

# THE TORCH

May 2026

Pastors' office phone at  
St. Luke's 908-689-1976

Karol Van Wulfen, Pastor  
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## A Note from Pastor Karol

As I return from vacation, it is encouraging to see that, once again, the people of God continue to be Christ's Church. It is this same constant faith that has been present in this congregation for generations.

Such faithfulness is an important part of our 175 years of ministry, connecting what has been with the anticipation of what is yet to come.

Please take a moment to check the upcoming events for Bible study, worship, and opportunities for giving thanks for God's continued work among us.

Meanwhile, I invite you to spend time in prayer for our church's future. Reflect on the ways God has been faithful in your own life. Reach out to one another in simple acts of care and encouragement. And let us give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of God's work in this time and place!

*Pastor Karol Van Wulfen*

## Opportunities to Share and Care

**Father's Day** – It is time to honor our fathers. We are once again asking for donations to Habitat for Humanity of Northwest NJ. Please place your donation (any amount you choose) in the envelope, record your name and the name of the person you want to honor and place the envelope in the offering plate. We are hoping to raise at least \$250 for much needed supplies. Father's Day is June 21 so we need all names by June 14 for inclusion in the Father's Day bulletin.

**Altar Flowers** - We are looking for flower sponsors for June, September, October, November and December. If you wish to sponsor a Sunday or a month of Sundays please email Tara, our church secretary at [stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com). Or drop a note in the mail. The cost is \$40 per Sunday.

*Thank You*

**Mother's Day collection** – Thank you to everyone who donated to our collection of items for DASACC. We do not have a final count because the project is still going on but we are very grateful for your generosity. Your response was fantastic!

**Altar Flowers** - Thank you to the Cypher's family for sponsoring May's altar flowers.

## Parish News

**Choir Director** – We are still looking for a new Choir Director. If you have any leads on someone with a gift for directing choirs, please share the idea with us at [stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com](mailto:stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com).

**Alice Bianco** – There will be a memorial service for long time member and church secretary, Alice Bianco, on June 6th at 4pm in our sanctuary.

## Upcoming Events

**Bible Study** – Thursdays, 4:00-5:15p.m.

In May we are exploring the Just War respective from a biblical point of view. Please join us!

**Council Meeting** – Our next Council Meeting is 5/31 after worship.

**Stewartsville Yard sale Day** – Saturday, June 6, we will host a table outside our church with free giveaways and information about our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Stop by and help us meet our neighbors!

**Worship and Picnic at the Park** – Sunday, June 7th we gather with our sister church, St. Luke's, for worship and lunch at Thomas Stewart Park. Worship begins at 10:00am. There will be no worship in this building that morning.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Please mark your calendars for our special worship and dinner on November 1, 2026!

*Have you included First Lutheran Church in your estate plans?*

### **Seniors can reduce their tax burden by donating to charity through their IRA**

If you are 70½ or older, you can make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from your IRA to your favorite charity, including donations to your church.

The donated IRA assets go directly to the charity, so donors do not report QCDs as taxable income and do not owe any taxes on the QCD, even if they do not itemize deductions. Some donors may also find that QCDs provide greater tax savings than cash donations for which charitable tax deductions are claimed. The QCD counts toward fulfilling your IRA required minimum distribution.

For more information, talk to your tax advisor or check the IRS guidance on QCDs. (Google search: "IRS QCD")

## Member Care

Below is the list of members who are in nursing homes or who are currently shut in and can use some cheer:

Mrs. Virginia Geffert  
402 Sunset Ave  
Bangor, PA 18013

Pat Piggot  
123 Buttonwood  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

If anyone has a need that you think our church can help you with please send us an email at [stewartsvillemethodist@gmail.com](mailto:stewartsvillemethodist@gmail.com) or by mail to PO Box 86, Stewartsville, NJ 08886.

*You are invited!*  
*Please invite others to join us:*  
*help us to spread the word about our*  
*In person Worship at 11:00am*  
*And online at our website:*  
[www.stewartsvillemethodist.org](http://www.stewartsvillemethodist.org)