

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.*
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Sunday, May 3, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Easter Worship Service

We recognize and celebrate our 2020 Confirmands

(An in-person celebration will be held at a later date.)

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, Andrea Keene, Pam Aakre

Prelude **Pam Aakre, Piano**

Welcome/Announcements

- *We have a variety of ways we are connecting with people – continuing Bible Studies and Book Studies on Zoom. Check out our Facebook page and Newsletter for details.*
- *Check out the GPR Newsletter for a variety of articles of interest.*
- *Be a subscriber to the YouTube channel- or how you best say how they can do this AND what is the benefit we get moving forward.*
- *A word about our service today:*
 - *Thanks to the children for being a part of the worship service*
 - *Virtual Communion each week - so be ready!*
 - *Today we are recognizing our Confirmation Students who would have been confirmed. While we are recognizing them today, we will have an in-person service at a later time, yet to be determined.*
 - *During our service, several of our youth, who were not able to share their Faith Statements during our Wednesday evening Lent services, will be sharing their faith statements with us.*
 - *Today we begin an 8-week walking and wellness journey using The Road to Emmaus Handout provided by Portico Health Benefits. Pastor Hope will share more about this at the end of the service. To download your copy of the Handout, visit our websites (livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org) – we have a link to Portico's webpage.*
- *We Pray you enjoy these services- moving forward like to continue doing them. We'd like to continue this ministry – and right now it is through volunteers and with the volunteer's phone that we are able to produce a quality service. To continue this ministry when we return to in-person worship, we will need to purchase high definition equipment, proper music/copyright licenses, etc. We ask you to prayerfully consider and give to the technology needs of providing*

online worship services, which have been watched by individuals and families at home and by residents in local nursing homes.

Receiving of Offering (SLIDE)

Thank you for remembering the importance of continuing to Tithe your financial gifts to support our ministries! You can give through [Tithe.ly online](http://Tithe.ly) (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org for specific information.

Brief overview of Baptism & Affirmation of Baptism

Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (ELW 502 / LBW 456)

*The king of love my shep-herd is,
Whose good-ness fail—eth nev-er;
I noth-ing lack if I am his and
he is mine for-ev-er.*

*Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow,
My ran-somed soul he lead-eth and,
Where the ver-dant pastures grow,
With food ce-les-tial feed-eth.*

Children's Message

Conversation on Affirmation of Baptism

Overview of Confirmation

Scripture: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Message by Pastor Jim Greene

Faith Statements by GPR/Living Grace confirmation students

These students were not able to present their faith statements during the Wednesday evening Lent Services.

Honoring 2020 Confirmands

A date to hold an in-person confirmation service has yet to be determined.

Affirmation Promises (LBW Page 201)

Hymn: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* (WOV 780 / ELW 774)

*Lean-ing, lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
Lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

*What a fel-low-ship, what a joy divine;
Lean-ing, on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
Lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

*Lean-ing, lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
Lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, we pray that you may show us your ways; teach us your truths; lead us to unity for the sake of the gospel – and the world...even when we are not physically present with one another, remind us that we are still in ministry and in mission to proclaim the risen Lord – that we may be courageous in our testimony, sharing our faith statements with those who need to hear and experience God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our youth and their families. In this time of waiting and wondering – when can we come together and celebrate milestones with our youth – we turn to you O God, be with us in our waiting and wondering. Help these youth who are being confirmed to celebrate the goodness found in you – that this is an important milestone but it is not the end of their faith journey, but rather a transitional and transformative time. May you continue to walk with all of us – of all ages – in our faith journeys. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. For rain and sun in proper proportion...that the farmers and ranchers may be blessed as the plant food to nourish all people, that food will be of abundance and distributed to where it is needed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need.... for those suffering from COVID-19 and other illnesses... As we continue to stay at home protecting the vulnerable from the corona virus, give us strength for the day, energy to accomplish our to-do lists and what needs to be done. May we take care of our whole body – physically and emotionally...Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, anxious, and desiring healing in mind, body and spirit. We especially lift up before you the names we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place our prayers before you...and united as one, we pray as you have taught us...

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.

Virtual Holy Communion

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Road to Emmaus: Taking care of our Ourselves...it's a journey

by Pastor Hope Deutscher

A few weeks ago, I lifted up this resource – A Road to Emmaus – a health and wellness walking program and devotion provided by Portico Benefit Services of the ELCA.

(You can download it on our website.)

I strongly believe this handout is not just for pastors but for all of us.

In a message from ELCA Wellness Manager Tammy Devine – she shares the following:

The road to Emmaus tells the story of two disciples who, unknowingly, share their journey with Christ, and experience wholeness in these ways:

- They walked together accompanied by Christ (physical well-being)
- They talked, listened and told their story (emotional well-being).
- Christ interpreted Scripture and taught them (intellectual well-being).
- They talked and discussed (social well-being).
- Christ broke bread with them and their eyes were opened (spiritual well-being).
- Christ charged them to be witnesses (vocational well-being).
- Christ received their generosity and stayed with them (financial well-being).

My friends – we are on a journey with Christ...it's very much an interactive, living and whole experience of our mind, body and spirit. I want you to join us on this wellness journey the next 8 weeks.

Today – we begin with our physical well-being.

In the story of the Road to Emmaus the disciples are walking about 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, while talking to each other about what has happened – Jesus had died and rose again.

Physically we see in this story – the walking of 7 miles, breaking bread with Jesus, inviting Jesus to stay and rest. So today I want to invite you to reflect on how are you caring for your body?

As we began this “stay at home” time, a friend shared with me that first week – she binged on every snack food she could find and then she decided she could find a better use for her time...and body...and actually take care of it – and so she is taking care and paying attention to her sleep and rest, eating healthy and exercising. Start small and grow into healthy habits. You may not walk 7 miles down the road, but you could turn off the TV and walk a few extra steps today...

We are journeying together in this. I pray that you can find some ways to take care of yourself this week...taking a walk, eating some healthy foods, and recognizing when your body needs rest.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you on your faith journey...

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy....

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending

Go in peace...as we know the good news that the risen Christ walks alongside us, may our hearts burn with joy as we experience God's presence among us. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Hymn: Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing (LBW 499)

*Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mer-cy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loud-est praise.
While the hope of end-less glo-ry
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ev-er to a-dore thee;
May I still thy good-ness prove.*

*Oh, to grace how great a debt-or
Dai-ly I'm con-strained to be;
Let that grace now like a fet-ter
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.*