

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.
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Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth 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; Sam Helgeson, Trumpet

Happening This Week:

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*)

December 23: 9 AM Staff Meeting; 10 AM Bible Study: Prayers of Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary (Zoom)

December 24: Online Christmas Eve Holy Communion Worship Service
3-5 PM Christmas Stations, with a Short Meditation and Holy Communion in the Rollag Lutheran Church Sanctuary every 15 minutes.
No pre-registration is required.

December 25: Online Christmas Day Worship Service

December 27: Online First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service

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:**
 - *Wednesday at 10 AM: Bible Study; will study the prayers of Zachariah, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary on Wednesday, December 23.*
 - *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, Sam Helgeson 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 is focusing on The Prayers of Advent.*
 - *Pr. Jim is helping us prepare for the Add vent "t" Sure of Advent!*

Prelude: *Stille, Stille, Stille*

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.*

*Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!*

(Today we light four candles on the Advent Wreath. We invite you during the season of Advent to light the candles 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, what are we sure of? When Mary found out she was to be the Mother of Jesus- a child conceived by the Holy Spirit, Mary was sure God was with her- but she had no idea who this child would be and how this child would affect her life. In this season of Advent we have time to prepare for a **rebirth in our faith journey**. Like Mary we need to notice how

small we are and how much we need God' grace, wisdom, and guidance- which is why we confess together:

God of all life, we bring our whole self to you asking you to forgive all our sins conceived in our hostility and resentment and demonstrated through our unwise thoughts, words, and actions. Please help us to be reborn through your loving, forgiving, and nurturing Spirit. Forgive us and help us to start anew.

Children of a Loving God, let us make room for God as we invite Jesus in to sweep out our hearts so that the Holy Spirit can redecorate our lives with wisdom, simplicity, and peace. May we trust God has cast our sins as far away as the east is from the west to unburdened us of our past as we live fully in the NOW. Let us all hold onto the hand of the one who is our Creator, Guide, and Forgiving Holy Spirit. Amen.

Children's Message

Andrea Keene, GPR Youth Director

Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (ELW #272) Pam Aakre, Piano

Verse 1: *Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!
Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, a-mid the cold of win-ter,
when half-spent was the night.*

Verse 2: *I-sai-ah had fore-told it, the rose I have in mind; with Mar-y we be-hold it,
the vir-gin moth-er kind. To show God's love a-right,
she bore to us a Sav-ior, when half-spent was the night.*

Verse 4: *O Sav-ior, child of Mar-y, who felt our hu-man woe; O Sav-ior, king of glo-ry,
who dost our weak-ness know: bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heav-en and in-to end-less day.*

Prayers of Advent – Pastor Hope Deutscher

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38; 46-55

Lay Reader: Loretta Ramstad, Living Grace Lutheran Church

Luke 1:26-38 *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[a]

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:46-55 - *Mary's Song of Praise*

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Message: Mary'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: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (LBW 34/ ELW 257)

Pam Aakre, Piano Solo

Scripture: Mark 10:17-22

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”

²⁰ The man said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

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

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

Additional Scripture quoted in message:

Romans 8:37-39 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Philippians 1:6 “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!”

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, As we are near the completion of the season of Advent and are soon to experience again the birth of the Christ child, help us **ADD** to our lives only what builds up and nurtures life. Yes, despite the fact COVID-19 has been extremely disruptive; our political climate has been less than helpful; and too many are quick to attack and condemn; be our guide to create the world in your image. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came into the world and have experienced the hurts, fears, and uncertainties which we all feel at times in our lives. Instead of whining and complaining you showed us how to **VENT** our hurts, griefs, and uncertainties through the ability of lamenting fully to God. May our laments help us to see, know, and trust your love for us is real and life giving. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Comforting Holy Spirit, just as you worked behind the scenes to help Jesus, guide us to trust you are always working in and through us. May we trust your prayers for us will bring wisdom, understanding, and peace in our lives when we see the **cross** as a plus sign meant to fill our empty parts as we know deep in our soul you live within us. LORD IN YOUR MERCY HEAR OUR PRAYER

Triune God, may we become even more "SURE" that the Adventure of Advent can help our attitude to be adjusted as we learn to pray quietly like Zechariah; patiently like Elizabeth; totally trusting you like Joseph; and like Mary, contemplating the wondrous ways you work through 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 we walk through this last part of Advent open to the many ways God is desiring to bless us and keep us; How Jesus is wanting to guide us and show us the way; How the Holy Spirit is wanting to dwell inside us and instill in us the peace which only God our creator, redeemer, and comforter can fully give. AMEN

Hymn: Joy to the World (ELW 267 / LBW 39)

Pam Aakre, Piano and Sam Helgeson, Trumpet

Verse 1: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

Verse 4: *He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*