



The Friendly Visitor 2023

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, ELCA

2259 12th Ave NE

Hickory, NC 28601

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*SSELCA: A Family that Together Prays, Teaches, Loves and Serves
God and Our Neighbors*



*“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”
(Matthew 4:1)*

Dear St. Stephens:

Glory to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We had our first Shrove Tuesday with the best pancakes ever and it was a hit! The men’s group did a fabulous job, and everything was so good! It’s always so fun to get together for a meal and share in fellowship with one another. Ash Wednesday was well attended between the two services – noon and at 7:00PM. Thank you to all who were able to come out for your ashes!

And now we begin our 40 days of journey into the wilderness with Jesus. Many people talk about giving up something at Lent; however, I prefer to think about what can I give to Jesus since Jesus has given so much to me. In other words, could I give more of my time through prayer, bible study, or devotion? Could I try to increase my tithe for the next six weeks and see how it goes? Or, is there a ministry team that intrigues me that I would like to try out? There are so many things happening here at St. Stephen’s, maybe there is something new that interests me?

Beginning on Sunday, March 5th and thereafter on Sundays at 5:00PM, we will offer a Contemporary worship experience led by our musician Tom Del Greco. If you know folks who would be interested in this format of worship, please let them know. Of course, all are welcome to ‘come and see’ what we are all about!

As we move forward into Lent, we will have our Lenten meals on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00PM with worship at 6:30PM. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer with the sermon theme to be ‘Open My Life, Lord.’ No doubt, it will be a busy time of the year and the Easter season will be upon us before we know it!

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, specifically to be tempted (tested) by the devil. I want to mention this because I believe that God does not test us – It is the devil that tempts us and wants to test our faith.

God knows our hearts and God loves every single one of you. God has no reason to ever test your faith. I pray that when you are going through difficult times, in which I know that many of you are, that you know that God is with you, and that you hold fast to Him. Never believe for a minute that God is trying to test you and see if you will still believe in and love Him after a difficult situation. Remember Job! Job knew this and the devil did not win! The devil did not win with Jesus either!

Carl Baker always says to me, “God loves you and so do I.” I’ll say the same to each of you!
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Love, Pastor Terri +

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 10-12 & 3-5 5 Meal 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Service 6:30 Hky BB	2 11:30 Senior Saints 7 BB	3 4:30 Karate-PS/Gym 5:30 Hky BB	4 11 Community Meal Prep
5 9:15 Choir, SS 10:30 Worship 1-3 Community Meal 5 Worship	6 11 Staff 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 5:30 Marketing 7 Women's Ministry	7 9:30 Women;s Bible Study 1 Council Exec 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 7 BB	8 10:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 10-12 & 3-5 5 Meal 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Service 6:30 Hky BB	9 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Centro Board 7 BB	10 6 Council Retreat 4:30 Karate-PS/Gym 5:30 Hky BB	11 9 Council Retreat
12 9:15 Choir, SS 10:30 Worship 5 Worship	13 11 Staff 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Chosen	14 9:30 Women;s Bible Study 10 Good Cheer 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 7 BB	15 10:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 10-12 & 3-5 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 5 Meal 6:30 Handbells 6:30 Service 6:30 Hky BB	16 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 7 Men's Ministry 7 BB	17 4:30 Karate-PS/Gym 5:30 Hky BB	18
19 9:15 Choir, SS 10:30 Worship 5 Worship	20 11 Staff 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Chosen	21 9:30 Women;s Bible Study 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 5:30 Christian Ed 7 BB	22 10:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 10-12 & 3-5 5 Meal 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Service 6:30 Hky BB	23 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6 Christian Ed/Day Camp 7 BBall	24 4:30 Karate-PS/Gym 5:30 Hky BB	25 12-6 C Sexton Gym
26 9:15 Choir, SS 10:30 Worship 5 Worship	27 11 Staff 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Chosen	28 9:30 Women;s Bible Study 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 7 BB	29 10:30 Bible Study Food Pantry 10-12 & 3-5 5 Meal 4:15-5:30 AP Gym 6:30 Service 6:30 Hky BB	30	31 4:30 Karate-PS/Gym 5:30 Hky BB	

Get to know...

Name Janice Eckard

Spouse Ken How long have you been married 45

Children (names, ages) Kendria (43) Kurtis (39)

Grandchildren Graham (4) Marie (2)

How long have you been a member of SSLC? 44 Years

Occupation(s) (or prior occupation(s)) Teacher Assistant (now retired)

Where did you grow up? Catawba County

Hobbies Horses (all things with) Cross Stitch, crafts and reading

What do you love most about St. Stephen's? The people!! When anyone needs anything, they are all on board !

Do you have a favorite bible verse? All of 1Corinthinas

Favorite Hymn? What A Friend We have In Jesus

What's the best advice you've ever been given? Who was it from? Actions speak louder than words! My Mom and Dad.

Do you have any pets (type, names)? My horse, Hazel

What type(s) of music do you like to listen to? Country, gospel and oldies

What is your favorite vacation destination? Mountains

What's something you miss from your childhood? No worries!!

What is your favorite sport and/or sports team(s)? Soccer

Who would play you in a movie about your life? Jennifer Garner (Ha Ha)

What super power would you like to have? To fly!!

Are you an early bird or a night owl? Early

What's a random fact most people don't know about you? Scared of heights



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ELCA



COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2023

1:00-3:00PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

2259 12th Ave. NE

Hickory, NC 28601

Parking available in the back parking lot



**Children's Coats
will be available**

Website: www.sselca.com



Birthdays

- 3/1 Jacky Baker, Harry Reep
- 3/4 Philip White
- 3/9 Taytum Godfrey
- 3/10 June Yount
- 3/13 Sherrill Cooper-Hollar
- 3/16 Terri Landers
- 3/18 Tammy Falcone
- 3/20 Bruce Bolch, Jenny Eckard
- 3/24 Luther Hathcock, Chuck Witherspoon, Paul Yount
- 3/25 Leland Witherspoon
- 3/27 Sukie Rushing
- 3/31 Elisabeth Mauck

Anniversaries

- 3/8 Wayne & Kim Long
- 3/24 Leland & Melissa Witherspoon
- 3/27 Corky & Sharon Miller

Remember in Prayer

Nursing Homes:

Lenoir Healthcare - Angie Asherbraner- #301

Rock Barn- Frank & Pat Hedrick - #207

Trinity Village- (Springs Road) - Mary Alice Punch # 504, Inez Gilbert - #508, Lois Stine - #219, Harold Eckard- #209, Ruth Dietz - #117

Trinity Ridge- (Mountain View) Tammy Falcone - #714

At Home: Betty Eckard, Richard & Margie Powell, Jenny Eckard, Sylvia Hoke
Carl Baker

Family and Friends: Janet Stinson, Susan Hoke Lee, Nancy & Dee Dee Pope, Viola Gross, Kim Ramsey, Loyd Hoke, Aidan Cox, Dylan Godfrey, Ben Godfrey, Phyllis Gilbert, Eric Deitz, Heather Brooks, David Crump, June Yount, Joyce Travis

.Noah Bradshaw, Ellen Cook, Michael Bolick, Barry O'Rourke, Carol Reising, Lisa Bullard, Jimmy Barber, Susan Blizzard, Lois Stine, Jamie Fredette, Bruce Brown, Sandy Barton, Betty Poovey, Linda Zarou, Bob Schrage, Donald Killian, Mia Sexton, Norma Martin, Shari Dezern, James Graft, Leon & Ramona Baker, Traci Barger, Sandy Mundy, Brenda Duncan, Peggy Davis, Joe Propst, Riley Edwards,

Margie Isenhour, Jim Lampe, Joe Propst

Bereavement:

The Family of Edith Perrou, The Family of Rick Coffey

The Family of Zachary McDavis, The Family of Robbie Hoilman

The Family of Pat Hicks, The Family of Margie Glazebrooks

The Family of Donald Killian

Others: First responders and health care workers who take care of us.

All who are hungry. All who are homeless. All those affected by storms.

All those affected by the violence in our country and abroad.

The People of Ukraine and Russia. The People of Turkey and Syria.

Armed Forces:

U.S. Navy: E5 Logan Miller; IS2 Chris Powell; CPO Matt Creech

U.S. Marines: Cpl. Andy Hance; Cpt. John Teague; Staff Sgt. Justin Curl

U.S. Air Force: Nathan Bridges, (Ret.- Hungary)

U.S Army: Maj. Matthew Helton Ft Bragg, NC

Army National Guard: Captain Greg Brown (deployed to Germany)

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list

LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE

March

1, 8, 15, 22, 29

5-6 Dinner

6:30 Worship

April

2 Palm Sunday

6 7 Maundy Thursday

7 7 Good Friday

9 Easter Sunday

7 Sunrise Service

8-10 Breakfast

10:30 Easter Service

5 Easter Worship

St. Stephens ELCA

January Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Vickie Eckard at 6:02 pm

Attendance-Vickie Eckard, Cathy Baker, Pastor Terri Landers, Regina Reece, Donna Specht, Terry Gilbert, Sandra Barton, Hayden Huhn, Brenda Duncan, Deborah Pruitt and Barry Sullivan. Absent-Donald Bumgarner and Kathy Smith

Devotions by Vickie Eckard

Motion to approve December Council Meeting minutes made by Barry Sullivan, seconded by Terry Gilbert. Approved.

Treasurer's Report- Report for December.

Pastor's report- Report for December. Pastor to be out of town January 20 & 21st.

Ministry Team Reports

Christian Education	No Meeting
Congregational Life	No Meeting
Evangelism	No Meeting
Property	No Meeting
Social Ministry	No Meeting
Stewardship- Finance	No Meeting
Worship & Music	No Meeting
Youth	No Meeting

Old Business Loan options for roof replacement: New Horizon Bank 6.75% fixed 10 yr. MIF (ELCA) 6% fixed 10 yr. No pre-pay penalty, no foreclosure, Interest only during construction. Motion to proceed with MIF (ELCA) loan made by Terry Gilbert, seconded by Barry Sullivan. Approved.

Sandy Barton checked with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance and was able to get premium reduced by \$1,381. Total premium \$12,005.

Lease agreement with Centro Latino was reviewed and updated for rooms used. A rent increase was proposed subject to negotiation. Motion to present changes made by

Barry Sullivan, seconded by Deborah Pruitt. Approved.

New Business

Red Cross Blood Mobile dates presented: Jan 16, Apr. 17, July 17, and Oct. 16. Motion to accept made by Vickie Eckard, seconded by Barry Sullivan. Approved.

Council retreat set for March 10-11

Vickie Eckard moved to adjourn meeting, seconded by Donna Specht. Approved.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting February 12th, 5 pm in Fellowship Hall. Barry Sullivan has devotions.