

Funeral Planning Worksheet

As Christian people, we know that death does not have the final answer. Through God's grace, Jesus has conquered sin and death forever. As we profess in the Apostles' Creed, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

The Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship States:

At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing. – p. 279

In the days following a death, it can often be overwhelming for family members to put the details of a funeral together. Whether it is following a long illness or a surprising accident, your loved ones may wonder what your wishes really were. This worksheet is an opportunity for you to think about these things now, discussing them with your family, friends, and pastor. A copy will be kept at St. Martin's Lutheran to assist the pastor and your family in planning your funeral. It is not a legally binding document, but a guide and starting point for having conversation about what is to come.

Basic information

Full name:

Cause of death:

Date of death:

Place of death:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Date of baptism:

Place of baptism:

Date of confirmation:

Place of confirmation:

Date of marriage:

Place of marriage:

Spouse's name:

Survived by:

Preceded in death by:

Work and education:

Hobbies, activities, and passions:

Next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements:

Visitation

No visitation

Visitation at funeral home

Visitation at the church

Funeral

Funeral location (circle one):

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Funeral Home: _____

Other: _____

Communion? (circle one):

Yes

No

Unsure

Including others

Pall bearers (up to eight):

Honorary pall bearers:

Readers (up to three):

Ushers (two to four):

Assisting minister:

Remembrances

Memories during the service? (circle one): Yes

No

Names (no more than three):

Burial

Internment (circle one): In the earth Mausoleum Cremation

If internment in the ground, have you secured a cemetery plot?

(circle one): Yes No Where?

Military honors

Did the deceased serve in the military? (circle one): Yes No

What branch? When?

Memorial gifts

Recipients include:

- St. Martin's Lutheran Church (circle one)
- General Fund Memorial Fund Legacy Endowment Fund
- Other:
- Other:

Gifts are to be in lieu of flowers (circle one): Yes No

SUGGESTED FUNERAL TEXTS AND HYMNS

You may choose one Old Testament reading, such as:

Job 19:23-27a: *I know that my Redeemer lives*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: *For everything there is a season*
Isaiah 25:6-9: *God will swallow up death forever*
Isaiah 40:1, 6-11: *God will gather the lambs*
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31: *Comfort my people, says your God*
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7: *I have called you by name*
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19: *I am about to do a new thing*
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13: *Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters*
Isaiah 61:1-3: *The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me*
Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25: *A new heaven and a new earth*
Isaiah 66:10-14: *As a mother comforts her child*
Jeremiah 31:8-13: *I will turn their mourning into joy*
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33: *The steadfast love of the LORD*

You may choose a Psalm to be prayed by the congregation, such as:

Psalm 23: *The LORD is my shepherd*
Psalm 42:1-5: *As a deer longs for flowing streams*
Psalm 46:1-7: *God is our refuge and strength*
Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills*
Psalm 139:7-12: *The gracious omnipresence of the LORD*
Psalm 142:1-6: *I cry to the LORD with my voice*
Psalm 143: *LORD, hear my prayer*

You may choose a New Testament reading, such as:

Romans 5:1-11: *Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*
1 Corinthians 15:12-26: *Christ, the first fruits, has been raised*
2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18: *Treasure in clay jars*
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18: *Teaching about those who have died*
Hebrews 12:1-2: *Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses*
1 Peter 1:3-9: *A living hope through Jesus' resurrection*
1 John 3:1-2: *See what love the Father has given us*
Revelation 7:9-17: *God will wipe away every tear*
Revelation 21:2-7: *I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem*
Revelation 22:1-5: *The Lord God will be their light*

The pastor will read one Gospel of your choosing, such as:

- Matthew 5:1-10: *Blessed are those who mourn*
- Matthew 11:25-30: *I will give you rest*
- Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14: *A child is the greatest in the kingdom*
- Mark 10:13-16: *Let the little children come*
- Mark 16:1-7: *The resurrection of Christ*
- Luke 24:1-9: *The resurrection of Christ*
- John 1:1-5, 9-14: *The light shines in the darkness*
- John 6:37-40: *I will raise them up on the last day*
- John 10:11-16: *I am the good shepherd*
- John 11:21-27: *I am the resurrection and the life*
- John 14:1-6: *I prepare a place for you*
- John 14:25-27: *Peace I leave with you*

ELW Hymns (select up to three)

Abide with Me	629
A Mighty Fortress is our God	504
Amazing Grace	779
Beautiful Savior	838
Children of the Heavenly Father	781
For All the Saints	422
Holy God, Holy and Glorious	637
How Small Our Span of Life	636
Give Me Jesus	770
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer	618
How Great Thou Art	856
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	619
Lift High the Cross	660
Lord of all Hopefulness	765
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	759
On Eagle's Wings	787
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	773
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	608
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done	366
Thy Holy Wings	613

Special music: _____