

“making Christ known by developing prayerful disciples!”

## Note from the Pastor's Desk

Back in 1862, before Providence Lutheran Church became a Lutheran congregation, we had a few committed souls who would gather for prayer and fellowship each week at a nearby bush arbor. This gathering expanded into the on-site schoolhouse. The members came from older Lutheran Churches and wished to have a church nearer to their homes and so, in 1866 they donated trees and labor, and the sanctuary was built.

For almost 161 years we have been a tenacious community of Christ centered in prayer and worship. Our membership rolls and learning ministries have ebbed and flowed in number, but we continue to thrive. As I have considered our purpose – making Christ known by developing prayerful disciples – two things became patently apparent:

1. We need to offer love and hope to people in our community. We can do this by
  - a. intentionally inviting people to come worship with us and participating in our activities and events,
  - b. expanding our social media presence,
  - c. promoting our various ministry activities, and
  - d. praying for our congregation and community
2. We need to work more effectively with our largest outreach ministry – our preschool. We can do this by
  - a. participating in events with them rather than deferring to the preschool staff to do the work,
  - b. offsetting a portion of the expenses incurred for the various community events, i.e. Back-to-School Bash, Fall Festival, etc., and
  - c. praying for the students, staff and their families

It is difficult to live out our mission when we choose to not engage better with our community. Over 1 million searches occur via Google every month searching for a church and searching for something to do (especially with the families). Providence is not showing up in many of these searches. Studies show that in 2023 many people are living without hope. Suicide rates and depression are very high among young people. I know with all my heart that these people need to feel as though someone cares – that someone is Jesus – that someone is us. We can make a difference in the lives of people when we are intentional. People need connection and acceptance.

**I would like to form a task force to outline some goals and objectives that will entice visitors to come to Providence from September through December.** We need to develop an effective strategy to reach not just members but people seeking relationship -- with God and other people. We have engaged with an organization to help us develop our strategy for engagement which eases the burden for our task force. If you feel passionate about increasing visitors, please consider whether God is calling you to be on this task force. If you feel called to be on this task force, please contact me as I would like our first meeting to be September 3<sup>rd</sup> following worship.

Let us trust in St. Paul's words from Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

May God bless you with His love and holy peace,  
Pastor Patti Sue

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## WELCOME JOHN!

On Sunday, August 6 we welcomed John Scott as an associate member! We are so excited to have him joining us in mission and ministry!

John was born on November 20, 1937 in August Georgia. He moved to Denmark, SC in October of 1948, where he graduated high school and joined the Air National Guard at age 17. He then joined the US Air Force and was sent to the Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. Throughout his career in the force, he was assigned to over 13 difference bases around the world! He then retired from the Air Force on May 31, 1976.

In June of 1978 he began his career at the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy reservation. He retired on August 31, 1993. He moved to Lexington on April 1, 2022. John was married for almost 62 years before his beloved wife passed away. He has a son who lives on St. Helena Island, a daughter who lives in Irmo, and a daughter who lives in Jacksonville. He has 3 Grandchildren and 4 Great-Grandchildren!

John has taught children's Sunday School, men's classes, mixed couples, served in the nursery, and is an ordained Deacon. When he moved to Lexington, he was looking for a small church to worship in. He met our lovely member Connie Setzler, who invited him here. The first time he visited he felt truly welcome, and truly welcome you are indeed John!

### NEW NATIVITY SET

As most of you are aware, we purchased a new Nativity set last year due to our old set being too cumbersome to keep up with (heads were quite literally rolling-out onto the parking lot!)

While the new set is very pretty, many in the community found it difficult to see from the roadside.

Glenda Oswald and Judi Harmon presented a proposal for a new Nativity (see picture.) It is 3D and made of fiber glass resin. The council approved the purchase of this new Nativity and invites members to help offset the cost.



If anyone would like to donate towards the cost of the new Nativity scene, it would be appreciated.

### STUDENTS' ADDRESSES

**Erika Violette:** Clemson University  
2275 University Station  
6133-Gressette  
Clemson, SC 29632  
(803) 206-2475

**Hannah Owens:** Lander University  
320 Stanley Avenue, #7306  
Greenwood, SC 29649

**Peyton Nash:** College of Charleston  
215608 CofC Complex  
Charleston, SC 29424  
(803) 397-6004

**Evan Ronan:** Anderson University  
(8003) 586-2495

### PLEASE NOTE

- The church office will be closed September 4th in observance of Labor Day.
- The dumpster located near the entrance to the property is for church and preschool use only. Recently we were charged \$245 because much of the contents was not permitted, i.e., lawn chair, and the bin was overfull. If you notice people in the community stopping by to rid themselves of garbage, please politely ask them to take their refuse to the dump.

### GROWING IN FAITH WITH BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is on Wednesdays. We meet in the bible study room in the education building at **10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each week.**

We plan to study the Prophet Elijah during the month of September. We would love to have you with us!

## PLC PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August is a busy month for the preschool, not because we have kids but because we are busy getting ready for kids. We have had some major growth this year and although it was painful at times, God was faithful as he always is and has sent us the perfect team. We are looking forward to a fun filled and blessed school year. We have our meet the teacher on September 1st from 10-11:30 and then school begins on the 5th. It will be a year of watching all these sweet babies grow and learn the love of Jesus. We ask you join us in praying for our 2023-2024 school year, that it is fruitful and honors God. We thank you for all your support of "the little preschool with a big heart!"

Blessings, Betsy and Amber

## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

**Worship Assistant:**  
Kathy Hendrix &  
Kjell Bakken

**Altar Guild:**  
9/3 Kathy Hendrix  
9/10 Glenda Oswald  
9/17 Trudy Scurry  
9/24 Mona Nash

**Ushers:**  
Russell Oswald &  
Russell Pye

**Nursery Attendant:**  
Ellen Hall

**Offering Counter:**  
Eddie Kopitskie

### Altar Flowers:

9/3 Jo Driggers  
9/10 Ana Grant  
9/17 Kathleen Patella  
9/24 The Ronans

### Lay Readers:

9/3 Kathy Hendrix  
9/10 Judy Meetze  
9/17 Ty Yonce  
9/24 Duane Hall

### Greeter:

Teresa Elam

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

9/1 Conner Violette  
9/5 Ed Crawford  
9/8 Maria Jimenez-Holloway  
9/11 Rose Wingard  
9/21 Val Nash  
9/25 Bob Harmon

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



## ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

**It is time to sign up for the annual women's retreat!** If you are interested in attending our women's retreat **October 20-22**, please contact PPS or the church office this month. The cost will be \$80 per person. If you do not have the ability to pay, scholarships are available – just let Pastor Patti Sue know.

*Our theme this year is based on Colossians 2:6 As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.*

We all know that rest and relaxation often come at a premium for women today. So, when there is an opportunity to sit back and enjoy the stillness, you want to make those moments count. Please join us for some fellowship, fun and spiritual renewal as we gather once again at Serenity in Mill Spring, NC.

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Attached you will find the financial report for July. 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.

**We are now able to receive offering in the form of stock donations so please take this into consideration.**

## INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

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

## SAVE THE DATES!

- Task Force on Expanding Ministry and Invitation – September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 p.m.
- First Day of PLCP 2023-2024 School Term – September 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.
- Via de Cristo Co-Ed Retreat – September 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Festival – October 14<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Women's Retreat – October 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Trunk or Treat – October 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Holiday Market – December 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- PLC Annual Meeting – December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

## YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation classes meet on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. We are currently doing a Bible Overview. Below is our schedule:

Sept. 3 – No class due to potluck breakfast  
Sept. 10 – The Gospel of Luke  
Sept. 17 – The Gospel of John  
Sept. 24 – The Acts of the Apostles

## PROVIDENCE MEMBERS

Gail Caldwell, Rosemary Carmean, Frank & Cissy Corley, Debbie & Jamie Edwards, Christopher Marler, John & Jane Gault -Martin, David & Joan Monts, Peyton Nash and Conner Violette

## FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Stephanie Barnes-Illick, Stephen Barrett, Scott Brazell, The Cafferty Family, Amanda Carnavale, Doug Carter, Minerva Castro, Craig DeMunbrun, Ed Edenfield, Derald Edwards, Kay Elliott, Rachel Ellis, Hellen Farrell, Tricity Florio, David Godwin, Kim Groh, David Guzman, Kathy Harris, Elizabeth Hebert, The Jager family, Bobbi Labreque, The Long and Hancock families, Bob Muller, Andy Nash, Julie Nowek, Jane Park, Brad Pounds, Doug Rankin, Luz Roman, The Sarvis and Keisler families, Sherry Strange, Hillary Thomas, Lou Thomas, Pete Thomas and Cindy Vance

## 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  
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[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)

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