

THE TORCH

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December 2025

Pastors' office phone at
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A Note from Pastor Karol

What are the longings of your heart? Perhaps yours are personal in nature, or maybe you long to hear news of peace and justice in the world.

The season of Advent, beginning Sunday November 30, speaks to those longings. This year we begin with a reading from Isaiah 2, which includes these words of promise and hope:

they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more. (Is. 2:4)

Perhaps you enjoy the decorations, Christmas Carols and the shopping for gifts for loved ones. Maybe there are gifts you are hoping to receive this year.

But I hope our hope is set on far greater things – the hope of a Savior who is coming again. We celebrate his coming long ago – the one we know of and can imagine – even while we wait for Christ's return to make all things new.

Join me this Advent season as we wait and watch and long for our Savior. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Sincerely,
Pastor Karol Van Wulfen

Opportunities to Share and Care

Christmas Caroling – We will be caroling at the Brakeley Care Center on Sunday December 14 at 1pm. We will meet at First at noon before driving over together. If there is an outbreak of Covid or other respiratory disease, masks may be required or our visit may be cancelled.

Food Drive – We are having a food-drive to help replenish the Catholic Charities food bank after Thanksgiving and to help prepare for Christmas. Needed items include soup, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly, and canned pasta. When shopping please remember those less fortunate and pick up a few extra items. *We will be collecting until December 21st.*

Memorial Poinsettias – Once again this year we will decorate our sanctuary with Memorial Poinsettias. The price is \$9 and you may take a plant home following the Christmas Eve Service. Please use the envelopes provided in the rear of the church for your convenience. The deadline is December 14th.

Altar Flowers – We are looking for flower sponsors for the new year. If you wish to sponsor a Sunday or month of Sundays please email Tara, at stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com. Or drop a note in the mail. The cost is \$40 per week.

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.

Reminder

As 2025 winds down we are busy planning for next year. To ensure that you receive your contribution statement, please make sure that you have shared your new address with us. Also if you want to make any changes to your contribution envelopes please let us know via email ASAP as we are ordering envelopes this month. Info can be sent to stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com or make note of your new address on your offering envelope.

Upcoming Events

Bible Study – Please join us Thursdays from 4:00-5:15pm in the downstairs classroom for a study of Micah.

Church Decorating – Please stay after worship on December 7th to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

Christmas Caroling – will be held at Brakely Garden nursing home at 2pm on December 14th. Meet at First Lutheran to warm up vocal cords at 12pm.

Christmas Eve Worship – Please join us for Christmas Eve worship on December 24th and 7:00pm. (Alternate option is at St. Luke's at 4:30pm).

Bible Readings & Carols - Join us for more Bible readings of Jesus' birth and carol singing on Sunday, December 28! Worship still includes Holy Communion after hearing and singing the story of Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 1.
After worship we will discuss and vote on our budget for 2026, as well as complete elections for new council members. Watch for more information, coming soon!

Looking Ahead...

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

Parish News

Choir Director – We are 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.

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

Marion Krosencky
373 Pursel Street
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Pat Piggot
123 Buttonwood
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Thank You

Thank You – November was a busy month of giving and sharing! Thank you to everyone who participated in Warm Feet Warm Hearts. An amazing 54 pairs of socks were donated and with the Thrivent action team card we were able to purchase 22 additional pairs. There will be some people with warm feet this winter because of your generosity. Thank you!

We also filled Thanksgiving Baskets and made beautiful cards for families in detention centers. The Christmas spirit came early this year!

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*