

# The Flame

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

February 2013

*Our Mission Graced by the love of God through Word and Sacrament to be a caring community of believers, the fellowship of St. Stephen's is called to support one another in growth in faith, to share in the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to reach out in witness and in service to the communities to which we belong, as one in the body of Christ.*

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Are you ready for Lent? As I write this it's only 22 days away. Do you plan to make this a meaningful season of the church year, focusing on the disciplines made to help us in the 40 days of Lent — prayer, sacrifice, contemplation, repentance? OR are we too busy to take Lent seriously?

Rather than thinking that we "do Lent for God", let us see it as a gift from God, from the church to help us deepen our faith in God who sacrificed His Son for our sakes. Lent is a journey we humbly make to take ourselves and our wants and desires out of the center of our concern, and place God there. (We remember the most difficult of the 10 commandments

is, "you shall have no other gods before me.")

Most of us will step up our daily devotional life during Lent, and that is good. Quite time, reading and praying is encouraged. Also, I would urge regular worship attendance on Sunday Morning, in addition to worship on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Our ministerium is planning Wednesday evening studio, of which you are invited to participate. Fasting, "giving up" during Lent is a discipline that is helpful also in thinking of the needs of others, who do without all the time. Perhaps as you "give up" something you can donate the expense of that item to the "Malaria Campaign", which is again a Lenten focus for us.

Besides "giving up" material things and pleasures for Lent, we are encouraged, most especially to give up bad habits and actions that are detrimental. Some are harmful to ourselves and there are those that are harmful to others and

our relationships with them.

We may not look forward to Lent as we do Christmas, but Lent prepares us and humbles us to accept God's great love for us, a love freely given and expressed so grandly in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

## WORSHIP WITH US FEBRUARY 2013

### Sunday, February 3, 2012

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**9am** Holy Communion  
**10:45am** Holy Communion, Baptism  
**10:45am** Sunday School

### Sunday, February 10, 2013

The Transfiguration of our Lord

#### WELCA SUNDAY

**9am** Holy Communion  
**10:45am** Holy Communion  
**10:45am** Sunday School  
Pastor Tracie Bartholomew

### Wednesday, February 13, 2013

#### Ash Wednesday

**11am** Spoken Holy Communion  
**7:30pm** Liturgy with congregations in the community.

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### Sunday, February 17, 2013

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

9am Holy Communion  
10:45am Holy Communion  
10:45am Sunday School

### Wednesday, February 20

7pm Lenten Vespers

### Sunday, February 24, 2013

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

9am Holy Communion  
10:45am Holy Communion  
10:45am Sunday School

### Wednesday, February 27

7pm Lenten Vespers

### SCHOOL SUNDAY, BIBLE STUDIES, GROUPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

#### BIBLE STUDY

Monday's at 10:30 am. New Study starting 1/28/2013

#### CONFIRMATION

February 10, 5 - 7 pm  
February 17, 5 - 7 pm

#### "REJOICING SPIRITS"

February 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10:45am service.

Brief "regroup" meeting for "Rejoicing Spirits". All are welcome to bring your assistance, suggestions and passion to make worship experience a reality for "differently abled" people. We had an extended hiatus, but have now been inspired by our visit to St. John, Ocean City and their "Rejoicing Spirits Workshop".

#### BOUNDRIES/SAFETY IN

YOUTH MINISTRY Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 2 - 4 pm,

at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Moorestown, NJ. Please let Pastor Chris know if you plan to attend, so she can register us with the synod.

### SHARE THE WORD

Members of the council are collecting Bibles to be given to prison inmates requesting them. When Rev. Carl Browne was with us he mentioned the need for such in the prison where he serves as chaplain. You may bring in used bibles or new ones and place them in the designated box in the narthex.

### SOCIAL MINISTRIES

**New Visions** Thank you to all for helping make our Christmas lunch a success at New Visions! So many members contributed funds and covered dishes toward a hot roast beef sandwich meal that we were able to serve over 100 meals. Twenty-five of us went to serve the meal, visit and eat with them, and give out Christmas presents. Thanks to the work of our Sunday school students we had 100 gaily decorated Christmas bags for your gift donations. Each bag had a selection of socks, gloves, scarves and tooth brushes.

### Pancake Supper 2013

Our annual Shrove



Tuesday Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday night, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for the two seatings (5 & 6) are on sale at the Social Ministry Table. Adults are \$8.00, and children \$5.00. Any profit will be donated to the Summer Lunch Box Program.

### Volunteers Needed

Please consider waiting on tables or cooking pancakes and sausage on Fat Tuesday's Pancake supper. Sign up at the Social Ministry table in the Narthex or speak with Lenore Cronlund.

### Fair Trade Sale

A successful sale of Fair Trade items was held on Sunday, December 2 & 9. A check for \$1096.79 was sent to SERV International. A few items such as coffee will be available all year. Please let the Social Ministries know if there is a product you would like to have us order.

**"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."**  
—Charles M. Schulz

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

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For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

### **Romans 11:29**

For in God you have been enriched in every way- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge.

### **1 Corinthians 1:5**

*Submitted by the Stewardship Committee*

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### **WELCA NEWS**

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Welca is planning another bustrip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, Pa to see the story of "Noah". Mark your calendar for Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll stop first at Kitchen Kettle Village for shopping and a light lunch (on your own) then proceed to the theater for a 1PM show followed by dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant. \$110. includes motorcoach, show ticket, visit to Kitchen Kettle Village, Dinner at Hershey Farm Restaurant, taxes and tip for bus driver.

See the poster on the bulletin board or Diana Bensel for information and reservations. Make checks payable to Jonathans Travel.

### **The Auxilliary of the Lutheran Home**

**January** is the Annual Auxiliary drive for the 250 residents at the Lutheran

Home in Moorestown. The annual drive along with the two Fund Raisers, June Day and the Octoberfest are two ways the auxiliary pays the entertainment for three holidays, monthly outings at local restaurants, birthday parties every month, Christmas gifts, along with any personal needs a resident may have which families are unable to provide or there is not family. Any monetary gift will be appreciated to help the auxiliary provide these extras for the residents. Please see Nancy MacMaster. Thank you!

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### **EVANGELISM**

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The Evangelism committee is updating our Congregational Birthday list. Please fill out the card at the end of the pew.

**We are also collecting** any unwanted religious Christmas cards. We will be using them for a future project. If you have any cards you would like to donate, please leave them in the basket designated in the narthex. Thanks!

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### **LETTERS**

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To my Church Family,

I want to thank you for all your prayers and words of support as I grieve for my mother. Your lovely cards remind me that I am part of the St. Stephen's Family.

Sincerely,

Lenore Cronlund

Dear Pastor Chris & All Members of Sunday School,

Thank you for your support of our "Share the Warmth" service efforts for the homeless in Philadelphia. We served over 200 people & were able to provide much needed items like sox, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, etc. It could not have been done without everyone's generosity. God lead us to where we were truly needed. It is staggering to witness how many are in need of the very basic items, just to survive. But, what a gift & blessing to be surrounded by many who care & share. We did share warmth . . . , but mostly we shared God's love & blessings with others.

Graciously & Respectfully,

Terry Puskar

### **HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS**

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, the outpouring of concern and the desire to offer help to the people of New Jersey has been amazing and awe inspiring. This will be a long, challenging recovery for your state and many different types of assistance will be needed in the days, weeks and months ahead.

Many have asked what items can be donated to help with disaster response. While financial donations are one of the best ways you can help, here is a list of items that are needed now for relief and will continue to be needed as restoration moves forward: *non-perishable food items, bottles water, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap (bar or body wash), comb & brushes, mouthwash, washclothes, hand sanitizer, work gloves, disinfectant wipes, sponges, scrub brushes, scouring pads, dish soap, household cleaner, disposable cleaning towels, laundry detergent, heavy-duty trash bags.* For more information regarding donations please contact Lisa Barnes, Director of Community Partnering and advocacy, at [lbarnes@lsmnj.org](mailto:lbarnes@lsmnj.org) or 609-699-4143.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**The German American group** is offering free German lessons on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. Meets at the church in the choir room.

**Synod Companion Trip** to Namibia, July 2013 . . . details to follow. Approximate travel cost is \$4000. Speak to Pastor for more info.

**HELP US go green . . .** by signing up for receiving your Flame via email. Sign up in the narthex! Even if you are not interested please give us your email so we can alert you about special times, funerals, etc. . . THANKS

**COLUMBARIUM NICHE -** Permit for Single Inurnment \$2,250; Permit for Double Inurnment \$2500. A \$500 discount for church members till Dec. 2012. Please contact Lou Decina or Herb Budd with any questions.

**VOLUNTEER/JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

If you are interested in a disaster response mission trip in the future (not immediate) please speak

to Pastor Chris. This will now be a cluster project.

**Handy Helpers** is a program to help senior citizens and disabled persons with small jobs around the home. Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month, September through June, working from 8:30 am till Noon. For further info call 856-845-1244.



**SAFETY** For security reasons, if you have church business, PLEASE use the office door located in the front of the church (facing Evergreen Ave.), and you will be buzzed in (even if you have a key). Please stop in the office, sign in, so we know who is in the building with us. Also please exit through the same door. Thanks for your cooperation!

