

THE TORCH

April 2026

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St. Luke's 908-689-1976

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A Note from Pastor Karol

As we journey through this Easter season, we are reminded that resurrection is not only a moment we celebrate, but a promise we live into each day. In Christ, new life breaks through even the quietest and most ordinary spaces, bringing hope where it is most needed.

God is still at work among us—renewing hearts, strengthening faith, and calling us forward together. We welcome this spring with gratitude for what God has done and in anticipation for what is to come. We look ahead with joy to celebrating our church anniversary and exploring new ways to reach out and share Christ's love with our community. For example, we will have a table at the Stewartsville Yard Sale day on Saturday, June 6, reaching out to those who are on our street that day. Please come by and join us in welcoming our neighbors! May this season fill you with the living hope of the risen Lord, who continues to make all things new.

With joy and hope,
Pastor Karol Van Wulfen

175th Anniversary Beautification Plan

As we prepare to celebrate our 175th anniversary, we are reflecting with gratitude on the many generations who have worshiped, served, and cared for this congregation and its home. In that spirit of thanksgiving and stewardship, we invite you to participate in a 175th Anniversary Beautification Plan.

In 2025, we were able—using almost entirely interest earned on our reserves—to complete several significant projects: repairing the front stairs, painting the entire exterior of the building, and replacing the aging roof on the lower portion of the church. These improvements help ensure that our

building remains safe, welcoming, and ready for ministry.

Looking ahead, our hopes for additional beautification include:

- Interior painting
- Repairs to the door area in the courtyard near the entrance drive
- Cleaning up the parking lot across the street
- Addressing gutters and warped or loose flashing and siding that have been damaged by recent winds

These projects will be undertaken as resources (financial and volunteers) allow.

Your regular giving continues to make the day-to-day care and ministry of the church possible, and we are deeply grateful. If you would like to make an additional gift in honor of our anniversary and toward these beautification efforts, you may designate your offering as "175th Beautification."

Thank you for your generosity, your care for this sacred space, and your commitment to the ministry we share—past, present, and future.

Opportunities to Share and Care

Mother's Day – This year we are collecting items for DASACC the Warren County shelter for abused women in honor of Mother's Day. The items needed are towel sets (bath, hand and wash cloths), sheet sets (extra long twin sets of fitted, flat and pillow cases) and dry and canned cat and dog food. DASACC clients can now bring a pet to shelter with them. Items will be accepted 4/12 through 5/3. All donations will be dedicated on 5/10 in honor of our mothers.

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. Or drop a note in the mail. The cost is \$40 per Sunday.

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

Alice Bianco - We are sad to share the passing of a beloved longtime member and former secretary, Alice Bianco. You can read her obituary via the following link:

https://www.brannenfamily.com/obituaries/alice-bianco?ttm_pid=211030064&ttm_affiliate=legacypro&ttm_affiliatetype=standard&ttm_campaign=legacy

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.

Upcoming Events

Bible Study – During the season of Easter, we are looking at portions of the letter of Peter. Join us Thursday from 4:00-5:15 on April 9 and 16 in the classroom downstairs.
No Bible Study April 23 or 30.

Council Meeting – Our next Council Meeting is 4/12 after worship.

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.

175th Anniversary – Please mark your calendars for our special worship and dinner on November 1, 2026! More details coming soon!

Thank You

Heifer Project - Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to our sheep project. A total of \$886 was donated which means that seven sheep will soon be going to seven families. Seven families will have an opportunity for a better life. Thank you to everyone who has shared so graciously.

Altar Flowers - Thank you to the Zeiner family for sponsoring April's altar flowers.

*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.stewartsvillelutheran.org*