

## *Note from the Pastor's Desk*

Last year, one of the things we discussed a great deal in Bible study was how we do not recognize Christ as our Lord, Savior and King. We forget that in baptism, our life is no longer our own because we become children of God. We forget that we are no longer in bondage to sin, because Jesus broke those chains.

In Isaiah we are well schooled about the penalty of sin – there are consequences for our behavior – and nothing is hidden from God. The apostle Paul teaches in his letters how we are expected to live as children of God. He tells us to focus on peace and harmony with one another, allowing the love of God to rule our hearts, and to respond to God with gratitude.

This new year affords us a beautiful opportunity to look at how we live our lives. As you contemplate the year ahead, ponder these questions:

- ✠ Do others see the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) reflected in how I treat others?
- ✠ Am I a living example of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and love?
- ✠ Do others see me living with the peace of Christ and with a thankful heart, filled with gratitude for the life given me?
- ✠ Do I allow the fact that I am joined to Christ in my baptism make a difference in my life?
- ✠ Am I a living example of my faith?

None of these things is impossible to accomplish. They are all choices we make every day. I found this wonderful prayer last year and wanted to share it once again this year as we welcome a new year. It is a tradition in Scotland and Northern England to say this prayer to bring the new year.

This day is a new day  
That has never been before.  
This year is a new year,  
the opening door.

Enter, Lord Christ—  
we have joy in Your coming.  
You have given us life;  
and we welcome Your coming.

I turn now to face You,  
I lift up my eyes.  
Be blessing my face, Lord;  
be blessing my eyes.

May all my eye looks on  
be blessed and be bright,  
my neighbors, my loved ones  
be blessed in Your sight.

You have given us life  
and we welcome Your coming.

Be with us, Lord,  
we have joy, we have joy.  
This year is a new year,  
the opening door.  
Be with us, Lord,  
We have joy, we have joy.

God bless us and give us the strength to live out our faith with joyful and grateful hearts.

Love in Christ, Pastor Patti Sue

P  
a  
t  
h  
w  
a  
y  
s

## TIME & TALENT SHEETS

Included once again with this month's newsletter is a "time and talent" sheet. We ask that all members and regular visitors pray about how and where God may be calling you to serve in 2023.

Please complete a sheet for each member of your family. It is through this information that we are able to plan and manage the work of the congregation. We simply cannot do the work of ministry without your help and support. **Please bring your completed sheets to worship or the church office if you have yet to do so.**

## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

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

## SPECIAL THANK YOUS

A very special "thank you" to our anonymous donor who **matched \$25,000 of our \$40,321 giving, totaling to the general fund \$65,321** in the month of December! We so appreciate everyone giving extra offering in the month of December in order to obtain the full matching gift! Your generosity is so appreciated. Hallelujah and praise the Lord that we are able to begin the year in a surplus!

Thank you to everyone who joined us in singing Christmas carols to our neighbors and friends! Thank you to Rachel for coordinating this fun time together to brighten the days of these wonderful senior citizens!

A special "thank you" to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas Eve worship! It is always so beautiful, and your efforts are appreciated.

Also, "thank you" to the congregation for your generosity this Christmas with the staff bonuses. Pastor Patti Sue, Stephanie, Rachel and Kjell are all very appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm really honored to serve as council president this coming year. Our church has assembled a great group that will represent the congregation well.

This is an exciting time for us. The generous financial gift offered in December from an anonymous donor, along with a challenge to the congregation that was easily met, is a great blessing. These gifts will keep us on track with our finances and budget and allow us to combine our focus on much needed repairs and upgrades to the education building and fellowship hall, as well as our inreach and outreach opportunities. My prayer is that at some point in 2023 we can rekindle plans for the upgrade of the sanctuary.

We have so much to be thankful for as children of Christ. We are a loving and caring congregation blessed with a wonderful Pastor and staff. May we always be united in faith.

Yours in Christ, Duane

## PLC PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December came in as quickly as it left! We had lots of fun though, making all the Christmas crafts, learning about the true meaning of Christmas and practicing for our Christmas play. We also participated in the families helping families program again this year. We adopted three individuals and split them up between classes and like always our wonderful families came through blessing them big time for Christmas. It always feels good to know that you helped bless others that don't have the privileges we do and to imagine the smile on their face and the joy in their hearts on Christmas morning. Every time we participate in stuff like this, I am reminded why we are the "little preschool with a big heart!"

We had our sweet little Christmas program, and it was just as precious as always and left us all feeling blessed and in the Christmas spirit! 2022 truly blessed us and we are looking forward to seeing what 2023 has in store for us and I'm praying it's full of blessings for our sweet, little preschool. We also pray the same for all of you!! May God bless your Christmas and your new year!!

Blessings, Betsy

## GROWING IN FAITH WITH BIBLE STUDY

Come join us on Wednesdays for bible study!  
All are welcome!

We gather each week at 10:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in person and on Zoom. This month we are studying the Women in the Lineage of Jesus – Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary.

# JANUARY SCHEDULE

## Altar Flowers:

1/1 Available

1/8 Available

1/15 The Pye Family

1/22 Available

1/29 Available

## Lay Readers:

1/1 Judy Meetze

1/8 Deb Kopitskie

1/15 Ty Yonce

1/22 Duane Hall

1/29 Glenda Oswald

## Greeter:

Eva Jimenez

## Worship Assistant:

Deb Kopitskie &  
Kjell Bakken

## Communion Assistant:

1/1 Glenda Oswald

1/8 Deb Kopitskie

1/15 Mona Nash

1/22 Trudy Scurry

1/29 Kathy Hendrix

## Ushers:

Russell Pye &  
Russell Oswald

## Nursery Attendant:

Peyton Nash

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

1/4 Ely Huffman

1/10 Eva Jimenez

1/11 Steph Lawhorn

1/14 Pastor Patti Sue Pye

1/17 Rosemary Carmean & Hope Hiott

1/18 Jennifer Sheridan

1/20 Erika Violette



Did we forget your birthday? Please contact Steph in the church office to let her know!

# EPIPHANY

Epiphany is January 6th and is the time we celebrate the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem to worship Jesus.

This event reminds us that the glory of the Lord, revealed in Jesus, is for all nations and people. In the seasonal time after Epiphany, we see Jesus revealed in his ministry from the time of his baptism to the Transfiguration.

# YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation Classes – classes meet during the Sunday school hour each week at 10:00 a.m. except for Breakfast Sundays. This month's schedule is:

- 1/1 – no class (fellowship potluck breakfast)
- 1/8 – Exodus: Moses and The Wanderings
- 1/15 – no class due to school break
- 1/22 – 1&2 Samuel + 1&2 Kings: Of Tents & Kings
- 1/29 – The Psalms

If your youth and/or children would like to meet for fellowship and activities in Youth Group, please let Pastor Patti Sue know. Youth Group provides opportunities for our youth to engage each other in meaning and fun ways while growing their faith.

# CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

- ✝ Duane Hall, President
- ✝ Ty Yonce, Vice President
- ✝ Lee Thomas, Recording Secretary
- ✝ Eddie Kopitskie
- ✝ Ricky Jones
- ✝ Peyton Nash
- ✝ Pastor Patti Sue-Pye
- ✝ Deb Kopitskie, Treasurer

# TREASURER'S UPDATE

Attached you will find the financial report for November. Please consider your financial commitment to our congregational ministry and staff. Donations are tax deductible and can be made online, via mail, or in person.

The church council asks that we each prayerfully consider how our giving might be able to help/keep the ministries going. Thank you.

# PROVIDENCE MEMBERS

Gail Caldwell, Rosemary & Jeff Carmean, Frank & Cissy Corley, Debbie & Jamie Edwards, Donna Florio, Wesley Hall (Deployed), Judi Harmon, Eddie Kopitskie, Christopher Marler, John & Jane Gault-Martin, Amber McNorton, David & Joan Monts, Rachel Moore, Peyton Nash, Ashley Van Buren and Conner Violette

# FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Stephanie Barnes-Ilick, Stephen Barrett, Scott Brazell, Amanda Carnavale, Minerva Castro, Craig DeMunbrun, Ed Edenfield, Derald Edwards, Kay Elliott, Rachel Ellis, Hellen Farrell, Jeremy Florio, Tricity Florio, David Godwin, Kim Groh, David Guzman, Kathy Harris, Elizabeth Hebert, Hayden Hennemen (Deployed), Dana Kelly, Bobbi Labreque, Chuck Lehman, Bob Muller, Andy Nash, Julie Nowek, Jane Park, Brad Pounds, Bryson Raszewski, Luz Roman, Sherry Strange, Pete Thomas, Cindy Vance and The family of Ellon Williams

# Prayers & Praises

# 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.

**Office Phone:** (803) 359-4210

**Office E-Mail:** [ProvidenceLC@gmail.com](mailto:ProvidenceLC@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ProvidenceLutheranChurch.com](http://www.ProvidenceLutheranChurch.com)



## Pastor

The Rev. Patti Sue Burton-Pye  
(803) 403-7755  
[PSBPye@yahoo.com](mailto:PSBPye@yahoo.com)

## Office Administrator

Steph Lawhorn  
(410) 446-4745  
[ProvidenceLC@gmail.com](mailto:ProvidenceLC@gmail.com)

## Preschool Director

Betsy Culler  
(803) 351-1851  
[PLCPreschool@hotmail.com](mailto:PLCPreschool@hotmail.com)

## Music Director

Rachel Moore  
(803) 608-1543  
[Mooremusic56@gmail.com](mailto:Mooremusic56@gmail.com)

Providence Lutheran Church  
840 Old Chapin Road  
Lexington, South Carolina 29072