



Eric Scott Lentz

August 12, 1950 - January 18, 2013

Eric Scott Lentz, 62, of Spencer, entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, January 18, 2013, at Hospice House in Lexington.

Born August 12, 1950, in Salisbury, Eric was the son of the late Norman Clyde Lentz and Lula Mae Stallings Lentz. He was a 1968 graduate of East Rowan High School and a 1972 graduate of N.C. State University with a degree in furniture manufacturing and design.

He was a horticultural instructor at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. As part of his career, he worked at his father's jewelry store, Norman's. Eric loved to be outdoors and loved growing flowers and plants, so he especially enjoyed the time he spent working at Rufty's Garden Shop.

As soon as Eric met you, you were his friend. His big smile and boisterous laughter were contagious. You could not spend time with Eric and come away in a bad mood. Eric was big and tall, and his bear hugs were legendary. He was often the last person leaving church because he took time to greet nearly everyone. Eric had a servant's heart, and was always on the lookout for what he could do to help others.

Eric and his wife, Kim, joined St. John's Lutheran Church in the fall of 2011, where they quickly became active members. Eric was a member of the

Property Committee and was on the ballot for Congregation Council at the time of his illness. He and Kim were members of the Genesis Sunday School class.

Eric was a member of Spencer Civitans, Spencer Community Appearance Commission, Citizens for Historic Spencer and the Spencer Hometown Holidays Committee. He was a Rowan County and North Carolina Master Gardener. He was a member of Rowan Partners for Education, and the Building and Grounds Committee for Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

Survivors include his wife, Kim Everhart Lentz, whom he married March 22, 1981; daughter Meredith Williams and her husband, Jonathan, of Spencer; son Nicholas Lentz and his wife, Mariah, of Richlands; sisters Rita Bigham of Chapel Hill and Myra Redding of Pulaski, Va.; and grandson Ashton Williams.

A celebration of Eric's life is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday at St. John's Lutheran Church, with visitation to follow in the fellowship hall. A private inurnment will take place in the church's columbarium.

Memorials may be made to the Music Department of St. John's Lutheran Church, 200 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

We could not have Eric back the way he was, and so we let him go to be welcomed into the mighty embrace of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior. But remember: each time you share a smile, or give a big hug, or laugh too loud, or do something for someone who truly needs you, you are continuing Eric's legacy. So get out there and get to work!

Tribute Wall



“ I was so sorry to hear about Eric and his passing. I so enjoyed talking to him when he was at Rufty's and he always kept me up to date on Meredith. Your entire family is in my thoughts and prayers!##imported-begin##Don Black##imported-end##

January 23, 2013 at 04:03 PM



“ Since moving, I only recently learned of Eric's health. I was shocked with his passing. Eric was truly a smile I looked for when I entered the church. His kindness and genuine care for those around him was a blessing. (He also was pretty good at moving piano's around with very little help.) :) I am so sorry to hear of this tremendous loss and my prayers go out to all the family.##imported-begin##Tasker Fleming##imported-end##

January 23, 2013 at 10:16 AM



“ Kim, Meredith, Nicholas and family,
I am sorry to hear of Eric's passing. I was praying for his recovery. I remember that Eric was always kind, friendly and helpful during the years I sang in the Singing Christmas Tree in Spencer. He always wore a smile and asked about my family. He will surely be missed by many.##imported-begin##Cathy Reynolds##imported-end##

January 22, 2013 at 06:23 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Eric's passing. He was a wonderful man! Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.##imported-begin##Traci Fleming##imported-end##

January 22, 2013 at 04:30 PM



“ *I consider myself lucky to have shared time with Eric. He was without a doubt one of the nicest and most genuine people the world has ever known. I will truly miss him coming into my sign shop to get things for his church & community. He will, without a doubt, be an asset as one of God's helpers.*

Dean Harwood (Class of 1968 ER)##imported-begin##Dean Harwood##imported-end##

January 22, 2013 at 08:45 AM



“ *Dearest Lentz family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. I will always remember Eric as the person who introduced me to one of his Tickle Me plants. He was so full of life and loved life to the fullest extent. The world has a big hole where Eric was, but heaven now has a big hole filled with his spirit.##imported-begin##Cathy Laws##imported-end##*

January 21, 2013 at 09:35 PM



“ Dear Kim and Family,

*How many times did I visit your home for piano lessons over the course of ten years? Both you and Eric were always loving, caring, and welcoming to me. As many have already said, I too, will miss his laughter that echoed through the house. Although it's been many years since we were involved together musically, you both will ALWAYS hold a precious, endearing place in my heart. Eric was and remains a model of a man of fine character and a southern gentleman. Thank God for the honor to have known him and been blessed by both by his life and his memory. Love,
Jeremy.##imported-begin##Jeremy Krider##imported-end##*

January 21, 2013 at 04:06 PM



“ Kim, Meredith, and Nick,

I was deeply saddened to learn of Eric's passing. He was a kind and caring man and always had a big smile and hello whenever I saw him. He cared about North Rowan, his community and church, and worked tirelessly to support them. He will be sorely missed. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers, and God will walk this path with you and give you peace.

Love, Reba##imported-begin##Reba Krider##imported-end##

January 21, 2013 at 03:12 PM



“ Dearest Kim and Family,

My sincerest sympathies for your loss. Eric was such a wonderful person: so loving, so giving, so encouraging to all he met, and such a good example of how Christ wants us to live. I know you will miss him terribly but I also know how much you all trust in God's promise of life eternal. You will see him again. May God comfort you through this time and the times to come. I loved that big gentle guy and will never forget that smile or bear hug or the love and pride he had for all of you. All my Love-Lu###imported-begin##Lu Graham###imported-end##

January 21, 2013 at 09:04 AM



“ My sympathy and prayers are for the Lentz family. I have know the Lentz family and Eric a long time. Such a wonderful person to be around. Always a big smile on his face. We will miss you Eric, keep smiling in HEAVEN.###imported-begin###teresa doby###imported-end##

January 20, 2013 at 09:29 PM



“ Kim, I know we haven't seen each other for awhile, but I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. I remember when our kids played ball in Spencer and Eric and I just started joking around and laughing. It was the first time we had met. he was such a likeable guy.
Again I am so sorry for your loss. Sheliah Burnsides Gainer###imported-begin##Sheliah Burnsides Gainer###imported-end##

January 20, 2013 at 12:40 PM



“ To Eric's family: My deepest sympathy to you. Always a gentleman; with a caring, friendly and sincere style is the way I will always remember Eric. We first met in the 7th grade, and would bump into each other from time to time. I know that he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##Pat Sledge##imported-end##

January 20, 2013 at 11:12 AM



“ Dearest Lentz and Everhart Families, I am truly sorry to hear of the great lose of Eric.I have talked to him several times over the years and thought he was one of the nices people that I had ever met. I always remember his big smile and warm greetings. I will pray for all of you in hopes God will give you piece.I am deeply saddend.##imported-begin##Brian Bowler##imported-end##

January 20, 2013 at 10:09 AM



“ Rest in eternal peace my friend. Memories of our childhood growing up and our time at Messiah Lutheran Church will always be in my heart. God be with your family and give them strength. Thank you for making the world a better place.
Karey Clark, Augusta, GA
KQCLARK@COMCAST.NET##imported-begin##Karey Clark##imported-end##

January 20, 2013 at 02:23 AM



“ Was Eric and Kim's neighbour years ago. Eric always had a smile whenever I spoke with him.
My prayers are lifted for everyone.##imported-begin##Teresa Jordan##imported-end##

January 19, 2013 at 10:09 PM



“ Eric built family and community with everyone. His RCCC family and friends are grieving a tremendous loss . Eric proved to be a dedicated teacher and mentor - a visit from him made our days brighter. It was a joy to observe the passion and sheer joy that he brought to his job every single day.
May God bless and comfort everyone who misses him so much - Heaven is even more joyous because he is there.##imported-begin##Jeanie Moore##imported-end##

January 19, 2013 at 09:47 PM



“ I knew Eric from Rufty's. When I first moved here years ago, his kind personality and helpful information made me feel welcome to the community, especially as I took up gardening here. Later I worked with him at RCCC. Eric is one of those fellows you may not talk to everyday, but you never forget him.

I remember him at Rufty's telling me about his family and how proud he was of his daughter for receiving the Morehead Scholarship.

He will be greatly missed here on earth but will make a wonderful angel in heaven!##imported-begin##R. G. Satterwhite##imported-end##

January 19, 2013 at 09:44 PM



“ I am heartbroken - I enjoyed many hours working with Eric on Spencer CAC projects. Eric was bigger than life, one of the most positive people I've ever known. His laughter and enthusiasm was contagious and will be missed by many whose lives he touched.##imported-begin##Ed Robinette##imported-end##

January 19, 2013 at 03:30 PM



“ Kim, Meredith, Nicholas, and family,

I am so sorry for your loss. Eric was certainly one of the best natured and most friendly people ever. I will always think of him with a smile. You are a wonderful family with the same characteristics. May God always bless and be with you.

Carolyn Blackman##imported-begin##Carolyn Blackman##imported-end##

January 19, 2013 at 02:56 PM