

Providence Lutheran Church September 2026

*We exist to help people know Jesus, not just about Him!
Our purpose is to make Christ known by developing prayerful disciples.
Our values are faith, hope and love.*

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

September has a way of reminding us that change is a natural part of life. Summer begins to give way to fall, children and young people settle into a new school year, ministries resume their regular rhythms, and our calendars begin filling up once again. During all this change, it is good to remember what does **not** change: **God's love and faithfulness.**

The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "*The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever*" (Isaiah 40:8). Seasons change. Circumstances change. Our lives change. But God's promises remain steadfast.

That is an especially important reminder for the Church. We can sometimes become so focused on what has changed—or what we wish would change—that we forget to notice what God is already doing among us. God continues to gather us around Word and Sacrament. God continues to form us as disciples. God continues to place opportunities for service and witness before us. And God continues to call us to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

As we begin a new season of ministry, perhaps we might resist the temptation to ask only, "**What do we need to do?**" Instead, let us **also** ask, "**Where is God already at work, and how is God inviting us to participate?**" That question can change the way we look at ministry.

- ✝ A child welcoming a new student at school may be participating in God's work.
- ✝ A congregation member visiting someone who is lonely may be participating in God's work.
- ✝ Someone quietly praying for another person may be participating in God's work.
- ✝ A Sunday School teacher sharing God's Word with a child may be participating in God's work.
- ✝ Someone offering a word of encouragement to a person who is struggling may be participating in God's work.

These things may not make headlines, but they are precisely the kinds of ordinary acts through which God's extraordinary love becomes visible.

September also gives us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the life of our congregation. Worship, Christian education, fellowship, service, music, outreach, and care for one another are not simply activities that fill our church calendar. They are ways in which we **live out our baptismal calling** to love God and love our neighbor. As we enter this new season, I encourage each of us to prayerfully consider three questions:

- ✝ **Where is God calling me to grow?**
- ✝ **Where is God calling me to serve?**
- ✝ **Who is God placing in my path who needs to experience the love of Christ?**

We don't need to have all the answers. We simply need to be willing to listen and respond. Jesus reminds us in John 15, "*Abide in me as I abide in you.*" Before we can bear fruit, we **must remain connected** to the vine. Our ministry begins not with our own strength, creativity, or energy, but with **abiding in Christ**. So as our schedules become busier this fall, let us make room for what matters most: **time in God's Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, and the people God has placed around us.** May this September be more than the beginning of another busy season. May it be a season of **renewal**—a time when we rediscover the joy of serving Christ, deepen our relationships with one another, and look with fresh eyes for the ways God is already at work.

I am grateful for each of you and for the many ways you contribute to the life and ministry of our congregation. I look forward to seeing what God will continue to do among us and through us in the months ahead. May we enter this new season with open hearts, willing hands, and expectant faith.

With gratitude and blessing, Pastor Patti Sue

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SAVE THE DATES:

9/7: Labor Day – Office and School Closed
9/12: Ronan/Walker Wedding
9/13: Church Council
9/13: Healing of the Nations Service at 7 p.m.
9/20: Chili Cookoff – after worship
9/26: Super Saturday from 9-11 a.m.
10/1: LaVie Annual Dinner at 5 p.m.
10/11: Church Council
10/12: Columbus Day – Office and School Closed
10/21-26: PPS & Russell in Baton Rouge for Christopher's Wedding
10/26-28: SC Synod Rostered Leaders Convocation
10/29: PLCP Trunk or Treat from 6-8 p.m.

GROWING IN FAITH WITH BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is on Wednesdays. We meet in the bible study room in the education building at 10 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us!



INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Patti Sue (803-403-7755).

She would like to have a conversation with you about Providence and the Lutheran church.

9/11 MEMORIAL PROJECT

To help remember and honor the 2,977 people who died on 9/11/01 from the terror attacks, we will be placing an American flag with each person's name written on it on the church grounds. Our hope is that people will come and remember these men, women and children as their deaths should not be forgotten on this 25th anniversary.

On **Sunday, September 13th, at 7:00 p.m.** we will have a worship service, ***Healing of the Nations and Remembrance***. Please come and join us in praying for peace.

BISHOP WADE ROOF



The Rev. Wade Thomas Roof, III was elected June 13 as bishop-elect of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the annual Synod Assembly and Rev. Roof was elected on the 5th ballot, receiving 190 votes. Rev. Roof told the assembly upon his election: "I hope we will find a whole lot of joy as we walk together. This call is about the Church, and we are called to move forward together as the Church of Christ. We will serve each other and move forward. Glory be to God!"

The bishop serves as the synod's pastor and is called to administer sacraments, preach, provide pastoral care, advise, ordain, advocate, interpret, and serve as the ecumenical officer. Prior to the election, Roof served as Senior Pastor of Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church in West Columbia. He graduated from Newberry College in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 2009 and is in Doctoral Studies in Congregational Leadership at Gardner Webb School of Divinity. He is married to Irina and has two children, his daughter Abby Grace, and his son Burns. He looks forward to building relationships and loving God's people.

Rev. Wade Thomas Roof, III will take office September 1, 2026 and will begin a six-year term. His installation will be on Saturday, October 24th at 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington. All are invited to attend.

PROVIDENCE MEMBERS

Gail Caldwell, Rosemary Carmean, Debbie & Jamie Edwards, Eva Jimenez, John Martin, Amber McNorton, Judy Meetze, Peyton Nash, Ken Peacock, Cass Ronan, Evan Ronan, Jeanette Swygert, and Conner Violette

FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Virginia Aebischer, Ann Blakely, Owen Brincko, Susan Bundy, Donna Burton, Adrianna Calderon, David Carmean, Minerva Castro, Jim & Diane Davidson, Craig DeMunbrun, Kay Elliott, Rachel Ellis, Hellen Farrell, Grayson Florio, Rosy & Adrian Garcia, Callie Garrett, David Godwin, Millie Guzman, Kimberly Howard, Luis Jimenez, Donna Johansen, Caroline and Hunter Jones, Bobbi Labreque, Beth Mayer, Brice Minick, Nick Montanez, Emma Morris, Kaitlyn Osteen, Greg Ring, Luz Roman, Sue Ruff, Maryanne Seyfert, Evelyn Sheffield, Chris & Ginny Smith, Greg Smith, Suzie Starkey, Lora Ullery and Leo Vila

Prayers & Praises

SEPTEMBER SERVERS:

Altar Flowers:

9/6 *Open Availability*
9/13 John Scott
9/20 *Open Availability*
9/27 The Oswalds
10/4 Judy Meetze

Lay Readers:

9/6 Duane Hall
9/13 Tanya Thomas
9/20 Glenda Oswald
9/27 Judi Harmon
10/4 John Scott

Greeter:

Connie Setzler

Offering Counter:

Russell Oswald

Worship Assistant:

9/6 Kathy Hendrix
9/13 Trudy Scurry
9/20 Deb Kopitskie
9/27 Kathy Hendrix
10/4 Trudy Scurry

Altar Guild:

9/6 Glenda Oswald
9/13 Pat Fulmer
9/20 Mona Nash
9/27 Trudy Scurry
10/4 Judi Harmon

Ushers:

Russell Pye &
Val Nash

LABOR DAY

This is a reminder that the office will be closed on September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

HEALTH & WELLNESS OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to announce that we will be having some "pop up" classes this summer with Sarah Lee Brasche on the Chinese practice of Chi Gong which combines breathing, movement, balance and mental focus.

Chi means breath, essence, energy. Gong means work, cultivation, skill. Chi Gong means working with life energy. These classes will be held at Providence for 45-60 minutes at a cost of \$5 per person.

Chi Gong practices are very gentle usually include:

- Slow, flowing movements (similar to Tai Chi)
- Controlled breathing techniques
- Focused awareness or meditation

Benefits people seek include:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Improve flexibility and balance
- Boost overall energy and well-being
- Support mental clarity and relaxation

This is a great opportunity for us to improve our overall health and wellness. If you have any questions, just text Pastor Patti Sue.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

9/1 Conner Violette
9/8 Maria Jimenez-Holloway
9/21 Val Nash



Did we forget your birthday? Please contact Steph in the church office!

SUPER SATURDAY: 9/26

Super Saturday is a 2-hour program for children in our congregation and preschool. We meet on the last Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for a time of learning, fun and fellowship.

If you can help, please call Pastor Patti Sue (803-403-7755). We need 3-5 helpers for each event.

ANNUAL WOMENS' RETREAT

The annual Women's Retreat will be held on **November 13-15** this year. This year's theme is *I Have Called You by Name*.

The guiding scripture verse is Isaiah 43:1 -- "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

Place: Serenity House, Mill Springs, NC
Date: **November 13-15, 2026**
Cost: \$80

Pastor Patti Sue needs to know how many plan to attend by **October 23rd** to gather materials and plan appropriately.

PLC PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August was off to an amazing start at our preschool! We kicked off the month with our **first-ever teacher retreat**, centered around the theme of *filling our cup*. We gathered in the most magical setting, taking time to connect, reflect, and recharge. We all left feeling refreshed, encouraged, and ready to pour into our students and one another as we begin an amazing new school year.

From there, we dove right into **Teacher Work Week!** Our teachers spent the week preparing their classrooms, organizing materials, planning meaningful experiences, and getting our minds and hearts ready for the year ahead. We were also thrilled to welcome our families for a successful **Meet the Teacher** event. It was such a joy to see familiar faces, meet new families, and begin building those special connections that make our preschool community so wonderful.

We wrapped up the month with an **amazing first week back!** Our classrooms were filled with smiles, laughter, learning, and lots of excitement as our students settled into their new routines. We are so grateful for the opportunity to love, teach, and nurture each of our little ones, and we are looking forward to all that God has in store for this school year!
Here's to a wonderful year of growing, learning, and making memories together!

Blessings,
Amber McNorton

Providence Lutheran Church

840 Old Chapin Road, Lexington, South Carolina 29072
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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