



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ELCA

***– – The Friendly Visitor – –
2026***




August

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

† Call Committee Corner †

August 2026

To the St. Stephens Church Family:

The call committee had it's retreat on June 27th that was led by Linda Warren from the synod. The retreat was an eye-opening experience for our entire committee. It also opened our hearts and minds as to how much more work is ahead of us.

We will be meeting soon with church council to discuss some additional areas that need to be addressed as well as some changes we need to make in our ministry site profile that were recommended by Ms. Warren.

After meeting and working with church council, we anticipate moving forward with the synod sending us names of perspective pastors to interview.

I do ask that you keep the call committee: Cathy Baker, Donald Bumgarner, Dustin Rushing, Donna Specht, Katie Ramsey, Tiffani Bolick and Barry Sullivan in your prayers. We continue to look to God for his divine will for St. Stephens.

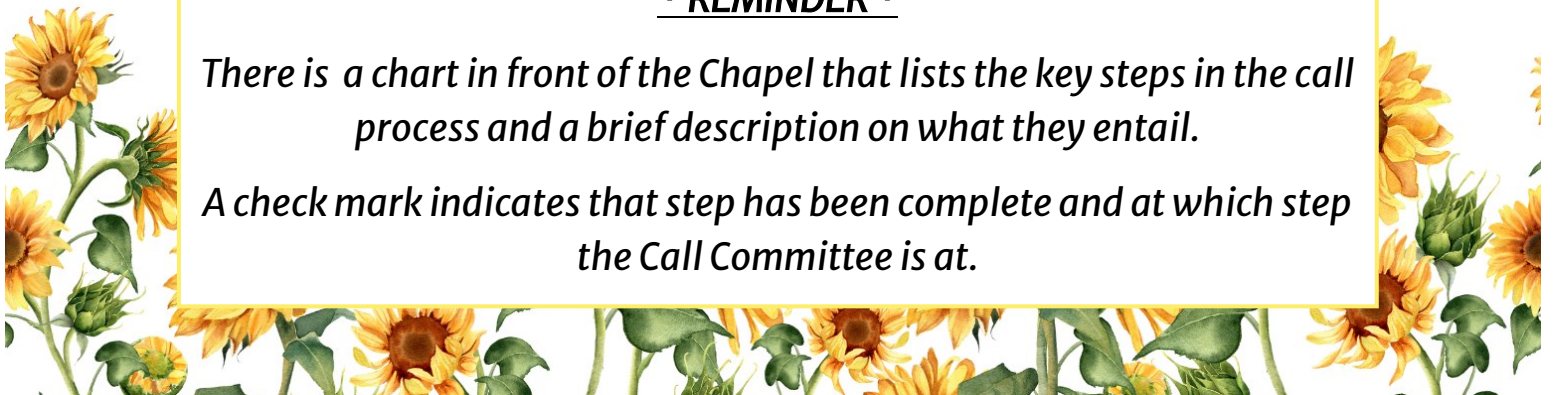
God's Peace and Blessings to you,

Barry Sullivan, Call Committee Chairperson

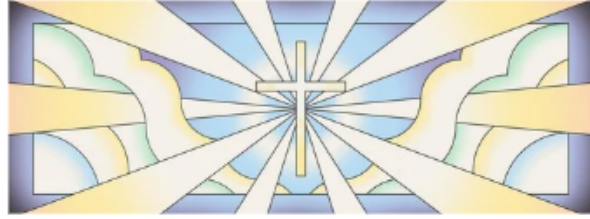
* REMINDER *

There is a chart in front of the Chapel that lists the key steps in the call process and a brief description on what they entail.

A check mark indicates that step has been complete and at which step the Call Committee is at.



† To the Congregation †



A Message to the Congregation:

Dear fellow Christians: On behalf of the Home going of my beloved wife, June, on July 5th, 2026, I and the whole family wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, and concerns. Because of her unbearable pain at times (she never complained) she was ready for the Lord to call her to her heavenly home.

- In God's love, Paul Yount.

'When I wake up in the morning and the sun is shining bright, I know if I walk and talk with Jesus everything will be alright.

And when I wake up in the morning and clouds of doubt and despair appear, I know if I call on Jesus, He will always be near.

And if I walk and talk with Jesus everything will be alright.

And when I go to bed each night and close my eyes in prayer, I know if I don't wake up Jesus will be there.

And if I walk and talk with Jesus everything will be alright.

- June Yount - Age 83



*** THANK YOU! - V.B.S.***

Gratitude to all who volunteered, donated, and supported our Vacation Bible School. Your contributions made it a week of faith, fun, and fellowship for the children. We thank each of you for helping make VBS a success!



ADDRESS UPDATES

- **Linda Baker**
831B Winnshire Dr.
Hickory, NC 28601
- **Jim & Neda Deal**
1823 Quiet Woods Rd.
Monroe, NC 28110

† Mission & Outreach †

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Thank you to everyone who donated or promoted our Blood Drive. While we aimed for 18 pints and received 16, every donation saves lives. We appreciate your generosity in sharing Christ's love!



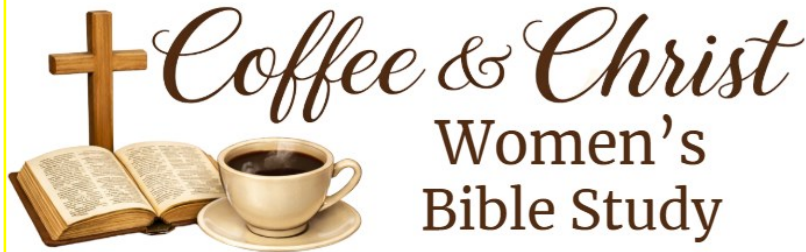
Community Book Bag Bash is Back at Bethany Lutheran Church Saturday, August 1st! Help local students start the school year prepared and encouraged! Bethany Lutheran Church is collecting filled backpacks with basic school supplies, including crayons, glue sticks, pencils, scissors, a pencil box, dry erase markers, a composition notebook, and colored pencils. They are also seeking volunteers, meal sponsors, and local businesses, churches, or organizations willing to host a backpack collection bin.

Every backpack, donation, volunteer, and prayer helps share Christ's love with children in our community.

To learn more or get involved, contact Bethany Lutheran Church at (828)322-5002 or SecretaryBethanyLC@gmail.com.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

† 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 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.

Remember in Prayer



Nursing Homes:

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

Brookdale Lenoir– (*Lenoir*) Angie Asherbraner #28

Trinity Village– (*Hickory*) 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, Tami Elmore, Bill Hill, Melissa Zarou, Ted Chandler, Greg Deitz, Kathy Powell, Candy Sexton, Amani Dior Mull, Gene Frye, Kevin Eckard, Kennedy & Caleb Mahala, Joyce Stinson, Austin Smith, Ronnie Ross, David Crump, Frank Wells, Keith & Julie Browning, Janice Watson, Darrell Mitchell, Danny Delancey, Gavin Craig, and Nancy Pope

Bereavement: The Family of Mary Alice Punch, The Family of June Yount, and The Family of Rick Lutz

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.



← 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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- Monday-Friday -

8:30AM-1:30PM