

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 24, 2019
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Overflowing Love's Limits

Who do you find hardest to love? Maybe it is a family member or coworker who grates on your nerves. Maybe it is a group of people in our society whose party affiliation, different cultural habits, or lifestyle you find irksome. Maybe it is people whose race, hygiene, or mental abilities make them hard for you to approach or understand. Sadly, we are all limited in our capacity to love others because of our culture, history, hurts, and experiences. From unconscious biases to open disdain, our strength for love is constrained and wounded by the effects of sin.

Jesus' words in today's gospel show his deep acquaintance with our deficits in regard to loving. We tend to keep our love confined to limited pools of people and to measure it out far more sparingly to others. If your worship today includes confession and forgiveness, take a moment to trace some of the limits on your own ability to love others, and bring them before God.

The good news that Jesus shares with us today is that God's love is not under the same constraints as ours. God measures out love lavishly on all people regardless of worldly markers of identity, histories of harm and wrongdoing, or some human-derived preference. Against the backdrop of limited human love, divine love consumes us in its abundance. Words like *unconditional* and *limitless* only begin to point to the mystery of the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. We come to worship seeking to be inundated with that love so that our loving might become more generous through God's excess, spilling over the limits our sin has placed on it. In your prayers in worship today and throughout your week, let the thirst in your heart be quenched by God's overflowing love so you can in turn share it with others.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don't forget to check both sides of the card.

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 24, 2019

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit

Gathering Hymn

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW 651 (red book)

Greeting

- ☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray ... O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope.

☑ **Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

7SAE-3

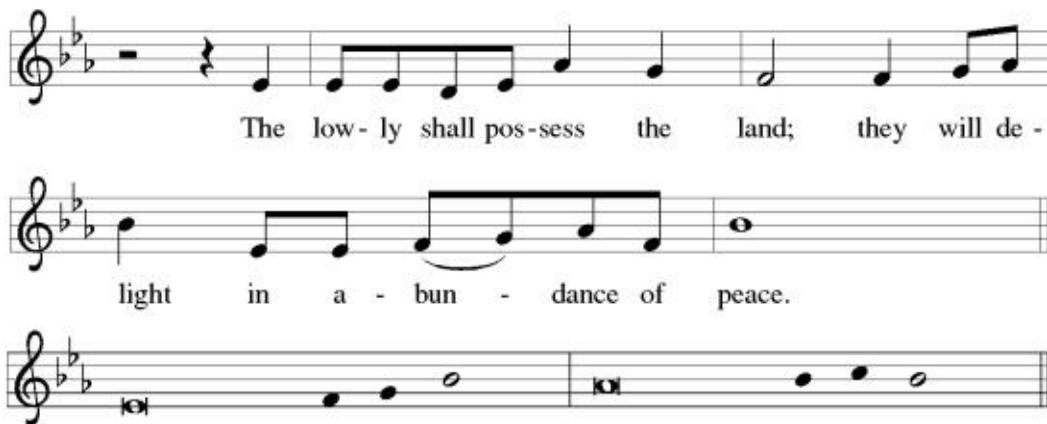
📖 A reading from **Genesis**:

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

📖 Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

🎵 a light to our path.



The low-ly shall pos-sess the land; they will de-
light in a - bun - dance of peace.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight | in the LORD,**

who shall give you your | heart's desire. 

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.** 

⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge. 

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.

 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

 Lord God, your word is a lamp to our feet,

☞ a light to our path.

Arise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

☞ Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al- le- lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☞ Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or spirit

Song of the Day

God! When Human Bonds are Broken

ELW 603

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Empower our leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Trinity Lutheran Church of Battle Creek, Welcome Corners United Methodist Church of Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.*

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military including: *Zack Green (Mikolajczyks), Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley (Burdicks), Brady Rudesill (Hansen), and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).*

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving, *including Kay Corrigan, Jennifer Anderson, Buck, Bill Ehredt, Lyn Mulnix, Kathy (Victoria S. sister), Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Delmer Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Doug Hensley, Ed McManaway, Darcy Markwart, Elsie Merrow, Paislee Miller, Kim Ogden, Barb Swift, Kailie Triick, George Ulrich Jr., Travis, family of Charles Smith (Jamie Keyser), and Sue Walker.*

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

A With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died and now rest in your presence. Sustain us in hope of the resurrection and bring us into the joy of unending life in you.

A Radiant God,

G **let your light shine upon us.**

P Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

Arise in body or spirit

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
- Ⓑ You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

Arise in body or spirit

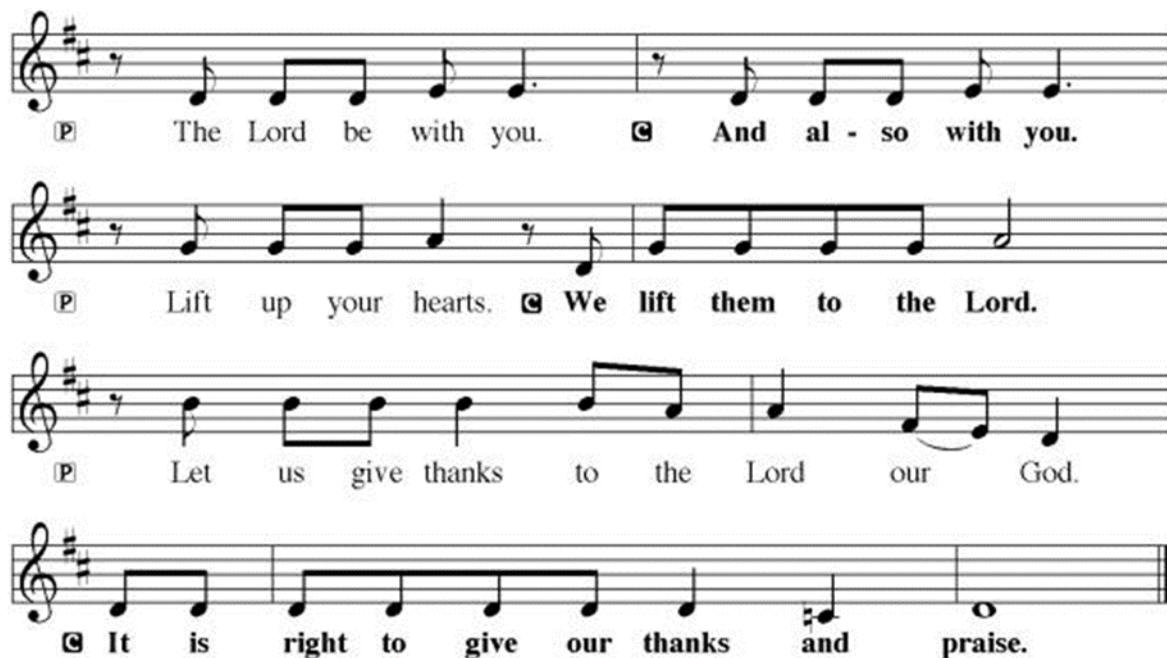
Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever living God. Sharing our life, Christ lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

- Ⓟ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
- Ⓞ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**
- Ⓟ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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 for 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 for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.



- ☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.



- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.



- ☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

- ☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.
☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ Bread is served by the Pastor. Wine is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

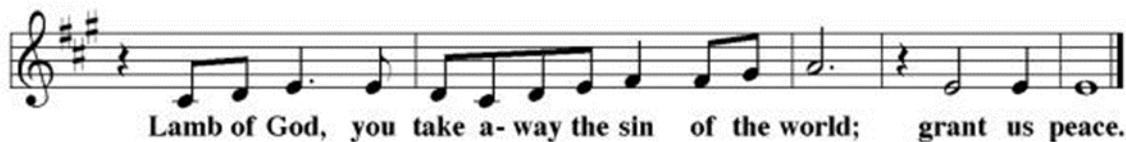
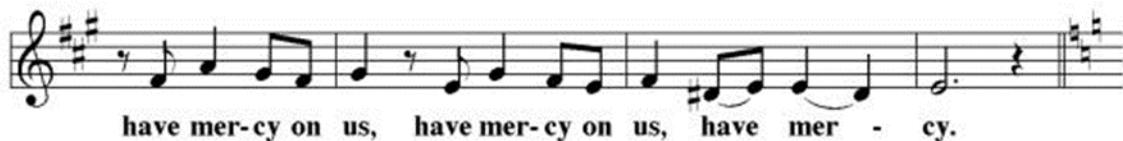
✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ Grape Juice is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A Verbal Blessing may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish communion brought to you in the pew, please notify the usher.



Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your Love
Praise and Thanks and Adoration

ELW 716
ELW 708
ELW 783

Sending of Communion

- A** Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- A** O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- C** **You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Congregational Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P** The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW 775

Dismissal

- A** Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 24

Worship Services at 8 am and 10:45 am
Youth Group 6pm

Tuesday, February 26

Youth Committee Mtg 6 pm

Thursday, February 28

Clapper Kids at 3:45 pm
Grace Notes at 5:45 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Emma Peck	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Anna Scheck
Lector	Carol Vos	Kristi Winick
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Lance Ogden
Usher	Dave Neeb/Kay Marsh	Gary Golnek/ Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteer	Doug & Diane Neeb
Children's Church		Tom & Cheryl Drumm

Table Guild Vickey Argo & Jane Secor

Bread Maker Gwen Hansen

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 3, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	Chis Bush	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Volunteer
Usher	Mark & Jana Bishop	Doug & Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark & Jana Bishop	Eve Wright & Jeanette Markwart
Children's Church		
Table Guild	<i>Volunteer</i>	
Bread Maker	Deb Wilke	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 82 Weekly Giving: \$3,482.00 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

Adult Forum will meet today at 9:30 and the focus will be Words of Judgment. Next week we will study Dangerous Times.

Check your mailboxes for Lent schedules, GraceGrams and server schedules.

Youth Group meets today at 6 pm.

Youth Committee meets Tuesday at 6 pm.

Mark your calendar for Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Praising God with Puppets. If you are interested in renewing our puppet ministry, please contact Chris Bush.

Mutual Ministry is having an opportunity for you to discuss any topic with them on March 10, 2019 at 9:30 am. If there is a ministry concern, please contact Pastor Ken. Pastor Ken is our member of the Mutual Ministry Committee that is highlighted this week and can be reached by a phone call or a text message at 269.370.4632.

Pasties... Coming to give you enjoyment. We will put them together for a pickup on March 23, 2019. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the Gathering Area.

Want to be added to the email Prayer Chain? Contact Jane Secor secorje@gmail.com.

Carpet We are thankful to all who have contributed to the Carpet Fund. We started with a \$29,984.00 debt. Contributions have totaled \$27,361.12. We only have a \$2,348.88 debt remaining. Thank you for your partnership in reducing the debt we have on the carpet. You are a gift to us all.

Spring Cleaning Day here at Grace Lutheran Church is Saturday, March 16. Please sign-up.

New Member Class will begin on Sunday, 10 March 2019. This class will study Luther's Small Catechism and take place during the Adult Forum hour. All members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining the body of Christ here at Grace, please contact Pastor Ken. The class will meet each week until April 7th.

Mark your calendars for the showing of Beauty & The Beast, March 16 at 2:00 pm. The Social Activities committee invites you to sign up for the Hastings High School production of this favorite. Cost for tickets are \$10.00 for general admission and \$5.00 for senior citizens and students.

Family Promise Brunch – March 31st. See sign up sheet to contribute and attend – Gathering Area.