

Gran-Park-Rollag Parish and Living Grace Lutheran Church
In ministry partnership since 2017

Gran-Park-Rollag Parish

3 Churches – 1 Ministry: Energized by God
To celebrate, share & show God's love
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Living Grace Lutheran Church

A worshipping community of the ELCA focused on
making known God's love and grace by:
*Welcoming Everyone, Sharing Jesus' story,
Growing in faith and Serving beyond ourselves.*
Pastor Hope Deutscher
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PO Box 477, Hawley, MN 56549
Worships at The Garrick Theater,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service
Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene
Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

All Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world.

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran.
- A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church.
- During our service, we have the following supplies reading:
 - Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion. We have communion kits available if you would like them, they have been blessed by the pastors.

Happening This Week:

Sunday, February 7: Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship followed by Annual Meeting;

Wednesday, February 10: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Ephesians Bible Study (Zoom); 6:30 PM Confirmation (In-Person and Zoom)

Saturday, February 13: 10-3 6th-12th Graders Baking at Rollag. Sign up with Pam Ekre

Sunday, February 14: Online Worship Service Available; 9:30 AM Rollag In-Person Worship. Luther League is selling baked good. Pre-orders preferred.

Items being sold: ½ dozen frosted sugar cookies, ½ dozen mini donuts; dipped pretzel rods.

Monday, February 15: 7 PM Women's Book Study (on Zoom) - *It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered* by Lysa Terkeurst

Pastoral Care: Pastor Jim Greene and Pastor Hope Deutscher are available for pastoral care. If you or a loved one are hospitalized or ill, we would love to be caring for you. Please call or email us at the numbers above.

Bible and Book Studies:

- *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study (Studying Ephesians)*
- *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (February 1 and 15) Women's Book Study: It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered by Lysa Terkeurst. Contact Pr. Hope for Zoom log-in details!*

Annual meetings:

- Park: January 24
- Gran: January 31
- Living Grace: February 6 at 9 a.m. on Zoom.
- Rollag: February 7 – In-person and viewing online. FOR Rollag- check website and Facebook page for how to remotely attend the Annual meeting - PLUS - for 1 hour after meeting concludes you can come to the church and receive ballots to vote. See www.gprparish.org for details.

Sunday School: Is not being held in person but we do offer online Sunday School through videos and activities. Check out the GPR Children, Youth and family Facebook page. We are looking for volunteers to help us. Please call the pastors if you are interested in helping!

Lent starts Feb 17th: We will have In-Person services at 7 pm at Rollag Lutheran. NO MEAL will be served this year. As well, online Wednesday evening worship will be provided. Both services will include students and their faith statements.

Youth: The Youth are baking a few goodies at the church Saturday, February 13th. Valentine's Day Orders include ½ dozen Sugar Cookies, ½ dozen Mini Donuts, and Pretzel sticks: Cost: Free will offering. Call Rollag Church office 937-5499 to leave an order or text the Pastors.

Prelude: *Christians, We Have Met to Worship*

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

God sits high above the earth. As God stretches out the skies, we may feel like mere ants and fool ourselves into thinking that our ways are hidden from God. We trust in the mercy of God, our maker, as we come together to confess our sins:

God, you are everlasting, the creator of all that is but your understanding is beyond measure. We confess to you that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. Like Jacob, we complain; like Israel, we whine "God has lost track of me. Does he care what happens?" God, in your compassion, forgive us when we lose trust in you and your infinite love for all of creation; forgive us when we sin against you and our neighbor. May we remember that you do see us, know us and love us. May we place our hope in your steadfast love.

We praise the Lord who doesn't come and go. God, the creator of all we see or imagine, doesn't get tired, doesn't pause. God knows everything, inside and out.

Let us wait upon God, who heals the brokenhearted and binds up our wounds, who energizes those who get tired and gives fresh strength to us when we stumble and fall. We are not mere ants to a God who loves us and says your sins are forgiven. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr. Jim Greene

Hymn: Rise, Shine, You People! (ELW 665 / LBW 393)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to
Us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.*

Verse 2: *See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.*

Verse 4: *Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the
Spirit calls from ev-'ry nation God's new creation.*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Message: Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at hdeutscher@gmail.com if you would like a transcript of the sermon.

Hymn of Month: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Pam Aakre, Piano

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵**In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.** ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for

you.”³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.”³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Message: Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com. if you want a transcript of this sermon.

Virtual Communion

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in the remembrance of me.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Offering

Thank you for remembering the importance of continuing to Tithe your financial gifts. You can mail your offering to your church or give through Tithe.ly online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org for specific information.

Prayers

Gracious God, you brought us into the world to take care of the world and the people we share this world with. You commanded us to pay attention to all you've provided us to be of help to each other as we nurture all we've been blessed with. The Prophet Isaiah reminds us not to rely on our own strength but to lean on you so our strength might be renewed as though we are carried on eagles wings. Created to partner and rely on you we pray:

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Precious Jesus, you could have come into the world and lived in a far off castle and dictated to your minions what we were to say, think, and do- YET, instead of being distant you got your hands dirty by walking by and working with us. By your touch you healed people- please touch all who struggle with fear, depression, illness, disease, grief, anger, frustration, or whatever feels like a heavy weight in their lives. By your example you showed us the importance of prayer. Help us to do the same.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Comforting Holy Spirit, like sunlight you shine in our lives; like gravity you help us be grounded; and like forgiveness you work inside of us to let go of what we don't need- to learn from what is difficult- and to trust in your help. Be a guide to our leaders, be a wall to those who try to deceive and lead astray, and be a wide open and safe place for us to share our concerns. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter- we can forget our importance to you by either letting our ego run wild or by beating ourselves down. Help us to find balance in life by daily living by the words we were taught to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

Benediction

Children of the same God, may you see in my hands a reminder of God's hands working in your life. From top to bottom and side to side and everywhere in between may you experience the presence of God, the guidance of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit working in and through you every moment of every day. Amen.

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord...As we Celebrate, Share, & Show God's Love

Hymn: *I'm so Glad that Jesus Lifted Me* (ELW 860 / WOV 673) Pam Aakre, Piano

Verse 1: *I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.*

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me, singing hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Verse 2: *Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.*

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, singing hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Verse 3: *When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.*

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me, singing hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.