

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,
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Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent Virtual Holy Communion Worship Service
Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher, Pr. Jim Greene, and Andrea Keene
Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Happening This Week:

December 2: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Bible Study (on Zoom); 6:30 PM Confirmation
Saturday, December 5, 3–5 PM and Sunday, December 6, 9–11 AM Rollag Lutheran Church will host "ADVENT"ure prayer stations. Six interactive, meditative, self-directed prayer stations will have a devotional exercise designed to ready our hearts for the gift that God gives us at Christmas. The prayer stations are an opportunity to reflect on this period of expectation, ponder on the birth of Christ, encourage hopefulness, and prayerfully consider how to live out your "ADVENT"ure.

Two ways to help our neighbors this holiday season:

- 1). Use the "Reverse Advent Calendar" to help fill the Barnesville and REACH-Hawley Food Pantries.
- 2). Stop by Rollag Lutheran and pick up a Giving Tree Ornament that contains a specific item for a local non-profit. The Giving Tree is located in the overflow area. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Jim.

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are here as we worship from Park Lutheran Church in rural Clay County.
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church
- 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. Andrea Keene is also available to talk to parents and youth.
- **SMART Team/Worshipping Update:** With increasing numbers and guidance from the state, at this time we are doing creative worship services – such as the December 5th and 6th Advent Prayer Stations. Our Councils and Smart Team are working together to keep us safe, watching the guidelines and numbers to prepare safe ways for us to be together when and how it is safe to do so.

- **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.
- **Bible and Book Studies:**
 - *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible 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.*
 - *Monday evenings (every 2 weeks): Paul Tillich Bible Study (led by Joe Hass)*
- **Notes about today's service:**
 - *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
 - *During our service, we provide Virtual Holy Communion. Please have some bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in communion.*
 - *We are grateful for youth and their participation in our service. Andrea will have a children's sermon in a few minutes.*
 - *Music provided by Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope.*
 - *During Advent, Pr. Hope will focus on The Prayers of Advent*
 - *Pr. Jim will help us prepare for the Add vent "t" Sure of Advent!*

Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW #240/WOV #630)

Chris Haug, Solo

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness;
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*

(One Candle is lit on the Advent Wreath. We invite you during the season of Advent to light a candle on your Advent wreath or gather 4 candles and light one each Sunday with us.)

Confession & Forgiveness

Welcome to Advent- a time when we pause to notice the light of Jesus in our lives. Advent is an adventure where we look at our conception of God and keep what is helpful and let go of what is not. To aid in this process we confess to God our hurts, fears, and unhealthy thoughts and actions, trusting God will help us to heal and to move forward in helpful ways.

God who gave us life, it is your desire that we your children live a full, healthy, and meaningful life. We now lift up the thoughts, words, and actions which have been destructive to others and ourselves and ask you take them from us. Blow away the fog of anxiety, discontent, and aggression until we come to see you more clearly. Forgive us our sins and help us to learn from our failings as the light of your live shines more clearly through us.

As we enter the season of Advent, may we do so prayerfully, quietly, and with a desire to ADD God's helpful presence more fully in our lives. May our light so shine before others that our helpful works might be a blessing to others and give glory to God. Children of the same God, know deep in your soul your sins are forgiven.

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.*

Prayers of Advent – Pastor Hope Deutscher

Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25 - *The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold*

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in

seclusion. She said, ²⁵“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Message: Embodied Prayer – Zechariah’s Prayer 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 gprparish.org for specific information.

Hymn: “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (LBW 31/ELW 436)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Wake, a-wake for night is fly – ing, the watch-men on the heights are cry-ing; a-wake, Je-ru-sa-lem, at last. Mid-night hears the wel-come voic – es, and at the thrill-ing cry re-joic-es; “Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past, The bride-groom comes! A-wake; your lamps with glad-ness take! Al-le-lu – ia! Pre-pare your-selves to meet the Lord, Whose light has stirred the waiting guard.*

Scripture: “ADD” – Matthew 6:25 - 33

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

“Strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.”

Message: Add Vent “t” Sure Pr. Jim Greene

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

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.

Prayers

Creator God, thank you for the gift of life. Each day help us to be people who encourage and support life on all levels. Give us courage to stand up to anyone who cheapens or wants to destroy life. May we be a light which brings life into every situation and healing into every struggle. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we look forward to celebrating your birth again, may we pause and give thanks for our lives. As we reflect on our failings may we remember how you died to bring us forgiveness and a new start. As we acknowledge how we have been helpful, show us how to build on our gifts. Whether in the manger, on the cross, or leaving the tomb- everything you did was for our benefit. May we daily learn from what you've done for us. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Counseling and Comforting Holy Spirit, we know we haven't always been a beacon of light for others nor have we always appreciated the light you offer us. Our pains, fears, and doubts can darken our vision. COVID-19; aggression; and divisiveness can tear away at our spirits. The lack of sunlight and the cold can make us feel isolated and alone. Infiltrate our lives with the light and the peace only you can give. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Triune God, as we enter this season of Advent, may we live an adventuresome life by reflecting God's creative power; Jesus' redeeming actions; and the Holy Spirits ability to light up the world with compassion, kindness, and courage. As we let your light shine through us may we find encouragement through the simple things like how you 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

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 the world can never give.

Hymn: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* (ELW 290 / LBW 70) Pam Aakre, Piano Solo