




St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ELCA

-- The Friendly Visitor --

2024



***SSELCA: A Family that together prays, teaches, loves, and serves
God and our neighbors.***



A Note From The Pastor

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you...You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

(Matthew 15:7; 16)

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

Dear St. Stephen's:

The month of April was a whirlwind! It was also sad because we lost two of our family members; Harold Eckard and Ruth Dietz. Let us continue to keep those families in our prayers for God's peace that passes all our understanding.

Our committees, Christian Education and Evangelism have been meeting together to discern how might we invite the community and more families into our church family. The idea of a community Easter Egg hunt was the first community event that we held, and it was a great success with over 300 families with children coming to our church to hunt for Easter Eggs!

We then invited our guests to our next event which was our Bingo night that was held on Friday, April 26th. While we did not have 300 people, it was a great success with new families that came to play Bingo, win amazing prizes, and eat hamburgers and hotdogs! I want to thank all who came to help with the event to make it such a great evening!

During our Bingo event, we invited everyone to our next event, which is our Movie Night on *Friday, May 31st!*

Our goal is to start a Wednesday evening Ministry called, FAMJAM that will be multi-generational from 5:30-7:30 beginning in June and to have the opportunity to build relationships. There will be a light meal served, fun VBS-like songs, a Scripture theme for the evening, crafts and games and fun for all who come! We hope that YOU will also come to our events and Wednesday evening FAMJAM and support our ministry and those who come to our church to hear God's word.

Jesus promises us that whatever we ask in his Name, our Father will give it to us. I wonder if we ask the Lord for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of those who come to this church to hear God's Word, feel God's presence, and witness the love we share with each other, will then also open their hearts to the desire to become a part of this family of faith?

...ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you...

May the Lord bless you and keep you and shine upon you.

Love,

+ *Pastor Terre*

A Note from the Church Council President

On March 10th, an intruder entered our church through the doors at the prayer garden. From there, he went down the stairs into the Fellowship Hall. While in the Fellowship Hall, he took a projector and a DVD player. He then entered the kitchen where the camera captured a picture him. (This picture has been used by the Hickory City Police in their search for the suspect.) He continued down the hallway into the Centro Latino area and took several items from their classrooms.

The investigation has been taking longer than we anticipated and finally turned over to Investigator Whitener of the Hickory Police Department. He did tell me that they do have a suspect at this time but have yet to locate him.

We have put together a security team at the church and they are in the process of implementing safety procedures. They have installed outside cameras around the church building as well as additional cameras inside the church. We do want everyone to feel safe while in our church building and we are doing our best to see that no one with intent to steal something or harm someone enters our building.

We will keep you posted on all the safety procedures and the steps we are taking to ensure the safety of Pastor Terri, staff and the congregation.

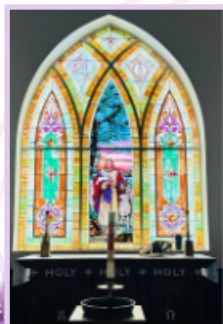
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Robert Ollis, Bob Landers, Corky Miller, Greg Deitz or me.

Respectfully yours,

Barry Sullivan

Church Council President

WORSHIP NEWS & EVENTS



The Chapel will be open for anyone to come anytime during Church Office hours if you would like to come speak and pray with the Lord in His house.

**CLASS OF
2024**

SAVE THE DATE


MAY 19, 2024

A reception will be held outside the Chapel following the service to CELEBRATE HENLEY and HAYDEN HUHN as they prepare to GRADUATE from St. Stephens High School May 24th. There will be a basket for Gifts and Cards located on a table near the coffee bar.

*Friends
of
Faith*



Friends of Faith will not meet in the month of May. Vickie & Dennis Eckard will host in June. More info soon!

You are all invited to join along with us at Trinity Village on Sunday, June 2nd, 2024, at 3:30 PM for a Choir Concert featuring the St. Stephen's Choir, along with Mt. Zion and St. Luke's. This concert promises to be a delightful blend of talented singers and accompaniment.

Thank you

'Our family would like to thank all those that made & served us supper after Harold's service. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Love to you all.'

The Harold Eckard family



**Class of
2024**

**Hayden & Henley
invite you to
their Graduation
Open House**

When: Saturday, May 25; 11am-2pm
Where: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Picnic Shelter

Thank you

To know this congregation is to love them. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to be your administrative assistant this past year. You have not only welcomed, cared, and supported me, but also taken to my family. You all are blessings and joyous lights when you come into the room. What a honor it's been this year getting to know you all, through all the laughs, smiles, prayers, and encouragement I have received. These are things I have taken in as tremendous blessings. I pray that you all know how happy and proud I am to work for this church. Thank you for the sweet words and acknowledgements I could ever have imagined. Here's to many more!

- Emily Holsclaw



WOMEN, COFFEE, & JESUS

9:30AM ON TUESDAY'S AT PARKWAY HOUSE

Tuesday, May 7th

Lesson 11: Hannah

-1 Samuel 1

-1 Samuel 2

Tuesday, May 14th

Lesson 12: Abigail

-1 Samuel 25

Tuesday, May 21st

Lesson 13: Bathsheba

-2 Samuel 11

-2 Samuel 12:1-25

-1 Kings 1:11-31

Tuesday, May 28th

Lesson 14: Vashti & Esther

-Esther 1

-Ester 2

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

10:30AM ON WEDNESDAY'S AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Wed, May 8th

Readings

-Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

-Psalm 1

-1 John 5:9-13

-John 17:6-19

Wed, May 15th

Readings

-Acts 2:1-21

-Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

-Romans 8:22-27

-John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Wed, May 22nd

Readings

-Isaiah 6:1-8

-Psalm 29

-Romans 8:12-17

-John 3:1-17

Wed, May 29th

Readings

-Deuteronomy 5:12-15

-Psalm 81:1-10

-2 Corinthians 4:5-12

-Mark 2:23-3:6

MISSION & OUTREACH

Little Something Extra

Here is a list of items that Little Something Extra will be collecting in April, May, and June to donate to St. Stephen's Elementary and Webb A. Murray Elementary. There is a box in the hallway across from the Pastor's Office to place these items.

Thank you for your support!



School Wish List...

- Kleenex boxes
- Clorox Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Expo Markers
- Expo Erasers
- Band-aids
- Headphones
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Notebook Paper
- Folders
- File Folders
- Roll of stamps
- Construction paper
- Play-doh
- Thin point black expo markers
- Page protectors
- Glue sticks
- Pencil top erasers
- Composition notebooks
- Notebooks
- Markers
- Scissors
- Crayons

In addition to the listed items during the next 3 months Murray Elementary has requested neutral colored leggings & sweat pants sizes 6-16 & children's back packs.

Thank you for your support with this project.—Cathy Baker



Get ready for a blockbuster evening! Join us on Friday, May 31st for our epic Community Movie Night! We've got the popcorn and nachos covered, so just bring along your comfiest seat to enjoy the show!

MISSION & OUTREACH



COMING SOON...
SSELCA

Fam JAM 2024

We have A LOT of fun & faith filled events going on from now through Summer!
Be on the look out for more info by following us on Facebook or joining in with us Sunday's at 10:30AM for Worship, we'd love to have you!!



- Women of the Church -
Safe Harbor invites you to celebrate 20 years of service & partnership. This will be held Thursday, May 9th from 12-1:30PM at Moretz Mills. They do ask that you RSVP by April 30th. Scan the QR code or reach out to Betty Ann Crump if you have any questions.



Sipe's Orchard Home

Preparing children and youth for their BEST FUTURES!

The following donations are appreciated for Sipes Orchard Home:

- Detergent - clean & clear, no perfume or dye
- Paper towels
- Toilet tissue
- Spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles
- Macaroni & Cheese (in a box)

Please place items in tub located in hallway outside of the Pastor's Office.

This past month the Food Pantry supplied 89 families in our community with canned and dry food items.

There were 77 men, women, and children that joined us during our Community Soup Kitchen Meal in April.

In April we fed 70 individuals in our Homeless Community in Downtown Hickory.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated volunteers at St. Stephen's. Your selfless donations, whether financial or through volunteering, have played a vital role in the achievements of our initiatives. Your unwavering support and commitment have significantly contributed to the progress of these causes. Thank you for everything!

St. Stephens ELCA

April Council Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2024

Meeting called to order by Vice President Dee Fry.

Attendance– Pastor Terri Landers, Donna Specht, Sandra Barton, Deborah Pruitt, Phil Barton, Regina Reece, Donald Bumgarner, Kim Frankel, Corky Miller, Kathy Smith, Dee Fry and Barry Sullivan by phone.

Devotions by Kathy Smith

March council minutes were approved by email.

Treasurer's Report– Report for March

Pastor's report– Report for March

Ministry Team Reports

Christian Education/Youth

Report on file

Congregational Life

Report on file

Evangelism

Report on file

Property

Report on file, next mtg. May 1

Social Ministry

No Meeting

Stewardship/Finance

Report on file

Worship & Music

No Meeting

Old Business

Committees are asked to submit requests to be put on a wish list of items needed that can be paid for with memorial monies.

New Business

CD's at bank will mature in April. Finance committee will research best rates and reinvest.

Motion made by Kathy Smith to use Reachright SEO to file for \$10,000/month Google grant to direct traffic to our website for \$297/month using money in Marketing budget for up to 6 months or until grant runs out. Seconded by Donald Bumgarner. Approved.

Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes made by Deborah Pruitt, seconded by Corky Miller. Approved.

Volunteers are needed to train for sound control and run online service.

April 21 Catawba Valley Community Chorus will perform in our sanctuary. A reception will follow.

Synod Gathering is May 30–June 1. Pastor Terri is attending. Anyone wishing to attend may contact her. There is no business meeting only seminars.

Pastor Terri is going to attend a seminar on intentional prayer at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on April 27. Cost is \$79 for a team of 5. Contact her if you wish to attend.

Motion to adjourn by Pastor Terri and seconded by Donald Bumgarner

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting May 19th at 6:00 pm. Corky Miller has devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Sullivan, President

Sandra Barton, Secretary

Remember in Prayer

Nursing Homes:

Brookdale Lenoir – Angie Asherbraner– #39

Rock Barn– Frank & Pat Hedrick – #207

Trinity Village–(Springs Road)–Mary Alice Punch

504, Inez Gilbert – #508, Lois Stine – #219

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

Graceview Retirement Home– Guy Miller

At Home: Betty Eckard, Jenny Eckard, Sylvia Hoke, Leon & Ramona Baker



Family and Friends: Dylan Godfrey, Ben Godfrey, Eric Deitz, Kim Ramsey, Robby Patton, Guy Miller, Tim Hollar, David Pruett, Barry O'Rourke, Linda Baker, Pam Pope, Catherine Bray, Teddy Hefner, Geraldine Houser, Lisa Caldwell, Lynn Delancey, Deborah Eckard, Anita Isenhour, Gilda Pennell, Betty Caldwell, Ray Townsend, and Bob Landers.

Bereavement: The Family of Ruby Lanier, The Family of Betty Schuman, The Family of Tom Tucker, The Family of Joan Huffman, The Family of Coble Hartman, The Family of Gerald Williams, The Family of Darrel Shook, The Family of Harold Eckard, and The Family of Ruth Dietz.

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. The People affected by the wildfires in Maui.

Armed Forces:

U.S. Navy: IS2 Chris Powell;

U.S. Marines: Maj. John Teague;

Please contact the Church Office to make changes to this list.



← SCAN ME
TO FIND
OUT MORE!

INSPIRATION FROM ABOVE
WORSHIP THAT'S DOWN TO EARTH

✚ Scan QR Code below with
camera phone to give Offering
to SSELCA ✚



SCAN ME

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