

**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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story,  
Office Phone: 937-5499  
*ourselves.*  
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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*  
  
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, August 23, 2020 - Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service**  
**Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene**  
**Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Pre-Service Music: Majesty**

**Pam Aakre, Piano**

**Welcome/Announcements**

- *Pastoral Care: Pastor Hope Deutscher and Pastor Jim Greene 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. Andrea Keene is also available to talk to parents and youth.*
- *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.*
  - Monday evenings (every 2 weeks): Paul Tillich Bible Study (hosted by Joe Hass)
  - Wednesdays at 10 AM: Luke Bible Study
  - Wednesdays at 7 PM: Women's Book Study – What Happens When Women Walk in Faith by Lysa Terkeurst
- *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!*
- This month we are going to look at some of the women who have stories that related to us in a variety of ways. From Sarah, to Hannah, to Joanna, Lydia and Dorcas – we'll hear the story of these women, how does our story connect to them and what can we take from their story and learn from them?

August 2: Sarah (Genesis 12:1-20; 16:1-8; 17:1-22; 18:1-15; 21:1-13)  
August 9: Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-2:11; 2:19-21)  
August 16: Joanna (Luke 8:1-3, 24:10)  
August 23: Lydia (Acts 16:6-40)  
August 30: Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)

- *Welcome to Living Grace! This morning we are again worshipping God from Living Grace's home in the Garrick Theater in Hawley. As a mission congregation, one of our favorite hymns is "All Are Welcome"! This morning is no different – we are glad you are here and worshipping with us.*
- *Next Outdoor Worship: Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM on the lawn of Rollag Lutheran Church. We hope to have a recording of our last service available online soon. All are welcome to join us for this worship service. We will continue to provide online worship services, even on Sundays when we host an outdoor one.*
- *Sunday during our August 16<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Worship Service we "Filled the Pickups" With food, household items and cash for Barnesville and REACH of Hawley's Food Pantries. We had a \$500 matching donation – and thanks to ALL of you we were able to take pickup loads of much needed items to Barnesville and Hawley...and hand these two wonderful organizations \$613 in cash! Your generosity is unbelievable – thank you for caring for your neighbors!*
- *Smart Team – under the advisement of our Bishop Bill Tesch, our Mutual Ministry Team, which represents our 4 congregations has become the Smart Team. Parish Council President Chad Mickelson has also joined this Smart Team, which is evaluating and discussing how and when we can safely worship inside our buildings.*
- *UPDATE from Chad Mickelson (on Video of Worship Service)*
- *A word about our service today:*
  - *You can follow along – large print bulletins are available on our websites!*
  - *Today, we again invite you to participate in Virtual Communion. Please prepare some bread/crackers and wine/juice to share communion during today's service.*
  - *Thanks to the children for being a part of the worship service. Andrea will have a children's sermon in a few minutes.*
  - *Thanks to Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope for providing music.*
  - *Today Pr. Hope continues the 5-week sermon series Celebrating Women in the Bible as she introduces us to Lydia – a successful Gentile businesswoman, whose faith led her to extend hospitality to Paul and his companions and not only did she get baptized, but her whole family was baptized.*
  - *Today Pastor Jim is sharing about Listening to God with all we are.*

As we light the Christ candle, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

**(LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE)**

**Children's Message**

**Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director**

## **Confession and Forgiveness (JIM)**

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship: Imagine our heart is like a filter. A filter's goal is to let the good stuff go through while stopping what might pollute and plug up whatever the filter is protecting. We come today to invite God to remove the pollutants from our hearts and minds and thoughts and actions and attitudes (a big job) so that God's grace, forgiveness, and love will flow more cleanly through us.

*TAKE A MOMENT NOW TO INVITE GOD TO CLEANSE THE FILTER OF OUR HEARTS AS WE CAN BECOME MORE OPEN TO GOD.*

**We confess: Gracious God, we take in a wide variety of experiences each day- some helpful, some not. We open our hearts to you and invite you to cleanse us from the inside out. Remove our impure and unhelpful thoughts, words, and actions- especially those which we really don't want to let go of. Help us to believe we are better off with a clean heart, an uncluttered mind, and a wide open connection with you and others. Forgive and cleanse us from all that tries to block us from you.**

People of God, God wants to restore us to a place of peace, enthusiasm for life, and a willingness to risk, grow, and learn. May we find the courage to live life a bit better than we did yesterday. May we be cleansed and open to God's creative love, Jesus's sacrificial love, and the Holy Spirit's ongoing love and prayers for a cleaner connection with God.

### **Scripture: Isaiah 51:1-8**

**Listen to me**, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup>For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>**Listen to me**, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. <sup>7</sup>**Listen to me**, you who know righteousness, you people who have my teaching in your hearts; do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you. <sup>8</sup>For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my deliverance will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.

### **Message**

**Pr. Jim Greene**

LISTEN TO ME: I'd like to place a challenge before you. Every morning when you wake up say to yourself: "**I am created by a loving, caring, and encouraging being who promises to help me every step of the way!**" Repeat it slowly, let it be your first thought as you enter your day!

LISTEN TO ME: As you go through your day spend your time thinking about and doing what is helpful, necessary, and kind to yourself and others. Instead of rushing around or beating yourself or others up; pause, take a deep breath, and give thanks for any simple joy you see or feel. Then, either start or continue thinking about and doing what is helpful, necessary, and kind to yourself and others.

LISTEN TO ME: As you wind down your day- give yourself permission to know everything that happened today can help you live a better life. Reflect on your day and give yourself the freedom to know this day is now like the clothes you take off as you get ready for bed. Give thanks, let go, and rest.

LISTEN TO ME: is Isaiah telling us God wants our life- all of it! Isaiah is speaking to a people who were in exile, who feel out of touch with God and what matters most. Who doesn't feel a bit out of touch? Right now many of us would be thinking about Steamer Hill; all of us would be aware the summer is coming to an end and the school year is about to start. Is it?

When God says LISTEN TO ME it's a reminder to come back to God and to invite God to help us keep life simple. Life will always have ups and downs as well as times when it seems like nothing important is happening.

LISTEN TO ME reminds us to pause and know deep in our soul our relationship with God is always turned on- are we listening and making the most of the gifts we have?

May we LISTEN TO GOD and let God be our anchor through the storms of life; a sail to help us move across the waters of life; and a light to help ourselves and others better see and appreciate the life we've been given.

### **Hymn – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 597 / LBW 294)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 1:** *My hope is built on noth-ing less than  
Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness; no mer-it of my  
Own I claim, but who-ly lean on Je-sus' name.*

**Refrain:** *On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

**Verse 2:** *When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I  
Rest on his un-chang-ing grace; in ev-'ry high and  
Storm-y gale my an-chor holds with-in the veil. REFRAIN*

### **Celebrating Women in Scripture: Lydia (Acts 16:6-40)**

*Lydia was a successful Gentile businesswoman, adherent of Judaism, who sold a type of cloth prized for its purple color. She was the head of her household because she was either single or widowed. Her faith led her to extend hospitality to Paul and his companions and her household to be baptized.*

#### **Scripture: Acts 16:11-15 – The Conversion of Lydia**

*Read by Ivy Boe, member of Rollag Lutheran Church, Hawley, MN*

<sup>11</sup>On the sabbath day we [left the city of Philippi, the leading city of Macedonia] and went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## Message

## Pr. Hope Deutscher

Thank you to Ivy Boe – and all the women who have helped read scripture for our special series.

I want to set the stage for you...Philippi had too few Jews to support a synagogue – so the river's edge had become their place of worship for Sabbath prayer....a beautiful natural sanctuary with the wind rustling through the branches overhead. Philippi seemed like an unlikely place for someone to come and share the gospel. It was a prosperous Roman colony – located on the main highway linking the eastern provinces to Rome – and a lot of citizens were retired Roman soldiers. Despite its size, Philippi didn't have enough Jews to provide the requisite quorum of 10 reliable males to form a synagogue...and so there in Philippi a group of praying Jewish and Gentile women prayed along the Gangites Rivers near Philippi.

And it's there on the banks of the river, Lydia hears Paul recite the Shema (SHUH-MAH), the Jewish confession of faith, reminding them there is only one God: *Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.* For the Gentile businesswoman she wanted to know more about the powerful God who was powerful enough to part the sea yet tender enough to yearn for the love of his people.

After the traditional Shema (SHUH-MAH), Paul spoke of a God whose Son had been murdered for love. Jesus rose from the grave after suffering an agonizing death...and was the Messiah, the merciful and holy One who had come to save God's people. The words of Paul about such a loving God led Lydia and her household to be baptized in the Gangites River. Lydia then insisted that Paul and his companions accept her hospitality...her home may have become the very center of the church in Philippi.

Lydia's success as a businesswoman in the city of Philippi came from dealing in cloth dyed to shades of purple – which could range from reddish scarlet to a deep purple tone. Made from secretions of shellfish, these special dyes colored the clothing of the well-to-do. Her business was so successful that she had her own home and servants.

It was unique for a woman in business to have an opportunity to travel, to learn of Christ, and to offer home and hospitality to Paul and his companions as ministers of the gospel.

Lydia had the distinction of being Paul's first convert in Europe and the first member of the church at Philippi, a community that later became a source of great consolation to the apostle when he was imprisoned for driving out an evil spirit from a slave girl. Perhaps her prayers, joining with other women gathered along the riverbank, helped prepare the way for the gospel to be planted in Europe.

Two things that catch my attention from Lydia's story –

1. *Place of prayer*...where do we pray? Like Lydia, we are not in a building praying together but we have great opportunities to take our faith into our neighborhoods – whether that be along the lake, on the street, at work or wherever God has planted us. Are we open to worshipping and praying outside our traditional buildings? Even Paul was pushed to move out of the synagogue to preach about Jesus. And as a result – Lydia's heart was opened...and she was baptized...as was her family.

2. *The Lord opened her heart to respond.* How has your heart been opened up to respond? Last weekend, I was hoping to fill half a pickup bed to provide a few household items, canned goods and maybe a little cash to the Barnesville Food Pantry and REACH Food Pantry in Hawley. And our hearts were opened in ways I couldn't imagine – our hearts were opened to respond to the hunger of our neighbors...we filled a pickup bed and the back of an SVU...and we raised \$1,226...writing a generous check for \$613 to REACH and to the Barnesville Food Pantry. My heart was so filled with joy seeing how much your heart responded! Thank you. So I wonder – in what other areas is God opening our hearts to respond...this time it's to hunger in our community...what will next week bring?

Thom Ranier, recently published the following ways churches will change in the next year:

1. At least 20 percent of those who attended church in March, will not return to the church building for worship.
2. Most church growth the past 3 decades has been transfer growth, Christians moving from one church to another. How we grow in the future will have to shift to a new way of thinking.
3. Churches will start more churches – or as Thom Ranier called them microchurches with large churches trying to get as many to attend as possible in one place to microchurches with around 25 to 30 people.

It's a challenging time...and an exciting time to be the church! How is God opening our hearts to respond...where is the Holy Spirit moving in and around us inviting us to see the church in new and wonderful ways?

May God open our hearts – as we come to the table...receiving the bread of life and cup of salvation....

### **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.

### **Communion**

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

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you as we remember his life, his death, and his resurrection. In this meal, Christ makes us one – we are no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female – but called by Christ and welcomed into a new life.

### **Hymn – For All the Faithful Women (ELW #419)**

***Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute***

**Verse 1:** *For all the faith-ful wom-en who served in days of old.  
To you shall thanks be giv-en; all, their stor-y told.  
They served with strength and glad-ness in tasks your wis-dom gave.  
To you their lives bore wit-ness, pro-claimed your pow-’r to save.*

**Lydia:** *For Jo-an-na who by the riv-er did pray to God  
With a heart to re-spond...she was bap-ti-zed in love.  
Christ keep our heart at-ten-tive to truth that you de-clare.  
And strength-en-us for serv-ice when work be-comes our prayer.*

**Last:** *All praise to God, the Fa-ther! All praise to Christ the Son!  
All praise to God the Spir-it, who binds the church as one!  
With saints who went be-fore us, with saints who wit-ness still,  
We sing glad al-le-lu-ias and strive to do your will.*

### **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 online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit [livinggracehawley.org](http://livinggracehawley.org) or [qprparish.org](http://qprparish.org) for specific information.*

### **Prayers**

People of God, whenever we work together by sharing our financial gifts; our time in service to others; and our thoughts and prayers for each other to God we build up the family. We have many struggles and many blessings. May we learn to consistently connect with God as we continue to support and build up our community, our churches, and each other. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have created a world filled with people. Help all of us to learn the language of understanding and compassion and to live with a willingness to take care of the land and each other. Give all who lead a wise mind, a kind heart, and helping hands to further develop and nurture the relationships we have with the world and each other. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Precious Jesus, as you made a connection with God a priority in your life- help us to do the same. As you led by example and were willing to make whatever sacrifice was necessary- may we also appreciate the sacrifices asked of us and made by us. Figuring out how to be efficient and safe through this pandemic has affected our churches, schools, and businesses. Help us to provide and to trust in wise leadership- even though the situations we live in are quite fluid. May we remember even though this feels like Good Friday, Easter is always coming. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, provide comfort and encouragement as we all look to God as the rock of our lives. Help us to be like Lydia as we open our hearts to you as we live our lives trusting you through the ups and downs of life. Pandemic or not- help us to Listen to you and to listen for you as we trust you are the rock of our lives. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People of God, we have a solid rock past to look for encouragement; a promising future to look forward to; and the reality that today is the day which the Lord has made- may we rejoice in our past, present, and future as we remember how Jesus taught us 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**

May we be like Lydia, with a heart open to God and a life open to service as we trust these words as true: How the Lord is within our hearts to bless us and keep us; How the Lord is within our minds to shine wisdom into the darkest recesses to guide the way; and How the Lord surrounds us to give us the peace only God can give- sealing this promise in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Hymn of the Month – *For The Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879 / LBW 879)**

**Pam Aakre, Piano, Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute**

**Verse 2:**     *For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: REFRAIN*

**Refrain:**     *Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

**Verse 5:**     *For each per-fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
For thy-self, best gift di-vine, to our world so free-ly giv'n: REFRAIN*