Christ...In Us...Among Us...Through
Us**


ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN
Church & School – LCMS
2304 Springs Road
Hickory, North Carolina 28601



Church: 828-256-9865

School: 828-256-2166

Church website: www.sslcms.org

School website: www.sslwarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor + David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor
Daniel Brummet, Vicar + Ross Chiles, Principal + Randall Cline, Youth Ministry
Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator + Brandon Buff, Facilities and Technology
Robert Smith, Traditional Music Director + David Day, Praise Team Director
Donna Lee, Children's Ministry + Savannah Lee, Communication Coordinator
Sharon Maynor, Administrator + Tashia Fisher, Church Administrative Asst.
Debbi Becker, School Administrative Asst. + Ashley Skinner, Bookkeeping Asst.
Tiffany Sigmon, Receptionist & Visitor Engagement Coordinator
Kristy Smith, New Member Coordinator

Season after Pentecost

August 19 & 20, 2023

Welcome to worship...

We pray you will find the presence of God in our worship. We ask that all of our members and all visitors to please print your name in the book passed along the pew before the offering. Visitors, we encourage you to fill out a Connect Card also.

Holy Communion: We welcome all who have been instructed and confirmed 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 & College Life Group: Led by Ken Moretz/Darel Reese-----Teacher Workroom
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar-----Lessons of the Day-----Fellowship Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar-----Matthew-----Science Room
New Member Class: Led by Pastors-----Ed. Bldg. Conference Room
Adults: Led by Katie Clontz-----Holy Habits-----Choir Room
Adults-Women: Led by Regina Propst-----Waiting by Sharla Fritz -----Parlor

Prayer on Entering

Lord, Jesus, we give You thanks and praise for blessing us with grace and salvation! As your called and chosen people empower us to be voices of invitation to all people that with us they may serve You with joy and gladness all our days. We pray this through You, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of Dale and Priscilla Crouch's 55th wedding anniversary on August 25th, by Darren, Amy, and Grace Crouch, and Susan and Dean Ledbetter.

Flowers placed at the entrance of the church are given to the glory of God by Gene & Harolene Sezter in honor and celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary on August 19th.

Greeters

August 19th- Keith and Sue Binns
August 20th 8am- Gregg and Vickie Fletcher
August 20th 10:30- John and Karen Nain

August 26th- Linda McNeely and Judy Buff
August 27th 8am- Gregg and Vickie Fletcher
August 27th 10:30- Charles and Linda Fritz

Communion Assistants

August 20	8:00am	David Rittenhouse & Tony Spencer
August 27	10:30am	David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

Nursery Volunteers – 10:30am

August 20	Teresa Ritchie	August 27	Cynthia Hewitt
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Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday Attendance – 600 (99, 93, 408) Sunday School - 142
General Fund: \$25,318.56 (Regular Offerings needed each week: \$26,785.12)
Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$11,766.55
School Endowment Fund: \$210.00
Church Expansion/Building Fund Account Balance: \$1,212,107.84

Brand-new Church App

Experience a deeper connection to St. Stephens with our Cutting-edge mobile app! Stay up-to-date with the latest sermons, events, and updates, all in the palm of your hand. From watching and listening to services to joining Life Groups and engaging in in-app messaging with fellow members, the St. Stephens app empowers you to enhance your spiritual journey.



DOWNLOAD TODAY

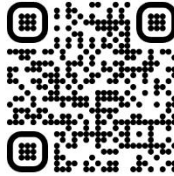
<http://get.theapp.co/x22v>

St. Stephens Lutheran Church and School

Available in App Stores



Roku



Children's & Family Ministry

WEEKLY KIDS CONNECT BIBLE HOUR

9:15am-10:15 am Sunday mornings

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

Bible Truth: Jesus forgives and sends us.

Bible Verse: Jesus said to him, "Feed My Sheep." John 21:7

You Can Make A Difference!

There are many opportunities to serve in our Children's Ministry.

Contact Donna Lee to learn more:

- Childcare Team
- Classroom Leader/ Assistant
- Hospitality
- Special Events
- Mentor
- Prayer Partner
- Faith Legacy Team

KIDS CONNECT WORSHIP

10:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

PRESCHOOL- 5TH GRADE

Kids are excused after the readings and are guided to the Choir Room for a children's message, prayer, and praise! They return following the sermon during Noisy Offering. Volunteers Welcome!

Youth News

Building relationships in Christ to develop and strengthen faithful followers for life.

Bible Study Opportunities:

- **Jr High (6th-8th grade) LifeGroup - Sunday 9:15am @The Youth House**
Led by Randall & Shannon Cline
- **Sr High (9th-12th grade) LifeGroup - Sunday 9:15am @The Teachers Lounge**
Led by Ken Moretz & Darrell Reese
- **Jr High (6th-8th grade) LifeGroup - Wednesday 5:00pm @The Youth House**
Led by Randall & Shannon Cline

Upcoming events:

- **08/20 2pm-8pm - **ParTee Shack (Local Church Back-2-School Event)**
Jr & Sr high students will travel to ParTee Shack in Greensboro, NC, for an evening of kart racing, arcade, and mini-golf. Sign-ups are closed. Please pray for safe travels and fellowship in Christ for this event.
- **08/25-08/27 **Camp Linn Haven Family Week**
Family retreat @Camp Linn Haven in Newland, NC. Sign-ups are closed. Please pray for rest and rejuvenation for all those who attend.
- **09/04 12pm-6pm **Tube the Catawba River**
Jr & Sr high students are invited to join us for a day of tubing on the Catawba River. We will have a light meal before leaving. Sign-up is required by 08/27.
- **09/10 12pm-4pm Community Service Opportunity**
Jr & Sr high service opportunity. Meet @The Youth House to serve our congregation and community with yard care and light home maintenance. Food will be served.
- **09/17 12pm-3pm Jr High Youth Event**
Jr high students are invited to join us after the 10:30 worship service for food, a devotion, and games @The Youth House.
- **09/17 5pm-8pm Sr High Youth Event**
Sr high students are invited to join us for an evening of relaxation with food and devotion @The Youth House.
- **09/24 12pm-3pm Sr High Youth Event**
Sr high students are invited to join us after the 10:30 worship service for food, a devotion, and games @The Youth House.

**indicates that a sign-up is required for the event

Looking for an opportunity to serve? Check out a few of the ways you could help in Youth Ministry below:

- Lead a devotional topic
- Help with Sunday morning small groups
- Prepare meals for events
- Pray for our students
- Purchase items from our Amazon list:



If you have questions about Youth Ministry:

Please contact Randall Cline @ 828-446-0947 or rcline@sslcms.org

St. Stephens Lutheran School News

Excellence in Education since 1943

Building on the R. O. C. K.

Develop Relationships, Serve Others, Grow in Christ, Gain Knowledge

Psalms 62:6



School Board Members – Scott Clontz, Chairman, Don Adams, Lynne Carpenter, Erica Moretz and David Janisko

We Are **HIRING**

After-school workers

- Hours 3pm-6pm
- Helping with homework
- Playing games with students
- Supervising students

Contact Us: 828-256-2166

www.sslswarriors.org



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24—6:30pm—Back to School Social—Green Field

School Supplies Needed

School is to be a time of excitement and fun. This August, school will be starting back. We want to make a difference in a child's education by collecting school supplies and distributing them to local schools and LWML missions.

While out shopping, please consider picking up several or all of the items listed below and return them to the mission box in the church narthex by September 1.

· Non Spiral composition notebooks	· Ruler with centimeters and inches
· #2 Pencils with erasers	· Pencil sharpeners
· Scissors	· Ballpoint pens
· Box of Crayola crayons	· Washable markers
· Colored Pencils	· Pocket Folders
· Glue sticks	· Pencil Box

**backpack
Outreach**



Women's Bible Study

On Sept. 10, the women's Sunday school class is starting a new book, [Joy: a study of Philippians](#) by Deb Burma. This women's Bible study on the Book of Philippians, the "letter of joy," unpacks messages of contentment, confidence, humility, and hope - all found in Christ and infused with joy - in the mountaintop moments and in the mundane. All ladies are invited to join us! Please email Regina Propst by Sept. 1 at reginapropst@charter.net to order a book. The cost is \$10.

Senior Session – August 30 – 1:30pm

Senior Session

Fraud Prevention/Email and Internet Safety

Presented by Officer Joshua Null, Hickory Police Department

Wednesday, August 30th at 1:30 PM

St. Stephen's Conference Room

Space is limited! Please RSVP to ksmith@sslcms.org by August 20th
(You need not be a "senior" to attend)



Merry Market vendor **registration** will be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 8:30am** on-site at St. Stephens Lutheran Church & School. If you arrive before 8:30am, please wait outside under the breezeway allowing the school kids to come into the building. We are accepting 50 vendors. Once 50 spots are filled we will begin a waiting list.

Vendor spaces are \$50 and roughly 8' x 8'.

Merry Market is a craft show held in our gymnasium, the Saturday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 28, 2023) from 9am-2pm. Soup and lunch is provided by our Youth Ministry. This will mark our 10th year anniversary.



The LWML cordially invites all ladies in our church to a special presentation by artist Joyce A. Vukela-Mayer. It will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, **September 10th from 3:00 until 5:00**. Joyce creates contemporary rusted

steel paintings. They typically have a nature theme, but the real beauty in Joyce's art comes from the effects caused by reactions between the ingredients she uses and the steel which serves as a canvas. The result is textured and touchable art. Each piece has a scripture verse that is Joyce's hallmark signature. Come watch Joyce create a piece while she gives her testimony, enjoy some delicious food, and some wonderful fellowship! Please feel free to reach out to Teresa Ritchie if you have any questions at 336-408-3776. Hope to see you there!



Want to be a part of the Alaska Mission team? You do not have to go to Alaska to be a part of our team. Your support in helping with our events is a huge help to the mission. Join us for a meeting on Sunday, August 20 after the 10:30am worship. We will meet in the conference room and discuss some events that we need to get on the church calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Jadi Gurganious at jgurganious@sslcms.org.

All Weekend Long!

★ **125TH** ★
ANNIVERSARY

OCT
7-8

**St.
Stephens
Lutheran
Church &
School**

**Historical displays
throughout the week**

Saturday:

4:00pm Worship

6:00pm Gala

Sunday:

8:00am Traditional Worship

10:30am Contemporary
Worship

Noon Cookout and activities
- registration is required
(free)

Gala Tickets: \$10 Adult, \$5 Kids

Purchase in the Narthex



**LLL will be
selling
limited
edition 125th
anniversary
logo apparel**

**LWML will be
selling
limited
edition 125th
anniversary
logo glass
Ornaments**



• ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL •

125th Anniversary

• SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023 •

STARTER

Rolls and Butter

SALAD

Harvest Salad • mixed greens, apples, feta, cranberries, shaved Vidalia onions, and Wine Blush Vinaigrette
Caesar Salad • tomatoes with parmesan cheese and croutons on the side

ENTRÉE

Grilled Chicken • Marinated thighs
Herb-Crusted Beef Tenderloin • Carved on the buffet with horseradish sauce

SIDES

Roasted Veggies • Broccoli, Cauliflower, Carrots, Onions & Peppers
Green Beans & Bacon
Creamy Mashed Potatoes

DESSERT

Apple Crisps with Caramel Sauce (gf)
Chocolate Brownie Trifle
Strawberry Trifle
Tripple Berry Tartlet
Banana Pudding
Fruit Cup (gf)
Cheesecake Bites
Keylime Tartelet
Triple Chocolate Cookie

BEVERAGES

Sweet & Unsweet Tea
Lemonade
Ice Water

Quilters Needed

The quilting circle would like to invite you to join us. Starting in September, we will meet the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 AM to 3 PM. Come for a couple of hours or drop in when you can. All you need is the ability to tie a knot. No sewing skills are needed!

Thank You

St. Stephens Elementary School staff and students would like to thank Jodi and her crew for spreading the love by spreading mulch. It was a great turnout, and many hands made the front of our building beautiful. We truly appreciate all the support we receive from SSLC.

Installation of Pastor Stevens – Emmanuel Lutheran Church

You are cordially invited to the installation service of Pastor Bob Stevens on Sunday, August 27 at 4pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Conover.

Cemetery Committee Members Needed

We are in need of several men and women who are available during the day to serve on the Cemetery Committee. If you are interested, please contact Terry Hollar at 828-256-3200



August 1-31st, 2023

What is Parade Of Cans? Parade of Cans is an annual food collection campaign benefiting the Community Kitchen and Backpack Programs of The Corner Table. Area organizations participating in the campaign compete to see who can collect the most non-perishable items. Donations are measured by weight.

Why is Parade of Cans Important to Our Community?

During the summer months at the Community Kitchen, guests increase, and the donation of non-perishable items slows down. August is also the time our Backpack Program starts gearing up for the school year. Our Backpack Program provides children in our local school systems with weekend food bags. Your support will allow The Corner Table to continue meeting the needs of hungry individuals in our community through various food programs.

How does the food drive competition work? Each year at the completion of the food drive we award trophies with the following distinctions at a reception in September.

- Parade of Cans 2023 Overall “Can”pion – The organization that collects the most weight overall.

- Parade of Cans Community Kitchen “Can”pion – The organization that collects the most weight in food specifically for the community kitchen.
- Parade of Cans Lewis Setzer Canned Food Champion – The organization that collects the most weight in food specifically for the Backpack Program.
- Parade of Cans Lewis Setzer Snack Donor Champion – The organization that collects the most weight in snack food specifically for the Backpack Program

FOODS DONATIONS MOST NEEDED FOR BACKPACK PROGRAM:

- Pop Top Canned Meals (such as Chef Boyardee)
- Soup (small cans)
- Canned Meat (tuna or chicken)
- Canned Vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, carrots, potatoes)
- Ramen Noodle packs
- Peanut Butter (small plastic containers only, 8-12oz.)
- Jelly (small plastic containers only, 8oz.)
- Oatmeal (packets)
- Poptarts
- Biscuit or Muffin Mix
- Kid Friendly Snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, goldfish, popcorn, etc.)

ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE NARTHEX IN THE DESIGNATED MARKED CONTAINER



Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

6:30pm – 8:30pm – Kid Connect Kick Off – Kool Park
5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion
9:15am – Sunday School Faith Builders
10:30am – Contemporary Worship
2pm-8pm -ParTee Shack Greensboro – Jr./Sr. High Youth – must have signed up to attend

MONDAY

9:00am – Lighthouse – Conference Room
10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry – Youth House
1:00pm – Esther Circle – Conference Room

TUESDAY

4:00pm – Life Group (Pastor Guelzow) – Parlor
5:00pm – 125th Anniversary Committee - Conference Room

WEDNESDAY

10:00AM - MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE
5:00pm – Jr. High Life Group – Youth House
6:30pm – Life Group (Paul Miller's) – Youth House

THURSDAY

NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE
6:00pm — With Our Hands Ministry - Youth House
6:30pm – 7:30pm SSLS Back to school Social - Greenfield

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship
9:15am – Sunday School Faith Builders
10:30am – Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion

Isaiah 56:1

56 Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed.

6 "And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." 8 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

Romans 11:1-2, 11:13-15, 11:28-32

11 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry 14 in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. 15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Matthew 15:21-28

21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYER

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE-A FIRM FOUNDATION

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

SHAUEN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

MATT & JAIME ZIEHR, Missionaries in Germany

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

KIDS CONNECT

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

VICTIMS OF THE WILDFIRES IN MAUI, HAWAII

LARRY & BETH BOWMAN and **LANCE & TATUM SIGMON FAMILIES.**

Beth's mother/Lance's grandmother, Carol Lutz, passed away.

FAMILIES OF JENNA BOLES & DANIEL LONG. They passed away last week. Friends of Susan Ledbetter.

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

KAY WEAVER

RUTH WILLIS

CATHERINE WINKLER

DORIS YORK

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

CATHY DRUM

JERRY & TASHIA FISHER FAMILY

JADI GURGANIOUS

RUBY HALL

JUSTIN & SHANNON HEFNER FAMILY

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

GENE & HAROLENE SETZER celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary on 8/19

DALE & PRISCILLA CROUCH celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on 8/25

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

BOYCE LOOKADOO, cancer treatments

TAMMY GILBERT, cancer

PHYLLIS CLINE, cancer treatments

ALICE KILLIAN, cancer, Marty's mother

LA YANG, acute leukemia, Baptist Hospital, friend of Doris Sigmon

DEBBIE BINDER, cancer treatments, sister of Pam Clohesy

SUSIE HENNESSEE, recovering from cancer surgery, mother of

Gerald Killian and aunt of Peggy Davis, Hazel Murray, James

Barger & Maxine Flowers

DANA ROBERTS, recovering from knee replacement

COACH MIKE DAVIS, recovering from shoulder surgery

BAILEY CLINE, recovering from surgery on his hand, son of Tim &

Jenny

LEE LONDON, recovering from knee replacement surgery

SHARON SCRONCE, recovering from knee replacement surgery

HAROLENE SETZER, recovering from back surgery

RHYNE MAYNARD, recovering from surgery

PHIL GNADT, home recovering

BOB MILLER, Wet Macular degeneration in both eyes

BOB CARNEY, blood clots (stomach & leg)

RALPH AND BRENDA CAZIRE, health issues

KEVIN LINGERFELT, medical concerns

CAROLYN MANN, waiting test results

C E MOSER, waiting surgery

PADIE LEE, upcoming surgery, co-worker/friend of Kelly Killian

ED SMITH, upcoming surgery 8/30

RITA HUFFMAN, Conover Nursing and Rehab

RUTH COOK, Trinity Village - Rehab

DAVID MINGUS, son of Sandra Turner and nephew of Larry Fox

JANET KILLIAN, health issues, FRMC, daughter of Martha

JEFF MACE, heart issues, husband of Melissa

TOMMY LONDON, kidney issues, father of Windy Pruitt

MIKE CLINE, hospice care, uncle of Windy Pruitt

CAROLYN MANN, recovering broken wrist and a sprained ankle

ANN GRAHAM, hospitalized in Alabama, mother of Trudi Ziehr