

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,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third 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 16: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Ephesians Bible Study (Zoom); 6:30 PM Confirmation (Zoom)

December 21: 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*)

Sign up for December Faith at Home Activity Bag: Happy Birthday Jesus

Contact Andrea, GPR Youth Director by December 13th.

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, we come to you from a variety of locations.
- 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. 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.

- **Bible and Book Studies:**
 - *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study (Studying Ephesians)*
 - *First and Third Mondays @ 7 pm (Next one Dec. 21st) 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!*
- **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!*

Prelude: Joseph Dearest

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

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

Ben Noteboom and Chris Haug

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

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.*

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

Confession & Forgiveness

Every day of our lives we are faced with a variety of decisions, some easy, some boring, and some difficult and stressful. The Adventure of Advent is a reminder how, like Joseph, when we put our trust in God even the most difficult of choices lead us to where we need to go. One of the choices we face now is whether or not to let God have every aspect of our lives- especially those parts which are embarrassing, frustrating, and which weigh us down. May we together turn everything over to God.

Gracious God, during the season of Advent we are reminded how your Son entered into a sinful world of which we are a part of. Our thoughts, words, and actions, which are meant to be helpful, have at times been destructive to others and ourselves. We ask you to forgive our sins; to help us learn from our failings; and to have the light of your love shine more clearly through us.

As we continue in the season of Advent, we remember the amazing story of Jesus' birth and Joseph's part in keeping the family together. During this Advent, may we also remember how Jesus went to the cross and through the tomb to show us our sins are forgiven so we can walk freely into each new day. May our light so shine before others that our helpful works might be a blessing to others and give glory to God.

Children's Message

Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director

Hymn: *I Am Trusting You Lord Jesus (LBW #460)*

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *I am trust-ing you Lord Je-sus, trust-ing on-ly you;
trust-ing you for full sal-va-tion, free and true.*

Verse 4: *I am trust-ing you to guide me; you alone shall lead,
ev-'ry day and hour sup-ply-ing all my need.*

Verse 6: *I am trust-ing you, Lord Jesus; never let me fall.
I am trusting you for-ever and for all.*

Prayers of Advent – Pastor Hope Deutscher

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 - *The Birth of Jesus the Messiah (RSVCE)*

Lay Reader; Craig Larson, Living Grace Lutheran Church

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. ²⁰But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el" (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Message: *Joseph'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: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW #244 / LBW #25)*

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Re-joice, re-joice, be-live-ers, and let your lights ap-pear;
the eve-ning is ad-vanc-ing, and dark-er night is near.
The bride-groom is a-ris-ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wres-tee; at mid-night comes the cry.*

Verse 4: *Our hope and ex-pec-ta-tion, O Je-sus, now ap-pear;
a-rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be-night-ed sphere.
With hearts and hands up-light-ed, we plead, O Lord, to see*

the day of earth's re-demp-tion that sets your peo-ple free!

Scripture: “t” – Matthew 16: 24 - 26

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?

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, we entered your world through our birth. You know why we were born in this place at this time and in this way- help us to be open to the truth of how you will help us in real and positive ways. While we may not like how life happens- as we vent and lament may we also be still and know you are the one who will help us through.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we have too often thought to take up our cross is a negative which we avoid. We have too often kept you at arms length not realizing the cross is a plus sign reminding us you want to be a positive in our lives. Through the hurts, pains, and incomprehensible aspects of life remind us to let you in as we face all of life together.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Counseling and Comforting Holy Spirit, in a dream you spoke to Joseph, encouraging him to do what made little sense to him at the time. May we open ourselves up to trusting you and daily connecting with you in all things big and small. May we see the cross as a guiding light instead of something which we avoid and run from. We all know sacrifices are a part of life- guide us to know you're with us all the way.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Triune God, as Creator, you have a plan for us- to become diamonds which shine brightly in ways which are helpful and encouraging. As Savior, you've seen how we've fallen short and you've never given up on us. As Comforter you pray for us to see the light through all the struggles and decisions we need to make. May we remember your promise to walk beside us every step of the way as we share together 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: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (ELW #295 / LBW #42) Pam Aakre, Piano Solo