

THE TORCH

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March 2025

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A Note from Pastor Karol

Join me on a journey this Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5, we will travel with Jesus, receiving "Wisdom for Life's Journey." Each week in worship we will consider a sign to guide us along the way.

In this time of rising anxieties, fears, distrust, and hatred all around us, let us watch and listen to Jesus for guidance, encouragement, and hope.

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Pastor Karol Van Wulfen

Opportunities to Share and Care

Heifer Project – The Heifer animal this year is the pig. Each pig costs \$120 and we hope to be able to send 5. Each pig goes to her new home pregnant. A litter is generally 12-13 piglets. Many of the piglets are shared with other families in the community so many folks are helped. A bonus is the fertilizer produced by the pigs which enriches the soil and leads to better crops. Please use the Heifer envelopes for your donations. We will be accepting donations until April 13th, Palm Sunday.

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.

Altar Flowers - We are taking a break from fresh flowers through lent but will be 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.

Upcoming Events

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

Council Meeting – Our next council meeting is March 16 after worship.

Lent begins Wednesday, March 5

Begin the journey of Lent with worship on Ash Wednesday with two options:

12:00pm at First

7:30pm at St. Luke's

Lenten devotions are on Thursdays 4-5pm, journeying to Jerusalem with Jesus in the gospel according to Luke.

Additional Lent events are available at St. Luke's on March 19 and April 9 from 5:30-7:00pm. A light supper is served followed by various prayer/devotional activities.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13, culminating in Easter on April 20. More details coming soon for worship that week!

Thank You!

Souper Bowl Sunday – Thank you to all who contributed to our Super Bowl soup challenge. We donated 52 cans of soup in support of the AFC and 22 cans of soup in support of the NFC. We did not accurately predict the winner of Super Bowl since the Eagles and the NFC were victorious. However, 74 cans of soup were donated to Catholic Charities food pantry and that a victory for all.

Valentine Cards – Thank you to the group that met on February 2nd to make Valentine cards for our shut-ins. The cards were warmly received and greatly appreciated. Why not take the time to send a card or a note to one of our shut-ins? Their addresses are in every Torch and they would really like to hear from you.

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”)

Music Director – We are looking for a new Music Director. If you know a music major that may be interested in working a few hours a week please have them email us at stewartsvillelutheran@gmail.com.

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