

**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  
focused on*

*To celebrate, share & show God's love  
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**Living Grace Lutheran Church**

*A worshipping community of the ELCA*

*making known God's love and grace by:  
Welcoming Everyone, Sharing Jesus'*

*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, June 21, 2020 - Communion Worship Service**  
**Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene**  
**Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**  
**With The Rollag Trio (John Schenck, Jerry Riddle and John Seitz)**

**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.*
- *The July-August GPR Newsletter will be published late. Deadline for articles is July 6<sup>th</sup>. Newsletters will be mailed out in early to mid-July.*
- *Be a subscriber to the YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church – when you do, you become one of the first people to know when a worship service is available for you to watch and it also helps boost our visibility with others who may be looking for a service to watch!*
- *A word about our service today:*
  - *You can follow along – bulletins are available on our websites!*
  - *Thanks to the children for being a part of the worship service*
  - *Virtual Communion each week - so be ready!*
  - *Today Pr. Hope wraps up The Road to Emmaus Wellness and Walking Handout provided by Portico Health Benefits. To download your copy of the Handout visit our websites ([livinggracehawley.org](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [gprparish.org](http://gprparish.org)) – we have a link to Portico's webpage.*
  - *Today, Pastor Jim will be sharing a message about how Baptism isn't a one time event, but a call to walk with our eyes wide open and focused on God.*
  - *Andrea will be sharing a Children's message.*
  - *A big thank-you to Pam Aakre, Pastor Hope, & The Rollag Gospel Trio for providing the music today.*
  - *Happy Father's Day*

## Receiving of Offering (SLIDE)

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](http://Tithe.ly) online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit [livinggracehawley.org](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [gprparish.org](http://gprparish.org) for specific information.

## Father's Day Video

Children's Message      Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director

Hymn – **"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" (Home of the Month) ELW 401 / WOV 687**  
Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1:      *Gra-cious Spir-it, heed our plead-ing, fash-ion us all a-new.  
It's your lead-0ing that we're need-ing, help us to fol-low you.*

Refrain:      *Come...Come...come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.  
Come...Come...come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.*

Verse 3:      *Guide our think-ing and our speak-ing done in your ho-ly name.  
Mo-ti-vate all in their seek-ing, free-ing from guilt and shame.*

Refrain:      *Come...Come...come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.  
Come...Come...come, Ho-ly Spir-it, come.*

## Remembering Our Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden.

When we deserted you, you brought us back and cleansed us from our past failings.

Because sin tricks us- your Son's blood washed away the power of sin and death.

At this font we can trust the water which covers us will help us to resurrect a new identity, one which helps us to walk with you, to be drenched by your Spirit.

With this water help us to walk fully in your ways as we become closer and closer to you.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy in us the desire to learn all you have to teach us.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## Scripture: Romans 6:1-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed from sin. 8 But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **Matthew 10:24-31**

“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they malign those of his household! 26 “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

### **Message Pr. Jim Greene**

One afternoon a man, blind from birth, was sitting on his couch when he felt another presence in the room. “Who’s there?” he called out.

“Would you like to see again?” came an almost too quiet voice.

“Of course” said the blind man- “who wouldn’t?”

“Are you sure? Do you know what it will cost you; will it be worth it?”

“What cost- anything is better than being blind” the man exclaimed.

“We’ll see” said the voice, “we’ll see!”

AND the blind man stopped being blind. His vision cleared slowly, like someone was turning up the lights in a very dark movie theatre. Excited he couldn’t wait to see all he’d known only by touch, smell, or by sound. He especially couldn’t wait to literally see his family and friends!

Two weeks later, the man was again sitting on the couch when the almost too quiet voice again spoke. “How do you like seeing?” The man sighed and said, “it’s different. I thought it would be this wonderful experience but now I need to be responsible in a different way. What I was used to doing, what was a habit I didn’t need to think about, I now have to think about. I need to pay attention differently. I don’t want to go back to being blind, I just need to be patient and grow into this new way of living.

Even though the blind man struggled with having to learn new habits, he in no way wanted to go back to being blind. Paul calls us to let the blindness of sin die in our lives and to use the vision God blessed us with to live a full life. Paul says, “How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Paul’s writing is about the dead stop being dead and to walk in newness of life. Paul’s challenge to us is to make the important changes necessary in life because our life depends on it. Alcoholics need to remove alcohol because their lives depend on it; Diabetics need to change their eating habits because their lives depend on it; and people who follow God need to stop being blind to the power of sin; stop using addictions or distractions to cover their pain; and need to see whether they are swallowing lies or are they feasting on a diet of God’s truth, grace, and love every day of their lives- not just once, because their lives depend on it!

Baptism isn’t a one time deal any more than eating is a one time event. Baptism is about being fed by God’s word, nourished through Holy Communion; and called to cherish all people everywhere in the same way God cherishes us. What are some of the ways we are blind, where we can’t see how much God cherishes us?

## Virtual Communion

### Hymn: *Amazing Grace* (ELW 779 / LBW 448) Sung by The Rollag Gospel Trio

Verse 1: *Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

Verse 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Verse 4: The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Verse 5: When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Verse 1: *Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

### Road to Emmaus: Which Dimension Needs Nurturing? Pr. Hope Deutscher

Luke 24:36 - <sup>36</sup> *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

If we live a life centered – being stewards of our mind, body, spirit...we see that there are areas that need some nurturing.

In the last 7 weeks as we've walked through the Road to Emmaus wellness and walking campaign, what have you learned about your physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, vocational, and financial well-being?

Were you ready to change any habits, prayer practices?

It's hard to break habits. It's hard to make change. But Jesus didn't say it would be easy. We need to work on ourselves...yes, I'm inviting you to take some time to reflect on YOU...not your neighbor, not your spouse or child. But YOU....what prayer practices do YOU have? What areas do you need encouragement and where are you ready to make a change? Be honest with yourself.

At the table in the story on the Road to Emmaus, Jesus ends his time with his disciples saying: *Peace be with you*....but not all the time does Jesus bring peace...there are times when his words come with a sword – forcing us to reflect on our inner-being and how we treat our neighbor.

In our gospel reading assigned for this Sunday, we hear these words from Matthew Chapter 10.

Matthew 10: 29-39: *Forget About Yourself*: <sup>29-31</sup> "What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

<sup>32-33</sup> "Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you? <sup>34-37</sup> "Don't think I've come to make life cozy. I've

come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. Well-meaning family members can be your worst enemies. If you prefer father or mother over me, you don't deserve me. If you prefer son or daughter over me, you don't deserve me. <sup>38-39</sup> "If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me.

Jesus is declaring that his words may NOT bring peace, but rather division. He's instructing his disciples to NOT go among the Gentiles and Samaritans but to proclaim the good news to the Jews. Perhaps it was so that they could first learn from one another or was it so that they didn't go picking a fight for the sake of picking a fight. When we stand up for our beliefs – what are our intentions: for our own voice to be heard loudly or for the kingdom of God being known by all people and for all people?

As a mission developer, I don't see our church work diminishing EVER. Rather, the pandemic has given us a new mission field – the online community. And trust me, with social media where everyone is an authority – there is a lot of work to do. Even before the pandemic, I used my personal social media account to share scripture – sometimes Jesus' words were comforting or a reminder that what we were doing was the right thing – and we were called to do it. For example, a few weeks ago I created this post

*The Church is deployed*

*And these words from Acts Chapter 1:6-8 (THE MESSAGE)*

*"When they were together for the last time ... Jesus told his disciples ...when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea, and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth." And then it went on to say: TODAY we may not be gathering in our worship spaces but WE ARE THE CHURCH that is praying, reading scripture, and sharing Jesus' love with others!*

*Be the church where you are planted today!*

As we look for ways to safely gather together outside in the coming weeks – we will continue to be an online community as well. It's become a vital and important ministry. There will be people that can safely gather together – and we welcome that...but we also want to do so in loving and safe ways – and also remember that there may be people that are not comfortable coming together in a group for worship. And that's okay. Jesus' brings peace – and healing...we are the church, we are united as one in the Body of Christ – even when we are not present in the same space and place in the same time. As we move forward I would like to invite us to be loving towards one another. There will be differences of opinions, differences of health, and situations...there will be division. Words have been and will be used as weapons. But Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit...and one of the best things you can do is join us in prayer. Prayers that we may be guided by God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to discern what is best for us as four congregations and as individuals...that our decisions will be open and welcoming, and we can care for all people – while providing a variety of ways to worship God together – in person and online.

In Baptism, we are buried with Christ...and that leads us to living in and walking in a newness of life. Even in these unknown times, Jesus says we do not need to be afraid when we are focused on him. The hairs on our head are counted.

What do you need to work on? We are always being worked on and through as God walks alongside us. It's good to remember that God walks alongside us – especially if we fall short of our goals. When we confess our sins – and are reminded of our baptism – we hear precious words: you are forgiven. We are marked with a watery cross of Christ forever. This day, may you join me in making the sign of the cross on your forehead and ask God for strength to begin again.

## Healing of Divisions Prayer Service by Cynthia Cowan

### Hymn – Healer of Our Every Ill (Refrain)

*Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to-mor-row,  
Give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.*

### Call to Prayer:

Jesus calls us to humbly come into the very presence of our loving God. The Lord stands in the gap as we pray in intercession for our hurting world. Society is fragmented, torn with the pain of divisions in a variety of ways. So we ask for God's healing as we pray. Take us into your presence God, as we join our hearts in prayer...

### God Desires Justice for All

Injustice in our world pains God's heart and brings division. Hear these words from Micah, chapter 6, verse 8 of what God requires to bring healing to all people.

**MICAH 6:8:** *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Let us pray, God of Justice, as you have shown grace to us, your children, prompt us to be merciful to others. We pray for justice for all people. We pray for the elimination of the underlying causes of injustice that tear societies apart. Bring healing to the hearts of the wounded. Fill us with compassion so we may understand and be instruments of love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

### God Loves All People

Today's society is torn apart in many ways, by racism, exploitation of others, greed, pride, and so much more. God desires his family, united in Christ, to be whole and healthy. Hear from Galatians chapter 3, verses 26-28 of what God declares:

**GALATIANS 3:26-28:** <sup>26</sup>for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup>As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Let us pray, Father of All, we pray for an end to racism in our nation and in our world. Help us to see all human beings as created in your image and to respect and honor them as you honor us. Put an end to the exploitation of others that all might share in your blessings through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. As we respond together to end prejudice...Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### Prayers for Our Nation and Government

Authority and power are in God's hands. In this world we live as a nation under God praying that our government will guide us wisely. From the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 28 we hear Jesus say to his disciples:

**MATTHEW 28:18-20:** <sup>18</sup>...*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Let us pray, King of Kings, we pray for our nation and those who govern and lead us. Plant the gifts of integrity and honor in those who make and enforce our laws. Give voice to those who speak out for

those with no power or voice. Grant wisdom to those empowered by law and common consent that they may be led by your Spirit. May we truly be a nation of God, seeking your will and not our own. Grant that as a godly nation we may use our blessings to further your kingdom on earth. Together, we pray for our nation and government – Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Healer of Our Every Ill**

Verse 1: *Give us strength to love each oth-er, ev-'ry sis-ter,  
ev'ry broth-er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.*

Refrain: *Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to-mor-row,  
Give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.*

As we have lifted our petitions to our loving and merciful God, who hears the prayers on our lips and knows those unspoken in our hearts, be assured that God will answer according to his will. And so we close the pray that Christ has taught us...

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

### **Benediction**

Go now in peace and continue to pray that God will bring healing of all divisions. In the name of the Father who unites us, the Son who heals us and the Spirit who empowers us. Amen.

### **Hymn – Sent Forth By God's Blessings (ELW 547 / LBW 221)**

*Sent forth by God's bless-ings, our true faith con-fess-ing,  
the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.*

*The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be-ex-tended the fruits  
of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.*

*The seed of Christ's teaching-re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,  
shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.*

*Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us  
to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.*