

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SWEDE HOME
Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Service of the Word



Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the recommendations of our government and church leaders to keep our vulnerable neighbors safe during the current Covid 19 virus outbreak we, along with our sister congregations in Stromsburg and Osceola are canceling Sunday worship for the rest of March. To continue to provide the comfort of God's word we are making each Sunday's bulletins available to our congregation at this difficult time.

As time goes on, we will continue to reach out to the needs of others. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or anyone you want included that may appreciate a call, please respond to the church email or call the church office **402-765-5981**. You will receive a recording at the office, please leave a message. You may also call Linda Fuhr, at her cell **402-366-2091**. You may also contact church council members:

Kent Adelson	402/362-9107
Todd Hanquist	402/764-0078
Lynn Hofmann	402/366-1765
Dan Oquist	402/366-8157
Fran Lott	402/710-0756
Sandy Johnston	402/881-7197
Daniel Ienn	402/710-0673

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

Amen.

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

¹The LORD | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL**John 9:1-41**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The expression often used these days is ‘uncharted waters.’ It certainly describes the events of today. The news of the day concerning the COVID-19 virus seem to change by the hour. We are human and it is normal to be concerned, worried and scared. However, we are also Christians and we know that God will carry us through this. Lent is a time of study and soul searching as we seek the voice of the Holy Spirit. This is a perfect opportunity to become familiar with the Bible and the teachings of our Lutheran faith.

The Gospel for today is taken from the 9th Chapter of John, verses 1-41. It is a long reading and it is important that you read all of it.

The story begins with Jesus walking in Jerusalem near the pool of Siloam. There were two pools, an upper and lower which were filled by a nearby spring. The steps leading into the pools were recently discovered in 2004. According to early rabbinic tradition, during the celebration of the Festival of Tabernacles, water was drawn from the pool into a golden vessel and carried in procession to the temple.

Many people would have gathered around this pool for various reasons. It was common to find beggars trying to get enough money to survive. When the disciples saw this blind man, they asked Jesus, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” It was common at that time, to believe that unusual sufferings came as a result of someone’s sin. Jewish tradition believed that people sometimes suffered because of their ancestors’ sins and occasionally allowed the possibility of a person sinning before birth.

Nancy Eiesland, Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion at Emory University has written: “Growing up with a disability, I could not accept the traditional interpretations of disability that I heard in prayers, in Sunday School, and in sermons. ‘You are special in God’s eyes,’ I was often told, ‘that’s why you were given this painful disability,’ or, ‘Don’t worry about your suffering now-in heaven you will be made whole.’ This confused me. My disability had taught me who I am and who God is. What would it mean to be without this knowledge?”

“My family frequented faith healers with me in tow. I was never healed. People asked about my hidden sins, but they must have been so well hidden that even I misplaced them. The theology that I heard was inadequate to my experience.”

It saddens and amazes me that people still think that way so many centuries later. I went to school with children who had polio or were born missing a limb but I never thought it was anyone’s fault.

Jesus responded by saying, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Most of the work in that time had to be done during daylight because you don’t want to waste burning oil at night.

Jesus made a paste and put it on the man’s eyes and told him to wash in the pool. For those people who attended our last Lenten Supper, they had a chance to see this in the movie, “Jesus of Nazareth.” After the man washed you could see the expression of his face change as he came out of the water and his vision cleared.

Of course, the people who witnessed this miracle, couldn’t believe it and said it couldn’t be the same man. They questioned him again, “How were your eyes opened?” The man replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash, so I went and washed, and then I could see.”

It seemed like a straight forward answer. Biblical scholars show that beggars had to learn to endure being refused and looked down on. It was a humiliating profession. The people took him to the Pharisees because when you don’t get the answers you want than go to the authorities. They shifted the argument to Jesus and that he cannot be a man of God because he does not keep the Sabbath. Do you see how the crowd is missing the point? The blind man is no longer blind. He can see. How quickly they forgot. They were not satisfied

with the authorities so they asked his parents. His parents do not want to be held responsible for his blindness so they say he is of age and he can answer for himself. They certainly do not want to say Jesus is the Messiah or they will be thrown out of the synagogue.

Throughout this interrogation, the once blind man sticks to his story of how he regained his sight. Finally, when Jesus heard the man had been thrown out of the synagogue, Jesus asks him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” and the man responded, “Who is he, sir? Tell me that I might believe in him.”

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

Then the man said, “Lord, I believe.”

Jesus then said, For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

There are two kinds of blindness; those who are physically blind and have great insight and those who are spiritually blind.

I remember when I was in college, students would say, “I don’t listen to the news. It’s too depressing.” True the news was not always good. But I felt that it was important to know what was going on in the world. It helped me to define what was important to me. Our church youth group had retreats to learn about hunger in the world and how we could make a small difference with the money we raised. We cleaned houses to earn money that bought toys for a child care center several congregations were starting. All of these things taught us that we are not the center of the universe. We depend on each other to make good choices and make the world a better place for everyone. Sometimes we need to wash the mud from our eyes and see as Jesus sees.

All of us are guilty of spiritual blindness. It is hard to turn our heads when we see ads for starving children or abused pets. Very few people have the resources to make a difference in world hunger or other disasters. However, as a group we can make a major difference in the world. It was reported last summer at the Church Wide Assembly, that the Malaria Campaign raised enough money to cut the death rate in half across Africa. That is a big deal. Our churchwide organizations such as Young Adults in Global Mission, Women of the ELCA, and Lutheran World Relief are doing great work to spread the Gospel around the world. The Nebraska Synod Disaster Relief Fund has helped many of the people of Nebraska recover from the floods last year. The work is still continuing.

Today we are in the midst of a crisis and that is why you are reading this sermon at home. The decision was made to cancel worship in our building to help stop the spread of the CORVID-19 virus. This was done out of love for our neighbor to keep all of us healthy. Until recently, there were people who didn’t take the warnings seriously, and the virus has spread. Taking care of each other is something the whole world has to do.

Bishop Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, said in a speech she gave, that we need to be church for each other. Lent is a time for study and reflection on our faith and what Jesus has done for us. Our two congregations will be working hard to contact our elderly members and anyone who needs some help during this time. There are volunteers in our congregations who will pick up groceries, medications or anything you need to get through this crisis. That is what it means to be church.

If anyone wants Holy Communion, I can visit you in your home or we can set up a time to have you come to the church. There are ways to do this and still protect ourselves.

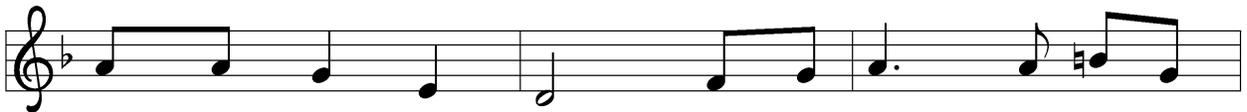
Use this time to pray more faithfully, and spend time listening to the Holy Spirit for direction. We can still enjoy the fresh air outside just not in a group. Be smart and stay well. Jesus has need of you.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this difficult time you may mail your offering to Calvary Lutheran Church, 950 129th Road, Stromsburg, NE 68666

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.
Amen.

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Know God, Love God, Share God's Love
Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We are saddened by the death of Vance Toline on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Vance was a life-long member of Calvary and an important part of our congregation. We offer the hope of the resurrection to his family and friends.

The Swede Home Council met Monday evening, March 16. In light of all the recommendations regarding the "flattening the curve" on the current Covid-19 virus, the council has decided that Sunday services on March 22 and March 29 along with Lenten Services on March 18, 25 and April 1 will be cancelled. This will also include the cancellation of the monthly Quilt day on March 26. Between now and the end of the month the council and Sister Anne will reevaluate the situation and determine what additional actions will be taken for April Services.

In the meantime we are sending the Sunday bulletin to you

As time goes on, we will continue to reach out to the needs of others. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or anyone you want included that may appreciate a call, please respond to the church email or call the church office **402-765-5981**. You will receive a recording at the office, please leave a message. You may also call Linda Fuhr, at her cell **402-366-2091**. You may also contact church council members:

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Fran Lott	402/710-0756
Sandy Johnston	402/881-7197
Daniel Ienn	402/710-0673

With the restrictions on nursing home visits, Sister Anne is limited to whom she can visit. She is available to anyone who would like the comfort of a visit and also if you would like private communion. Right now she will plan on Wednesday visits, but she is certainly available on other days of the week. Her direct number is 308-249-3810.

During this time of restricted gatherings it is important to remember and consider the financial needs of the congregation. The funding for our ministry will still happen during this time, even though we will not be meeting for worship and taking offering. We know these distressing times may also cause financial hardship on our families, but where ever possible, we are asking that you prayerfully consider mailing your offering to the church,

Calvary Lutheran Church

950 129th Rd

Stromsburg NE 68666

Salem Lutheran in Stromsburg and St. Paul Lutheran in Osceola are also cancelling services through March.

The quarterly devotionals are available at church at the Kitchen window and front entry. If anyone can pick up and deliver that would be appreciated. If you have no way of getting your copy, please call the church and leave a message. We will either deliver or mail.