



**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ELCA**  
**-- *The Friendly Visitor* --**  
**2026**



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

# † To the Congregation †

## † Assisting Worship Volunteers Sign-Up Sheet †



Acolyte



Worship Assistant



Reader



Communion Assistant

There is a *new sign-up sheet* available for those interested in *assisting with worship*. We are so grateful to those who faithfully serve in this ministry and encourage others to sign up as well—even if you've never helped before, training is available!



## - CONGRATULATIONS -

Please join us in celebrating our *2026 Graduates - Kara Ramsey & Mia Sexton!* A Graduation Reception will be held *Sunday, June 14th following worship* outside by the memorial Garden. There will be bags for each to put cards and gifts in.



Our next Bingo night will be Friday, 6/19 serving burgers, chips, drink, cookie for \$5 at 5:15PM.

Bingo starts at 6:15PM and ends at 8PM.

If you are able, we kindly ask for gift cards as prize donations from the congregation in \$5 and \$10 increments. Thank you for your support!

## FRIENDS FAITH

On *Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM* Friends of Faith will be meeting at *Harbor Inn Seafood on HWY 70*. The Barton's are hosting, please RSVP to Sandy at [sdyount53@gmail.com](mailto:sdyount53@gmail.com) by *Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>*.



# † To the Congregation †



Scan QR Code  
to Register!



This year, we're teaming up with Mt. Zion, Mt. Olive, and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches for *VBS Camp Firelight*, an outdoor adventure focused on trusting God. It runs from *July 19th to 23rd, 5:30 to 7:45 PM*. Open to kids aged 4 through 5th grade, with an adult class too. Registration is open—scan the QR code for details and invite others!

Please Join Us for A

## *Retirement Celebration*

Honoring  
*Timothy Warren*

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

4420 County Home Rd Conover, NC 28613

Lunch at Noon | Program 1:00-1:30 PM



*Join us in celebrating Tim's 48 years of ministry at Mt. Zion and the incredible impact he has had in the local music community.*

*The honor of Organist Emeritus will be bestowed upon Tim as part of the program.*

*Cards and monetary gifts may be mailed to the church or received at the celebration.*

# † Mission & Outreach †

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**57** Men, women, and children were fed at our April Community Meal!

Our Food Pantry provided an outstanding **100** households with non-perishable food items in the month of May. Thanks to you all for the continued support to such an important community cause!

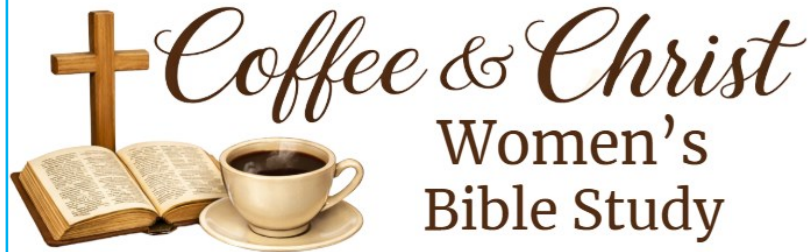
Our Outdoor Homeless Meal fed **50** people in our local homeless community last month in May!

Enjoy these photos from our May Outdoor Homeless Meal, a ministry that serves those experiencing homelessness and others in need on the third Saturday of each month.

We are grateful for the many dedicated volunteers who make this ministry possible through preparing and serving meals, providing transportation, and sharing fellowship, kindness, and God's love with everyone they meet. Thank you for your faithful service and generosity!



# † Bible Studies & Ministry Group News †



The **Tuesday Women, Coffee, & Jesus Bible Study** is on summer break! Be on the lookout for updates on when the group will resume and details about the next devotional series.

All women are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you when we gather again!



The **Wednesday Deeply Rooted Lectionary Bible Study** is also taking a break for the summer and will resume in September.

Join us this fall as we continue engaging in thoughtful discussions centered on the weekly lectionary readings, exploring God's Word from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

All are welcome as we grow in faith and root ourselves more deeply in the teachings of Scripture together.



# St. Stephens ELCA

## April Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Dee Fry.

**Attendance**– Pastor Michael Collins, Dee Fry, Corky Miller, Kim Long, Bonnie Rushing , Bill Duncan, Steve Baker and Kim Frankel. Absent: Sandra Barton, Robert Ollis, and Phil Barton.

Devotions by Bill Duncan

March minutes were approved by email.

**Treasurer's Report**– Report for March.

**Pastor's report**– Report for March

### Ministry Team Reports

Christian Ed./Youth/Evangelism	No Meeting
Congregational Life	No Meeting
Property/Security	Report on file
Social Ministry	No Meeting
Stewardship/Finance	Report on file
Worship & Music	Report on file

### Old Business

Executive Council to propose a few dates for a social event.

### New Business

Motion from Finance and seconded by Steve Baker to transfer \$14,500 in donations to Capital Improvement Fund. Approved.

Motion by Kim Frankel and seconded by Bonnie Rushing to extend Pastor Collins' contract for another 6 months. Approved.

**Meeting adjourned 12:45**

**Next Meeting May 10th after service. Robert Ollis has devotions.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Fry, President  
Sandra Barton, Secretary

## Remember in Prayer



### **Nursing Homes:**

**Brookdale Hickory-** (*Hickory*) Margaret Yount #17

**Brookdale Lenoir-** (*Lenoir*) Angie Asherbraner #28'

**Trinity Ridge-** (*Mountain View*) Tammie Falcone #714

**Trinity Village-** (*Hickory*) Mary Alice Punch #409A, Lois Stine #202,

**Wilkes Assisted Living-** (*North Wilkesboro*) Sylvia Hoke #206

**At Home:** Ramona Baker, Hilda Eckard, Lorene Fox, Glenda Kanupp,  
Carl Baker, and Doris Jones

**Family and Friends:** Dylan Godfrey, Ben Godfrey, Janet Stinson, Tim Hollar, Andrea Keast, June Yount, Tami Elmore, David Crump, Mark Ewing, Richard Powell, Bill Hill, Kim Johnson, Krystal Sharpe, Sydney Wilson, Billie Roth, Melissa Zarou, Gene Gibson, Roger Brittain, Gray Standfield, Cindy Powell, Lauren Eckard, Roxanne Duncan, Scarlet Creech, Owen Ferguson, Ted Chandler, Margaret Yount, Carl Baker, Lee Wagner & His Family, Greg Deitz, Lori Greathouse, Marshall Bumgarner, Steve Baker, Teddy & Diane Hefner, Tara Walker, Tammy Powell, Lynne Hill, Lorene Fox, David & Sarah Cline, Heather Rushing, Travis Greer, Kathy Powell, Bill Mackie, Marty Mackie, Bobbly Clark, Cindy Boyd, Lisa Bullard, Jimmy Barber, Bonnie Arney, Derrick O'Brien, Lois Stine, Ute Huckabee, Jeff Matthews, D (Damaris' Brother), Kathy Thun, Patty Shook, Blaise Canipe, Candy Sexton, Gene Putnam, Susan Achorn, Michael Pierce, Doug Hughes, Maynel Wilson, and Joseph Hildebran

**Bereavement:** The Family of Gene Putnam

### **Armed Forces:**

**U.S. Navy:** IS2 Chris Powell

**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, The People of Israel, The People affected by Hurricane Helene, The People affected by the flash flooding in Texas, and The People of Palestine

*Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.*



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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 ✝



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**Office Hours:**

- Monday-Friday -

8:30AM-1:30PM