

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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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' story,

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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021, Online Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene

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

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day but all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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.*
 - *Bible to follow along with scripture readings.*

Happening This Week:

Sunday, December 5: 7 AM Online Worship, 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Rollag and Living Grace; 10:30 AM Sunday School, 11 AM Park

Monday, December 6: 9:30 AM Gran Ruth Circle and Quilting; 7 PM Women's Book Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 8: 10 AM Rollag Bible Study; 11 AM Staff Meeting; 6 PM Confirmation Meal; 6:45 PM Confirmation Class

Thursday, December 9: 10 AM Hawley Ministerial; 7 PM Rollag Council

Saturday, December 11: 10 AM Women's Advent Prayer Retreat

Sunday, December 12: 7 AM Online Worship; 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Rollag and Living Grace Worship; 11 AM Park Christmas Card Exchange. SS Youth Singing at Living Grace at 9:30 AM, followed by Sunday School Christmas Program Practice at Living Grace.

Ways to Give this Season:

- *Giving Tree at Rollag Lutheran. Stop by Rollag Lutheran and pick up a Giving Tree Ornament that contains a specific item for a local non-profit.*
- *Sundays School Youth – Collecting New or Gently Used Mittens/Gloves for REACH; last collection day: December 18th*
- *Youth in Grades 5th-6th Grade are collecting gifts of Toys for Kids at Churches United in Moorhead. Last day to collect items: December 18th.*
- *Luther League Youth shopped this past Wednesday for 16 REACH Giving Tree Recipients; the older age youth will be wrapping them at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning.*

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, December 6: Women’s Book Study – “The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi” by Kathie Lee Gifford*
- *7 PM Monday, December 13: Paul Tillich Bible Study*

Prelude: Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,

that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

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.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish the darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

(Two candles are 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 and Forgiveness

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God’s reign of justice and love.

Let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.
Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To all who are listening, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

Let us pray, Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn: *Holy Majesty, before you* (LBW #247)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 2: *God of light, exalted, holy! Your tender care protects the lowly,
Leaves not your children to their fate.
You are gracious, God, our Father; Your chosen people still you gather
Within your arms compassionate. You gave us Christ, your Son,
Through whom your grace is won; and your Spirit will dwell
within to cleanse from sin the ones your Son has died to win.*

Children's Message and Youth Announcements

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, ... ³[John] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Message Pr. Hope Deutscher

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

Hymn: *How Firm a Foundation* (ELW # 796 / LBW #507)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

Verse 2: *"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design;
Upheld by my righteous, om-nip-o-tent hand."*

Verse 3: *"When through fi-'ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient shall be your supply
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design*

Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”
Verse 4: “throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov-‘reign eternal, unchange-able love;
And then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

Philippians 1:3-6; 9-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. . . ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. **Amen.**

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

May we not shy away from looking honestly at our struggles while trusting in the words of Paul which states, “I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. We are more than just a worker or someone who exists- we are created in the image of God to make a creative and helpful difference in the world. May we be grateful for God’s help, Jesus’ example, and the Holy Spirit’s guidance every day of our lives.
Lord in your mercy Hear our Prayer

God, develop the gift of gratitude in our hearts and mind so that your love will take root and help us see, know, and produce the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, faithfulness, and the ability to move through our differences as we do what’s best for all. Lord in your mercy Hear our Prayer

God, develop the gift of gratitude in our hearts and mind so that the Holy Spirit will find a place in our hearts and will help us to discern the helpful from unhelpful actions. We pray your strength be with all who suffer, no matter the cause, so they may see and do what is helpful for them. Guide us to be an encouraging presence in all we think, say, and do. Lord in your mercy Hear our Prayer

God, develop the gift of gratitude in our hearts and mind so that our hearts will grow in ways we haven't imagined. May each day be about appreciating and using the gifts we possess as we encourage others to do the same. May our prayers be such that we let go of what isn't helpful in us while you fill us with your grace, strength, and peace.

BE WITH US AS WE REMEMBER 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

May God our Creator and our Lord Jesus direct our path moving forward. May our Lord help us increase and abound in gratitude and love for all.

May God, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, strengthen our hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

May all this and so much more take place as we remember how we are named and claimed by God our Creator, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Counselor.

Dismissal:

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

Hymn: Love Divine, All Love Excelling (ELW 631 / LBW 315)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev-'ry trembling heart.*

Verse 2: *Breathe, oh breath thy loving Spirit into ev-'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith,
as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

Thank you for worshipping with us!