# THE TORCH

# October 2026

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

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## A Note from Pastor Karol

I love the fall, as the weather cools and the leaves turn golden. It is a beautiful time to get outside and enjoy creation!

We have multiple events offered this coming month that may entice you inside as well – check out the separate articles included in this newsletter. If you plan to join us for our celebration on November 1, R.S.V.P. to the church office by October 5 so we can make our final preparations for seating and food. I hope to see you in the next month!

Peace be with you,
*Pastor Karol Van Wulfen*

## Parish News

**Anniversary Christmas Ornaments** – Christmas bulb ornaments with a picture of our church building will be available as part of our anniversary celebration. The Warren County Historical Society is creating the ornaments for us. Pre-orders will be taken soon, when we know the price they are asking for them. Watch for more details soon!

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

**Choir Director** – While we are thankful for Kelly's leadership of the choir for the past year, 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.

## Opportunities to Share and Care

**Warm Hearts Warm Feet –** We are collecting warm socks again this year! Living on the street during the winter is tough. Warm Hands Warm Feet is a program to provide warm woolen boot socks to Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover, NJ. Socks are distributed to day-laborers and others in need in the Dover area. Often the men own only one pair of socks and they are worn continually until they disintegrate. Many of the men either work outside or sleep on the street so warm, heavy socks are important to protect against the cold. Please donate socks in the basket in the narthex from October 4 - November 8th.

**Food Pantry Collection –** Food pantries are in high need of donations as we enter the cooler weather and families need to manage energy costs. The white box at the back of the church is always available for regular food donations.

## Upcoming Events

**Council Meeting –** Our next council meeting will be held October 18th after worship.

**Bible Study –** Thursdays from 4:00-5:15pm in the classroom downstairs.

**OPEN HOUSE – October 11**
On Sunday, October 11, we are inviting neighbors to join us as we thank the first responders in our area by inviting them to an open house event from 1:00-2:00p.m. Join us in Hartline Hall as we offer refreshments and small gifts to our honored guests. Members, please help us out with directing people inside for the event!

**YOU'RE IN THE HOSPITAL – NOW WHAT?**
On Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 p.m., we are jointly sponsoring a workshop here at First to learn about advocating for yourself or loved ones in the hospital to get the help you need. Beth Gebhart, from Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, will lead the discussion. Refreshments will be provided. We will meet in the large classroom downstairs. Please sign up or alert Margie if you are planning to attend.

**175th Anniversary** – Please mark your calendars for our special worship and dinner on November 1, 2026. Please R.S.V.P. to the office by October 5 if you plan to join us for the meal after worship on the day of our celebration.

## Member Care

Below is the list of members who are (mostly) shut in and can use some cheer:

Mrs. Virginia Geffert
402 Sunset Ave
Bangor, PA 18013

Pat Piggot
123 Buttonwood
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

We care about you! Do you need assistance in some way? Perhaps your church family could be of help! Send us an email at stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 86, Stewartsville, NJ 08886.

**Weekly Topics:**
- Oct. 8 - The Church, Mental Health & the Image of God
- Oct. 15 - A Path to Healing
- Oct. 22 - From Stigma to Belonging
- Oct. 29 - A Community of Belonging, Healing, and Hope

Join via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83487034426?pwd=PfJNV7AKKGggwuEHaaL0na19BeLPbf.1

**About our Presenter/Facilitator:**
The Rev. Dr. Julie Haspel has been an ordained pastor for thirty-five years and currently serves as the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Mendham, NJ. She has many passions for ministry, including preaching, teaching, youth, justice, and mental health.

Her recent dissertation, Mental Health in the Church: From the Gurney in the Hall to the Relational Kingdom of God, will be the foundation of this study.

*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*