

Grace Lutheran Church

239 E North St
Hastings MI 49058



Website: www.grace-hastings.org

Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA Hastings, MI
Worship Committee e-mail: gracelutheranworshipcommittee@gmail.com

Phone: (269) 945-9414
(269) 945-2645

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
March 24, 2019
Third Sunday in Lent

To See Beyond

The fruit truck, sagging under loads of Florida oranges, careened, its brakes impotent. A dumbfounded man on morning errands curled into stilled silence inside his crushed Oldsmobile. Doctors looked but saw no hope: "It's time to give up." Steadfastly, every day into the barren seasons, the sound and touch of love attended him.

From sweltering southside projects to heatless northside slums, into streets at night and alleys by day, the child, more sad than angry, carried desperation until he was carried to prison. There, forgotten, he became more angry than sad. Guards looking at him saw no worth in him. But, piercing the hardbound walls, there came the faith of ones who refused to turn their faces away. Pacing for hours day after day, ignoring sunshine and rainfall, the woman hunched and twisted inside layers of coats over jackets on top of sweaters. She repeated aimless steps outside the treatment center, chatting as if she had more company than her cigarette. Looking through windows, aides nodded: "She'll never change." A girl in jeans ran up to her, taking her hand. They walked together.

The buzzing at the door fell silent, and impatient knocking replaced it. A young man, shamefaced, slid a chain and turned the deadbolt. "You're late again. Always the same with you!" Then the ultimatum: "Your rent now or you're out!" Wobbling, the young man closed the door and sat, wooden-faced, holding his cat. Then the phone rang—"I have an idea."

"See here! . . . I have come looking . . ." (Luke 13:7).

"It's time to give up."

And they saw no worth in the boy.

And they nodded, "She'll never change."

And he said, "Always the same with you."

Yet the audacity of grace looks to see beyond barren seasons. The courage of hope looks to see beyond hardbound walls. The nerve of faith looks to see beyond aimless pacing. The boldness of mercy looks to see beyond shamed faces.

"Sir, . . . one more year" (Luke 13:8).

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.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019

Lent is a season of contrition and renewal. The color purple has become a symbol of penitence. The music of the season reflects our need for repentance and renewal, which is our effort to turn, again, towards God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit and face the baptismal font

Confession and Forgiveness

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

Amen

☞ In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

☞ God at the margins,

☛ **We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen**

☞ Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613 (red book)

Greeting

☞ Behold, now is the acceptable time;

☛ **now is the day of salvation.**

☞ The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin through the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray ... Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
- G** **Help us to hear your word and obey it and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

☐ A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**




Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there |
is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.


⁴**So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name. ☑**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
⁶**when I remember you up- | on my bed,**
and meditate on you in | the night watches.
⁷For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
⁸**My whole being | clings to you;**
your right hand | holds me fast. 

Second Reading


1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

 A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

 The word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, O Lord



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
 2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
 true hu - mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our
 of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
 at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty.
 dawn of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



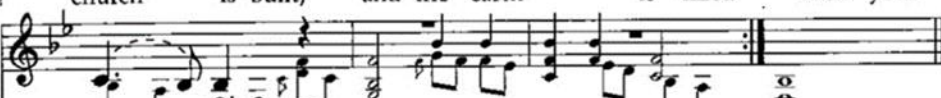
that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
 Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see your ma -
 And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of power that can
 faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
 nev - er fail; let their truth pre - vail o - ver
 church is built, and the earth is filled with your



glo - ry.
 un - be - lief.
 glo - ry.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

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

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

▣ 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

Rock of Ages

ELW 623

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

- A** Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

- A** Holy God, build up the body of Christ and cause the gifts of your Spirit to grow among us. Lead us to recognize your saving work through the spiritual practices you encourage. Empower our leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrysanne, David and Roseanne; our synod companion churches, Zion Lutheran Church of Cadillac, Church of Christ in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.*

- A** Lord in your mercy,

C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

- A** Water the earth with gentle rains and melting snow. Provide clean water for drinking, washing, and nourishing plants that will bear fruit for your creatures.

- A** Lord in your mercy,

C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

- A** Uphold people who speak your righteousness in the face of religious or political persecution. Receive martyrs *(like Oscar Arnulfo Romero, whom we commemorate today)* into your everlasting peace. 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), Joel Taggart (Varkula), and Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls).*

- A** Lord in your mercy,

C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

- A** Provide relief for those suffering and in pain. Grant wisdom to health care workers who seek to diagnose ailments and bring healing to patients. Comfort those in need, *including Vern Allerding, Justin, Newell, Wes Gillons, Opal Gillons, Valeria Poholski, Jack Poholski, Phil & Amy's dog, Gary Edwards, Betty Lydy, Steve Lydy, Jennifer Anderson, Jamie Coplin, Cherie Clements, Charlene Swank, Vivian, Dee DeFields, Matthew Downing, Karl Golnek, Nikki Haddix, Delmer Hansen, Mary Jane Hayner, Doug Hensley, Jack Lameffer family, Elsie Mellow, Kim Ogden, Kathy Ploude, Pearl Stutz family, Kallie Trick, safe travel for Ron and Carla Neil, families of tornado victims, family of Chris and Dana, Darlene Martino, Sandy Spears, Barlow family, Dustin H., and George Ulrich Jr.*

- A** Lord in your mercy,

C *(sung)* **Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.**

- A** Promote unity within your church and among the nations. Uncover the common threads in our shared humanity and keep us from making hasty judgments about others.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Lord in your mercy,
- ☑ *(sung)* Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓐ Knit together the communion of saints, and bind us to Christ, our head. Through the diversity of gifts present in our communities, help us to overcome our limitations and increase our understanding of ourselves and others.

- Ⓐ Lord in your mercy,
- ☑ *(sung)* Oh, Draw Me, Lord (x3) And I'll run after You.

Ⓟ Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the soprano voice, and the accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it."

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need.
- G** **Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen**

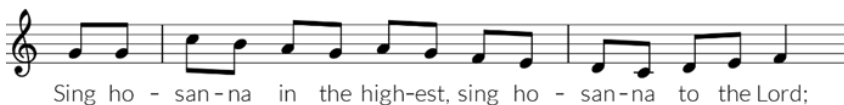
Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**
(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

☐ Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide

☑ **Together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.**

☐ You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock.

☑ **We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.**

☐ 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,

☑ **we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:

☑ **wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.**

☐ Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

☐ Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

☑ **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

☐ All who are hungry, come and eat the bread of life. All who are thirsty, come and drink the cup of salvation.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

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.



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Let Us Break Bread Together
Here is Bread
O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW 471
ELW 483
ELW 542

Sending of Communion Minister

- 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** Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy.
- C** **Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Congregational Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P** God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✚ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.
- 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

You Are Mine

ELW 581

Dismissal

- A** Reconciled to God through Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 24	Worship Services at 8 am & 10:45 am New Member Class 9:30 am Use of Property Mtg 2:00 – 3:30 pm Youth Group 6:00 pm
Tuesday, March 26	Council Mtg 6 pm Use of Property Mtg 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Wednesday, March 27	Wednesday Lenten Dinner – 6 pm Worship Service – 7 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Mark Anton
Cantor	Mark Anton	Anna Scheck
Lector	John Burdick	Jeanette Markwart
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Sandy Mosteller
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Volunteer
Usher	Dave Neeb / Kay Marsh	Gwen Hansen / Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Volunteer	Bill & Lorraine Freedlund
Children's Church	~	Laura Scheck
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	
Bread Maker	Deborah Wilke	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, March 31, 2019

	8:00 am	10:45 am
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Joe Longcor
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Lance Ogden
Usher	Mark & Jana Bishop	Mark Anton / Gary Golnek
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark & Jana Bishop	Laura Scheck / Kim Domke
Children's Church	~	Laura Scheck
Table Guild	Laura Scheck	
Bread Maker	Deborah Wilke	

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 84 Weekly Giving: \$ 3,673.00 Budget Amount: \$4,576.53

New Member Class continues today. This class will study Luther's Small Catechism and take place during the Adult Forum hour (9:30 – 10:30). All members are welcome to attend, as it is good for us to remind ourselves of God's grace revealed through the gift of Holy Communion, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Apostles' Creed and other materials. 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. We will take a break next week, so we can fellowship with everyone.

Mutual Ministry: If there is a ministry concern, please contact Carl Schoessel. Carl 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 269.838.8407.

Wednesday Lenten dinner and service will be held on March 27th – dinner at 6 pm and worship service at 7 pm. The Signs of Lent theme for this Wednesday is Yield. If you cannot join us in the evening, please come to Hastings Nazarene Church at 12 noon if you cannot come out at night.

Easter Flowers are available for you to order. Sign-up sheet is available on a table. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the HVAC project.

Family Promise Brunch – March 31st. Please see sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to contribute food and let us know if you plan to attend!

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

Boxes can be picked up at the display table for ELCA WORLD HUNGER. If you desire to support this ministry, please turn it in by Easter. The box is designed to hold 40 quarters. There are also devotional books available to pick up at the table. ** If you are giving in the form of a check, please make it out to Grace Lutheran Church so that we can combine funds for ELCA.

Social Activities: We are happy to announce that we had 24 people attend the musical *Beauty & The Beast* presented at Hastings High School, at their new Performing Arts Center, on March 16th. We also had 21 people go out to dinner together after the play for some great socializing! Please "save the date" for a *Progressive Dinner* on Saturday, May 16th; more information to follow in upcoming bulletins.

Easter Candy Donations. Please bring candy that is prewrapped, which fits in plastic eggs. Thank you for your partnership in bringing some fun to our young people.

Planning meeting for shaping how our land could be utilized will be this afternoon and this Tuesday at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.