



THE COMMON LIFE

A MONTHLY LETTER FROM PROVIDENCE CHURCH · LEXINGTON PARISH

OCTOBER 2026

WORSHIP · DISCIPLESHIP · HOSPITALITY · MISSION

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Our parish gathered around the table.

FROM THE PASTOR

The Necessity for Table Fellowship

One could make the argument, if they were so inclined, to describe the Bible as one long story which moves from one meal to the next. Food, eating, feasting, and the like seem to be a common theme in the Scriptures. God is often pictured as being met on a mountain top, but if that isn't the picture, then He is pictured as being met at a meal. Exodus 24 actually combines the two images with a feast on top of the mountain.

The Bible has food at the beginning, in the Garden, and has food at the end, a celestial and eschatological wedding feast. One cannot read the Bible closely and carefully and not come away with the sense that table fellowship is not only essential to the Christian experience, but more generally essential to life itself.

Years ago I did an extensive study through the Gospel of Luke, and I was fascinated to find that there were several interesting books written which specifically looked at Luke through the eyes of all the meals in Luke's Gospel. This is a very important biblical theme that we not only need to understand, but even more importantly, need to practice in our COMMON LIFE.

First, think of it this way. We have said, over and over again, that life flows out of worship. The culmination of worship is a seat at the King's table, eating a meal with the King. The culmination of Christian worship is table fellowship at the King's table with the King, and one another. Therefore, it follows that much of life should be about table fellowship.

We sit at the table with our families on a daily basis. We sit at the table with close friends and relatives at special occasions. We get to know new associates, colleagues, clients, friends, brothers and sisters in the faith, and even possible spouses through table fellowship. We mark important life milestones with feasts and parties. We do all of this because it is the way that God has made us, and Christians should do it well.

There are two practical aspects to this that I think we need to think through. First, as men and women, we are the only part of the creation that is made in the likeness and image of God. This is why, I think, table fellowship is communal. In at least one, certainly mysterious and not easily explained way, when we have a meal with other people we are experiencing table fellowship with God, because we are literally rubbing shoulders with those who are created in His likeness and image.

Second, if some aspects of life are truly about vulnerability, then there may be no more vulnerable setting than sitting across a table from your soon to be wife and her family trying to eat spaghetti or ribs without looking like your were raised by wolves.

This is why we make table fellowship such a central aspect to who are here at Providence Church Lexington Parish. Our COMMON LIFE includes two opportunities for table fellowship each month. We have several banquets on the calendar over the next few months, and we will have more throughout the year. Simply put, this is how Christians live.

If one of our goals is to share the Gospel in and around Lexington, share the love of Christ, share our Covenant renewing God who meets us and feeds us every week, then what better way is there to do that than around the table? May our table fellowship be glorious, and may God use it to usher many into His kingdom and care.

THE MONTH BEFORE US

EVERY SUNDAY · 11:00 AM

The Lord's Day · Worship

SUN · OCT 4 · 10:00 AM

First-Sunday Coffee Fellowship

SUN · OCT 11 & 18 · 10:00 AM

Children's Catechism (under 12) and Adult Sunday School on worship.

FRI · OCT 16 & 23

Pastor Biette's Lexington Office Hours · An opportunity to visit, talk, pray, or simply have a cup of coffee with Pastor Jason.

SUN · OCT 25 · AFTER WORSHIP

Fourth-Sunday Fellowship Meal · Bring a dish to share.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUN · NOV 1

Reformation Day Celebration at Providence Church in Lynchburg immediately following our Lexington service. More details to come.

SUN · NOV 22

Thanksgiving Banquet · Details to follow.

SUN · DEC 27

Christmas Banquet · Details to follow.



Fellowship around the table.



A meal prepared for the parish.



Ministers and elders from Augustine Presbytery in Nashville.

A PARISH CATECHISM

Why Do We Eat Together?

Because Christian fellowship is meant to be practiced, not merely discussed.

Around the table, strangers become friends, friendships deepen, and burdens are shared. We learn to listen, to serve, to give thanks, and to make room for others.

Hospitality is one of the ordinary ways God teaches us to love our neighbors. It need not be elaborate or impressive. A simple meal, a welcoming home, and an open chair can become instruments of extraordinary grace.

We eat together because we belong together—and because God has welcomed us to His table.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Our parish. Give thanks for our fellowship and pray that God would bring us visitors and new members. Pray that God would continue to provide for the Almys and their water needs.

Our homes and neighbors. Pray that our tables would be places of generosity, reconciliation, and joyful hospitality, and that our neighbors in Lexington would know the love of Christ.

Our pastors and churches. Pray for faithfulness in preaching, worship, shepherding, and the work of the wider Church.

PROVIDENCE CHURCH · LEXINGTON PARISH

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