

**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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Worships at The Garrick Theater,  
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**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**Second 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:**

**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. Face masks and social distancing are required.

**December 7:** 7 PM Women's Book Study on Zoom (*Women's Book Study: It's Not Supposed to be This Way: Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments leave you shattered by Lysa Terkeurst*)

**December 8:** 7 PM Youth and Education Committee Meeting (Zoom)

**December 9:** 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Ephesians Bible Study (Zoom); 6:30 PM Confirmation (Zoom)

**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. Today, you will notice that Pr. Jim, Pr. Hope and Andrea are coming to you from a variety of locations.
- **Notes about today's service:**
  - A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.
  - During our service, we have the following supplies reading:
    - Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion.

- A candle or five candles – to represent the four Sundays of Advent and the Christ Candle (which will be lit on Christmas Eve/Day).
  - Music provided by Pam Aakre and Pr. Hope.
  - We are grateful for youth and their participation in our service. Andrea will have a children’s sermon.
  - 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!
- 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>). The clinic is online and also at The Village Family Service Center (815 37<sup>th</sup> 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 (Studying Ephesians)*
  - *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (Next one Dec. 7th): 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!*

**Prelude: Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring**

**Pam Aakre, Piano**

**Welcome**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

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

*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 5 candles and light one each Sunday with us and on Christmas Eve/Day.)*

**Confession & Forgiveness**

People of God, Psalm 32 begins with: “Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, with whom the Lord doesn’t hold any sin over their head, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” It is God’s desire that we have no wall or obstacle between God, ourselves, and each other- but we’re quick to judge, live in fear, and react in negative and self-centered ways. May we learn to “vent” our sins and like Elizabeth, wait upon the Lord.

**We confess, like the writer of Psalm 32, as we kept silent about our sins how our body wasted away and we groaned inwardly from the negative energy we held onto. BUT, when we acknowledged how we have fallen short, missed the mark, and sinned against God, others, and ourselves, we start to understand how God desires to forgive us all our sins. Gracious God, we empty everything out to you, holding nothing back, trusting your promise to love our sins away.**

Blessed Children of the same God, God, speaking through the writer of Psalm 32 says, “Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, God’s steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.” May we daily walk beside God and experience the freedom Jesus died to give us all. Amen.

## **Children’s Message**

**Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director**

**Hymn: *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine* (ELW #398 / LBW #257)**

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

**Verse 1:** *Ho-ly Spir-it, truth di-vinee, dawn up-on this soul of mine;  
breath of God and in-ward light, wake my spir-it, clear my sight.*

**Verse 2:** *Ho-ly Spir-it, love di-vine, glow with-in this heart of mine;  
kin-dle ev-’ry high de-sire; purge me with your ho-ly fire.*

## **Prayers of Advent – Pastor Hope Deutscher**

**Luke 1:39-45, 56-66 - Mary Visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be <sup>[e]</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

## **The Birth of John the Baptist**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” <sup>61</sup>They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

**Message: Elizabeth’s Prayer – Praying the Hours Pr. Hope Deutscher**

Contact Pr. Hope Deutscher at [hdeutscher@gmail.com](mailto:hdeutscher@gmail.com) if you would like a transcript of the sermon.

**Hymn: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (LBW #36 / ELW #249)**

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

**Verse 1:** *On Jor-dan's bank the Bap-tist's cry an-noun-ces  
That the Lord is nigh; a-wake and heark-en,  
For he brings glad tid-ings of the King of kings!*

**Verse 2:** *Then cleansed be ev-'ry life from sin; make straight the  
way for God with-in, and let us all our hearts pre-pare  
for Christ to come and ent-er there.*

**Scripture:**

**Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. <sup>2</sup>Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! <sup>3</sup>If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup>But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. <sup>5</sup>I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; <sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. <sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. <sup>8</sup>It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**Psalm 10:11-14**

They think in their heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it."  
<sup>12</sup>Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed. <sup>13</sup>Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts, "You will not call us to account"? <sup>14</sup>But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands; the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan.

**Psalm 13:1-2**

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?  
<sup>2</sup>How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

**Psalm 22:1-2**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

**Message: Add VENT "t" Sure Pr. Jim Greene**

Contact Pastor Jim at [revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## 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](http://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

Creator God, during Advent we are reminded how you've always had our best interests in mind. Through Elizabeth we are reminded how even the impossible is possible with you. Just as Elizabeth waited, so we to wait for guidance, relief, and help. As we lament, guide us to learn to grow in our trust in you. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, from the cross you showed us the importance of crying out to God. At times life really makes no sense to us. May your words become our words- "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me!" Help us to also cry out your words, "into you hands I commit my spirit"- knowing God will always help us through whatever struggle we face. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Comforting Holy Spirit, In the midst of things we cannot understand, we invite you to speak in us, through us, and for us. Bring healing to those in pain; bring wisdom to those who feel lost; and bring comfort to those who are grieving. As we invest our heart, soul, and mind into your care- help us to give thanks for your help and to lament when we're hurting. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Triune God, as Creator you are constantly providing more options than we can imagine. As Redeemer, you are bringing us back no matter how far we stray. As Comforter, you are walking with us even in the midst of our deepest and darkest times. In all things, you are within us to provide what we need. We give you thanks for all your help 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 keep us safe, healthy, and wise. May Jesus show us how to cry out in our joy and our sorrow. May the Holy Spirit remind us to pray without ceasing. May the Triune God- Creator; Redeemer; and Comforter give us peace in our heart, soul, and mind providing the strength we need to keep our love glasses on for the benefit of all.

## Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound (ELW #239 / LBW #35)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

**Verse 1:** *Hark, the glad sound! The Sav-ior comes, the Sav-ior prom-ised long;  
Let ev-'ry heart pre – pare a throne and ev – 'ry voice a song.*

**Verse 3:** *He comes the bro-ken heart to bind, the bleed-ing soul to cure,  
and with the trea-sures of his grace to en-rich the hum-blee poor.*

**Verse 4:** *Our glad ho-san-nas, Prince of peace, your wel-come shall pro-claim,  
and heav'n's e-ter-nal arch-es ring with your be-lov-ed name.*