

November 29, 2020

**9:00 Am Service
1st Sunday of Advent**

*Cedar Grove Lutheran Church
Leesville, SC*

Rev. Joe Woodward, Pastor

Our Mission Statement:

*“As disciples of Jesus Christ,
we receive, embrace, grow and share”*

PRELUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Instrumental

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is
advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose
mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from
whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy
name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Moment of Silence

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and
given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly
repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to
you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in
newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and
made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of

✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.*

*In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

LECTOR: The word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: St. Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE IS HOPE
Silence

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep
INSTRUMENTAL

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

*ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.*

SERMON

Pastor Woodward

OFFERTORY *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*Lo! he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.*

*Now redemption, long-expected, comes in solemn splendor near;
all the saints this world rejected thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! See the day of God appear!*

*Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!*

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.
Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Each petition of the prayer ends with:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power,
 and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

THE PASTORAL BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *What Feast of Love*

*What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!*

*What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!*

*What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” Instrumental

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.*

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Prayer Concerns:

Sick and/or Recovering: Heyward Amick, Melvin & Sandy Black (brother & sister-in-law of Lois Black), Maggie Cafferty, Libby Carswell (friend of the community), Dorothy Clamp, Shelby Cockrell (friend of Wilma Koon), Sherrie Crapps, Jane Cromer (sister of Martha Taylor), Christy Dawkins (friend of the community), Evelyn Dunlap (mother of Karen Morell), Alda Durst (mother of Gloria (Jimmy) Price), Dorothy Few (aunt of Patricia Hyler), Angela Fullbright (sister of Freddie Miller), John Lewis (friend of Freddie & Donna Miller), Dean & Sharon Ganis, Laura Golden, Julie Holshouser (niece of Bridgette Jackson and Inga Gardner), Patricia Hyler, Donald Jackson, Fredda Jackson (friend of Wilma Koon), Mabel Jennings (mother of Angela Price), Gail Kneece, Jeff Long, Daisey Massey (cousin of Florence Bowers), Sadie and Shelton Mincey (friend of Patricia Hyler and family), Tammy Morris (daughter of Leroy & Martha Taylor), Dianna Pressley, Angela Price, Tammy Price, Tommie Price, Von Ray Price, Martha Risinger, Patricia Risinger, Reggie Shealy, Ray Steele (friend of Sandra Moore), LeRoy Taylor, Laura Sharp Waites and Dennis Witman (cousin of Patricia Hyler).

Bereaved: the families of Nita Berry (cousin of Florence Bowers), Betty Oxner (sister of Georgie Eargle), Judy Shealy.

Other Prayer Concerns: Our Military Men and Women, Doctors, Nurses, EMTs, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Fighters, and Cedar Grove Lutheran Choir Members.

Nursing Home/Care Facilities: Lee Adams, Heyward Amick, Elizabeth Derrick, and Mary Ann Priester.

The altar flowers today are given for the beauty of our worship and in honor of Georgie Eargle's 85th birthday by her family.

Information for this week's bulletin is due to the church office by 7:00 PM on Tuesday. Information received after the deadline will not be placed in the bulletin.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE and GIVING

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9:00 AM Drive-up

People: 94

YouTube Live: 16

YouTube Post (last week): 18

Facebook Live: 20

Telephone: 1

10:30 am In-person

People: 66

YouTube Live: 14

Facebook Live: 10

YouTube post (last week): 0

AWA = 239

Current Fund	\$	5,953.58
Mortar Project	\$	771.00
Benevolence	\$	142.00
Building Fund	\$	852.00
Other Contributions	\$	40.00
Total Contributions	\$	7,758.58

Weekly Current Fund needed to meet 2020 budget \$5,835.00

Contributions to the Mortar Project to date is: \$191,092.14

(This balance does not include the Cemetery Loan of \$50,000.00)

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The Cedar Grove Lutheran Church mini Relay for Life event is finally here!!! The luminaries lining our walkway this morning honor our cancer survivors and those currently fighting cancer. They also remember our beloved saints who have died

from cancer. Please make plans to join us back here today at 5:00 PM to light the luminary candles and read aloud all names that are honored and remembered.

LECTORS NEEDED: Please contact Angela Hite (803) 532-3543 or cedargrovelutheran@gmail.com , if you would like to be a lector for the 9:00 AM or 10:30 AM service. She has a list of lectors but wants to be sure you are still interested in being a lector for either service. She will send you the information by Wednesday of each week for the following Sunday service.

CHURCH SIGN: Anyone who would like to request information to be placed on the church sign, please contact Juliet Adam at 803-608-9819 or julietadam720@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE: Please make donations of canned soups and meat, on Sunday, **December 13, 2020**; your gifts will be received before and after the service, please place them in the shopping carts.

UPDATED INFORMATION: It is getting that time of year again where the church office needs your updated information. If you have changes in phone numbers, address or email address, please let the church office secretary know **ASAP**. She is in the process of updating her list as well as the information for the year- end contribution statements that will be mailed. So if she does not have your current information, she will be mailing it to the address she has on file in the church office. Thank you in advance for your help.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Please be sure the church office secretary has your committee/group reports and financial information for the Annual Report Booklet by **Friday, January 15, 2021**.

2020 YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS please be sure you have turned in all your receipts and contributions to the church office by *Thursday, December 31, 2020*. Items received after this date will go into the 2021 year.

BRING YOUR LIGHT AND LET IT SHINE at Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Drive-Up Service: NO LIVE FIRE OR CANDLES will be used at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Drive-Up Service due to obvious safety precautions. We ask that each family brings their own battery or solar operated flashlights, lanterns, light-up necklaces or similar items, or just use the flashlight setting of your cell phone. This will enable us to enjoy a safe "Lighting of the Candles" for our Candle lighting portion of the service. Thanks so much!

BLOOD DRIVE: Monday, December 28, 2020 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM here at Cedar Grove. Please go online or get in touch with the Evangelism Committee chairman, Sheila Caughman, (803) 530-1792 to schedule an appointment.

Order Your Poinsettias!

Poinsettias are in 6 1/2” pots that are wrapped in foil with a bow. **Each flower is \$11, and you may make checks payable to Cedar Grove Lutheran Church. Please be sure to include this form with your payment.**

If you prefer to purchase your own poinsettia, please be sure to use green foil and white bows, so that all the flowers will be the same.

ALL ORDERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN December 6, 2020!

In **Honor/Memory** of: _____

Given by: _____

-----I will purchase my own poinsettia(s), but would like it/them listed as I have indicated above.

Cedar Grove Lutheran Church ~ 1220 Cedar Grove Road, Leesville, SC 29070

CEDAR GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1220 Cedar Grove Road,

Leesville, SC 29070 (803) 532-3543 / (800) 997-5488

Email: cedargrovelutheran@gmail.com

Webpage: www.cedargrovelutheranchurch.org Pastor – Joe Woodward

Music Director - Rachel Moore Organist & Pianist – Sharon Eargle

Church/Financial Secretary - Angela Hite

Youth Leaders - George and Michelle Reeder Sexton - Freddie Miller

Church Council President – Angelia Hawes