



We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.  
If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

*Romans 14:7-8*

## **Swan Curtis Johnson**

**September 6, 1943 - November 16, 2020**  
**Quamba, MN – Maplewood, MN**

# Giving Thanks for the Life and Faith of Swan Johnson

Saturday, December 5, 2020, 2pm  
University Lutheran Church of Hope

Spoken assembly words are marked in **boldface**.

## PRELUDE AND PICTURES

*Finlandia*

Jean Sibelius

## WELCOME AND GATHERING WORDS

## HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, stanzas 1, 4, 6, 7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING AND PRAYER

## WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE BY THE FAMILY

### HYMN

### Now the Green Blade Rises

stanzas 1 & 4



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958  
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol  
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

**READING**

Romans 5:1-5

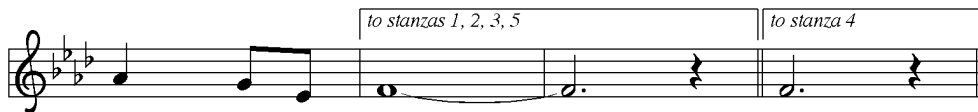
**PSALMODY**

Psalm 23, “Shepherd Me, O God”

*The verses are sung by the leader. The assembly sings the refrain.*



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

**READING**

Revelation 21:1-5

**HOMILY**

Pastor Gary Van Hunnik

**HYMN**

My Life Flows On In Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

## PRAYERS

*Following each petition:*

God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed 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.**

## SUNG COMMENDATION

### *If We Live*

Musical score for the song "If We Live". The score is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "If we live, we live to the Lord. If we die, we die to the Lord. So then, wheth-er we live or wheth-er we die, we are the Lord's." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and dotted notes, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second and third staves.

Text: Romans 14:8  
Music: Rolf Vegdahl

Music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## COMMENDATION

### MUSIC

I'll Fly Away

The ULCHers

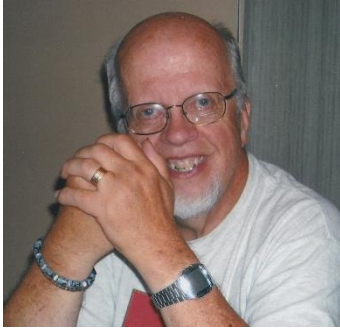
## BENEDICTION

### Leaders

Pastors Pastor Jen Nagel  
Pastor Gary Van Hunnik

Music Zach Busch  
Tim Gustafson  
Mark Nelson  
Paul Odenbach  
Ben Larson  
Jay Carlson

Tech Facilitators Ann Agrimson  
Rebecca Tetlie



**Swan Curtis Johnson** was born to Swedish immigrants, Signe and Swan R. Johnson. Growing up on the family farm near Quamba, MN, he was the youngest of 7 children. He and his family attended the Quamba Baptist Church, where he learned to love gospel music. He graduated from Mora High School in 1961. He joined the Navy in 1962 serving as a signalman on the USS Lake Champlain. He studied at the University of MN 1965-68. He worked in Dinkytown at Gray’s Campus Drug where he met Barbara, a waitress at the lunch counter. They were married at First Congregational Church nearly 50 yrs ago (Feb. 1971).

Swan was baptized in 1976 at Grace Lutheran in Raleigh, NC, the first church he and Barbara joined together. He believed in living out his faith by reaching out to those in need. In winters he delivered coal to people’s homes. He cooked/served meals at a homeless shelter, and provided transportation for homeless men staying in churches. He liked inviting new people to sing in the choir, where he was often the resident joke teller. He was known to “advise” the choir directors about his favorite hymns. He led Sunday school music, served as a Confirmation mentor and was always up for performing in various skits. A lifelong lutefisk fan, he especially loved preparing, serving and eating lutefisk for several years.

Swan worked as a salesman for many years. Always curious about a new venture, he and Barbara enjoyed living in different parts of the country, both before and after she was ordained. He studied and worked for a time in graphic arts, dog grooming and taught OSHA safety procedures for various businesses. He concluded his working career as Safety Director at Willmar School Bus Co. In retirement he volunteered as a “Spellbinder” storyteller for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Grand Jct. Co for 7 yrs. He was a volunteer at St Mary’s hospital, Grand Jct., Co. and HealthEast Clinic in Maplewood, MN. Swan was a voracious reader. He loved singing, listening and making music on guitar, ukulele, harmonica, and sweet potato ocarina. He sang in 6 church choirs, a Community chorus in Devils Lake, ND, WCC Barbershop chorus in Willmar, MN, and the North Suburban Chorus in Roseville, MN. He performed in community theater at Fort Totten, No.Dak (“Li’l Abner”) and in Grand Jct Co (“Phantom of the Opry”). “Mr Swanny” began clowning in No Dakota, then joined a clowning group in Willmar, making balloon animals, tossing candy and riding his tricked-out trike in small town parades. Swan was a crafter, carving diamond willow walking sticks and designing bracelets and necklaces to sell at craft shows. He especially liked selling Swedish Rugs with his lifelong



friend Alan Ostrom. His dream trip was to Sweden where he found his mother’s family homestead. Swan rode motorcycles, bicycles, recumbent bikes and trikes. He rode across No Dakota and Minnesota several times to raise funds for MS research. Swan and Barbara’s many road trips often included stopping at a lake or ocean pier to drop in a fishing line.



Swan was hospitalized Oct. 29 after a fall at home resulting in a severe head injury. On November 16, 2020, he died peacefully, holding Barbara’s hand. His last 24 hours were filled with calls from family members who filled his ears with love and memories and tears and laughter.

Swan was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Robert, Reuben (Bernice), Morris (Arlene), Bruce, and sister Frances. He is deeply missed by his dog-pal Misty, his wife Barbara, sister Carole Lindstrom (Norman Johnson), beloved in-laws Dolly (Don) Masterson, Randee (John) Edmundson and Bill (Emma) Wallace, 14 nephews & nieces and their families, and many other extended family and dear friends.

Swan was truly blessed throughout his life with so much love in conversations and campfires, lunches and dinners, bike rides and belly laughs and general silliness in relationships with his beloved family and friends.

UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF  
LUTHERAN HOPE

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