

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
10501 Hwy. 32 South, Hawley, MN 56549-8929
Office Phone: 937-5499
Pastor Jim Greene
Cell Phone: 218-329-3933
PastorJim@RollagLutheran.org
Pastor Hope Deutscher
Cell Phone: 701-730-5051
Livinggracehawley@gmail.com
Andrea Keene, Youth Director
Cell Phone: 701-361-6351
gpyouthdirector@gmail.com

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
Office: 218-486-5880; Cell: 701-730-5051
livinggracehawley@gmail.com
PO Box 477, Hawley, MN 56549
Worships at The Garrick Theater,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday - Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene

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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Happening This Week:

Monday, October 26: 7 PM Paul Tillich Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 28: 9 AM Staff Meeting
10 AM Bible Study
6:30 PM Confirmation

Saturday, October 31: 2-4 PM Drive Thru Halloween Pumpkin Parable, Rollag Parking Lot and Yard. Come celebrate Halloween with a drive thru event for Sunday School age kids. Kids can come dressed in their costumes and stay safely in cars. Our volunteers will run the different stations that will be spaced out along the parking lot and road through the cemetery.

Welcome/Announcements

- 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.
- Subscribe to the YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church! You'll 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!
- 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.

- **SMART Team/Worshipping Update:** Our worshipping communities are working on COVID Business Plans to reopen, when it is safe to do so, and when we are prepared to do so following MN Department of Health guidelines.
- **Clay County MN Residents Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response:** Struggling because of the Pandemic? Free walk-in mental health clinic 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesdays (through December 9th). The clinic is online and also at The Village Family Service Center (815 37th Ave. South, Moorhead, MN). Screenings and referrals available for all ages at no cost thanks to Clay County CARES Funding. For more information call The Village at 701-451-4811.
- *Connect Through these Bible and Book Studies:*
 - *Monday evenings (every 2 weeks): Paul Tillich Bible Study (led by Joe Hass)*
 - *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Luke Joel Study*
 - *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (Next one Nov. 2nd): 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! We will meet the first and third Mondays via Zoom.*
- *Notes about today’s service:*
 - *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, Sam Helgeson and Pr. Hope for providing music.*
 - *Today Pr. Jim message: From the prophet Jeremiah: The ABC’s of our faith.*
 - *Today Pr. Hope’s message: Martin Luther nailed 95 statements to the church door; what do we proclaim as Christians 503 years later?*

Prelude: *How Firm A Foundation* Pam Aakre, Piano

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

(LIGHT CHRIST CANDLE)

Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW #504; LBW #712)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet

Verse 1: *A might-y for-tress is our God, a sword and shield vic-to – rious;
He breaks the cruel op-pres-sor’s rod and wins sal-va-tion glo-rious.
The old sa-tan-ic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dread-ful might he arms him-self to fight.
On earth he has no e – qual.*

Verse 4: *God’s Word for-ev-er shall a – bide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God him-self fights by our side with weap-ons of the Spir-it.
Were they to take our house, goods, hon-or, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched a-way, they can-not win the day.
The king-dom’s ours for-ev – er!*

Children’s Message

Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director

Reformation Litany/Confession & Forgiveness

Luther's reformation was centered on three principles: Scripture, Faith and Grace alone.

Scripture Alone: Luther said, "a simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it". How do we know the truths about the gospel?

God has given us His Holy word, which is the foundation of the Christian faith. In the first chapter of Hebrews, we read: "...at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son."

The Biblical scripture records the narrative of salvation. The Old Testament prophets pointed to Christ, and the apostles that recorded the words of Christ point back to Jesus as the Savior. We accept the Holy Scriptures found in the Bible as God's inspired and without error.

Faith Alone: Faith is a relationship that the Holy Spirit creates between God and us. God's promise of steadfast love and mercy in Jesus opens us to a life of bold trust in God and joyful, generous service to everyone. Only through faith in Christ are we declared forgiven and perfectly right with God.

Because of God's act on the cross received through faith, we sinners are declared to be saints in God's sight. God's gift of faith is evidence that we have been saved by His grace.

Does this mean that we just go do whatever we feel like doing which is contrary to what is God pleasing?

Of course not! As the Holy Spirit works through the word of God in our lives, we are given the desire to do what is pleasing to the Lord.

As it is written in Ephesians (2:8-10): *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Grace Alone: The word grace means undeserved love. As the Bible says, all have sinned, we have disobeyed and rebelled against God and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). There is nothing that you and I can do to save ourselves, nor do we earn or deserve God's grace. Hear these words of grace from the Apostle Paul, as written in Romans 5:8: "...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The good news is that Christ paid the full penalty for our sins through His death on the cross. God acts alone, without our actions or decisions to give us salvation.

John 15:16 says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you..." Humans are saved from their sins by God's grace alone through faith alone on the basis of scripture alone, this is the doctrine of justification.

Psalm 46 – Lay Reader: Jackie Anderson, Rollag Lutheran Church

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Message

Pr. Jim Greene

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

QUESTIONS to Enhance the Way we think and live:

- 1) What is the difference between an opinion and a judgement?
- 2) What are some aspects of your life that COVID-19 has helped you be aware of which is A) Helpful and B) Unhelpful?
- 3) What are some ways COVID-19 (or life in general) has helped you A) Find more balance in your life B) Find less balance in your life?
- 4) What is helpful about being curious? How does having a child like sense of wonder make life more interesting?
- 5) Who are some of your best support people? Who are some people you have been a support to? How does practicing the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22 - 23) provide inner support to our lives?

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.

Hymn of the Month: *Listen, God is Calling* (ELW 513 / WOV 712)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Refrain: *Lis-ten, lis-ten, God is call-ing, through the Word in-vit-ing,
Of-fer-ing for-give-ness, com-fort, and joy.*

Verse 1: *Je-sus gave his man-date: share the good news
That he came to save us and set us free. REFRAIN*

Verse 2: *Let none be for-got-ten through-out the world,
In the tri-une name of God go and bap-tize. REFRAIN*

Verse 3: *Help us to be faith-ful, stand-ing stead-fast,
Walk-ing in your pre-cepts, led by your Word. REFRAIN*

Scripture: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Message

Pr. Hope Deutscher

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

Receiving of 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 qprparish.org for specific information.

Prayers

Creator God, At a time which we are not aware of you brought all of life into existence and commanded us to take care of the world and each other. You placed a part of you inside of us as a guiding force to show us the way to live. Remind us several times each day to be still and know you in our heart, soul, and mind with the strength to do what we need to do each day. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Blessed Jesus, you kept your balance through the ups and downs of life by being anchored in God. We too struggle with ups and downs- some of which we handle well, some of which we really mess up. As we look at the cross may we be inspired to follow you example of trusting God through everything while also doing the best we can with what we know. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Counseling Holy Spirit, inspire us to see through the fears and frustrations of life and to become curious as to how you'll help us learn from all we experience. Give us a beginners mind to open our eyes to the wide open spaces you provide for us to travel instead of the limited options our fears and doubts give us. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Triune God, As Jeremiah reminds us, you see past our sins and iniquities and you put a new covenant in our hearts. Fill our hearts with what we need to appreciate the good and to count

our blessings as well as the courage we need to face our difficulties. Thanks for the support you provide for us through our family, friends, as well as strangers who show us the way. No matter what happens in our day to day situation, remind us you are always as close as a prayer as we remember how you taught us to pray: The Lord's Prayer

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

As we journey through our life, may God go before us to show the way, behind us to encourage us; beside us to support us; above us to watch over us; and within us to give us the peace which surpasses all understanding.

Hymn – We All Are One in Mission (ELW #576 / WOV #755)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *We all are one in mis-sion; we all are one in call,
Our var-ied gifts u-nit-ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
A sin-gle great com-mis - -sion com-pels us from a-bove
To plan and work to-geth-er that all may know Christ's love.*

Verse 2: *We all are called for ser-vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
Our min-is-tries are dif-f'rent; our pur-pose is the same:
To touch the lives of oth-ers with God's sur-pris-ing grace,
So ev-'ry folk and na-tion may feel God's warm em-brace.*

Verse 3: *Now let us be u-nit-ed, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a ves-sel for God's re-deem-ing Word.
We all are one in mis-sion; we all are one in call,
Our var-ied gifts u-nit-ed by Christ, the Lord of all.*