

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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 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.

Monday, December 13: Noon – Rollag Seniors (Rosie Carr helping sing Christmas Carols)

Wednesday December 15: 10 AM Bible Study (at Rollag); 11 AM Staff Meeting; 6 PM Confirmation; 6:45 PM Confirmation Class; 6:45 PM – Sunday School Program Practice

Thursday, December 16: 2 PM – Worship at Hawley Senior Living

Saturday, December 18: 3 PM – *"The Holy Family is Here"* Parish Sunday School Christmas Program

Ways to Give this Seasons:

- *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 has shopped for and wrapped up gifts for 16 youth through the REACH Giving Tree.*

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, January 3: 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

Pam Aakre, Organ

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

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

As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need.

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

Amen.

(Three 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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we

have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (LBW 34/ ELW 257)

Pam Aakre, Organ

Verse 1: *O Come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Verse 7: *O come, O King of nations, com, O Cornerstone that binds in one;
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Children's Message and Youth Announcements

Pr. Hope Deutscher

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

¹¹John said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ... ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Message

Pr. Hope Deutscher

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

Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (ELW 244 / LBW 25)

Pam Aakre, Organ

Verse 1: *Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your light appear;
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; all midnight comes the cry.*

Verse 4: *Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord,
To see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!*

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

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

Dismissal: May we go in peace and serve the Lord:

As we Celebrate, Share, and Show God's Love!

Hymn: *Let All Together Praise Our God* (ELW #287 / LBW #47)

Pam Aakre, Organ

Verse 1: *Let all together praise our God before the highest throne; today God opens heav'n again and sends the only Son, and sends the only Son.*

Verse 2: *From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an infant small, And lies in poverty, his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.*

Verse 3: *O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.*

Thank you for worshipping with us!