

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, September 12, 2021

Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene

Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

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, September 12: 7 AM Online Worship; 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Rollag; 10:30 AM Sunday School; 11 AM Park

Monday, September 13: Noon Rollag Seniors; 7 PM Paul Tillich Book Study

Tuesday, September 14: 7 PM Living Grace Worship

Wednesday, September 15: 10 AM Bible Study; 11 AM Staff Meeting; 6:30 PM 3rd Grade Bible Class; 6:30 PM 1st Communion Class

Thursday, September 16: 2 PM Hawley Senior Living Service

September 12: Rally Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Rollag

Cradle Roll; Bibles given to 3 year-olds and 3rd Graders; Blessing of the Back Packs; Installation of the Sunday School Teachers and Helpers; A time of meeting the Teachers and seeing the Classrooms. Please Check out our Facebook Page and the Newsletter for more information

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 – Gospel of John (In-Person at Rollag with Zoom option upon request)

- 7 PM Monday, September 20: Women's Book Study – "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford
- 7 PM Monday, September 13: Paul Tillich Bible Study

Prelude: Great Is The Lord

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome/Announcements

Confession:

Sometimes we forget, God, how you loving created us to be a blessing in the world. We look at our outsides and ignore the good inside of us.

Sometimes we forget, Jesus, how you walk beside us – willing to die for us so we might live a good life now and a great life forever with you in heaven.

Sometimes we forget, Holy Spirit, how you pray for us as you work inside us to encourage us to let go of what we don't need while building up our gifts, talents, and abilities.

Forgive us God for how our forgetting can take up more of our thoughts than our remembering how much you love, care for, and are always with us.

Forgiveness:

Scripture tells us God created us to be a helpful part of society.

Scripture tells us Jesus willingly gave his life for us to encourage us to share our gifts with others.

Scripture tells us the Holy Spirit prays for us to help us see how generous God always is and for strength whenever we forget.

May we remember God never forgets us as we hold tight to God's creative, loving, and helpful hand. Amen.

Hymn: Gather Us In (ELW 532/WOV 718)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Here in this place the new light is stream-ing;
Now is the dark-ness van-ished a-way;
See in this space our fears and our dream-ings
Brought here to you in the light of this day...
Gather us in, the lost and for-sak-en,
Gath-er us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
We shall a-rise at the sound of our name...*

Verse 2: *We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
Called to be light to the whole hu-man race...
Gather us in, the rich and the haugh-ty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
Give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.*

Children's Sermon – Rally Sunday – Blessing of Students, Teachers and Backpacks

Blessings for Teachers and Students

For the marvels of your creation, **we praise you, O God.**

For the opportunity to explore and study, **we praise you, O God.**

For those who guide us, teachers and mentors, **we praise you, O God.**

Teach us your ways and guide us in your path, for you are the creator of all that is seen and unseen. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who are beginning a new school year,
that both students and teachers
will be blessed in their academic endeavors.

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge.

Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight,
and students the gift of diligence and openness,
that all may grow in what is good and honest and true.

Support all who teach and all who learn,
that together we may know and follow your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Backpacks

Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school, we ask your blessing on these backpacks, and especially on these children who will wear them.

As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with:

eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;
respect for teachers and students,
that they may form healthy relationships;
love for nature,
that they may become caretakers of your creation;
happiness when learning is easy
and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard;
faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

We ask that you would protect these, your own children.

Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school.

As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world.

As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mark 4:26-34 – Never Without a Story (MSG)

²⁶⁻²⁹ Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

³⁰⁻³² "How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It's like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it."

³³⁻³⁴ With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Contact Pastor Hope at livinggracehawley@gmail.com if you want a transcript of this sermon.

Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Je-sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi-ble tells me so;
Lit-tle ones to him be-long, they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain: *Yes, Je-sus loves me, yes, Je-sus loves me,
yes, Je-sus loves me, the Bi-ble tells me so.*

Verse 2: *Je-sus loves me! He who died heav-en's gates to o-pen wide;
He will wash a-way my sin, let his lit-tle child come in. REFRAIN*

Verse 3: *Je-sus loves me! He will stay close be-side me all the way;
When at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. REFRAIN*

Gospel: Mark 8: 27 – 29; 34

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Message Pr. Jim Greene

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

Holy 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. The body of Christ, given for you.

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 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

God, we are so blessed to have the world you have given us to take care of. While we struggle with the difficulties we face due to drought, floods, fire, and disease – may we learn to work together and feel the satisfaction of work shared and a job well done. Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Jesus, may we learn to see your presence in everyone we meet – especially in the people who seem to make life difficult for us. Open our eyes to see past the anger, fear, and doubts we all feel at times as we learn to trust in you. Lord in your Mercy **Hear our Prayer**

Holy Spirit, show us how to open our hearts and minds to your direction as we daily turn our will and our life over to you. Show us how your ways open more doors than our self-righteous

anger, name calling, and derogatory remarks. Teach us to pray for others and ourselves as you do through the prayer Jesus taught us:

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 live with the wisdom of God; the courage and endurance of Jesus; and the confidence of the Holy Spirit as we learn to work together in real and helpful ways.

May we go in peace and serve the Lord: **As we Celebrate, Share, and Show God's Love!**

Song: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

Vacation Bible School Youth (August 2021)

Verse 1: *I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.*

Verse 2: *I've got the peace that passes understanding,
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passes understanding,
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.*

Verse 3: *I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, Down in my heart, down in my heart,
down in my heart; I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.
And I'm so happy, So very happy, I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.*

Thank you for worshipping with us!