

Funeral Service Planning Guide

Faith Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls, SD

(Updated 2019)

Introduction: St. Paul tells us in Romans 14:7-8, “None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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.” Both our lives and our deaths are occasions to glorify the Lord. How can we do this through our funerals? By choosing Scripture readings and hymns that witness to the faith the Holy Spirit has given us in Christ and the salvation Christ gives us by grace through faith in Him.

Planning for your funeral service can help you affirm your faith in the risen Christ, praise Him for the gift of eternal life, and also leave a Christ-centered legacy. By putting your desires in writing, you also help your survivors know that they are fulfilling them. Explore the suggested Scripture passages in this guide—it makes a great personal Bible study! Please also select several hymns, or think of others. And then please share this sheet: leaving copies at the church office, with family members, and with your funeral director.

Full Name:

Date & Place of Baptism: _____

Confirmation Date & Verse: _____

Scripture Readings:

(Note: Psalm 23 is read in most funerals at Faith. Please choose three readings from among the following sections.)

Suggested Old Testament Readings:

- _____ Job 19:21-27 (I know that my Redeemer lives)
- _____ Psalm 25 (Guard my soul and deliver me)
- _____ Psalm 27 (The Shepherd carries His people)
- _____ Psalm 39 (The measure of my days)
- _____ Psalm 46 (God is our fortress)
- _____ Psalm 84 (Better is one day in Your courts)
- _____ Psalm 90 (Our everlasting dwelling place)
- _____ Psalm 91 (In the shelter of the Most High)
- _____ Psalm 100 (We are His people)
- _____ Psalm 121 (My help comes from the LORD)
- _____ Psalm 127 (The LORD builds the house)
- _____ Psalm 130 (I wait for the LORD)
- _____ Psalm 139 (Fearfully & wonderfully made)

- _____ Psalm 145 (Great is the LORD)
- _____ Psalm 146 (Hope in the LORD)
- _____ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He swallows up death forever)
- _____ Isaiah 40 - portions (He will tend His flock)
- _____ Isaiah 41:8-10 (Fear not, for I am with you)
- _____ Isaiah 43:1-3a, 25 (You are Mine)
- _____ Isaiah 53 (The Suffering Servant)
- _____ Isaiah 61:1-3, 10 (Gladness instead of mourning)
- _____ Lam. 3:22-33 (Great is Your faithfulness)
- _____ Daniel 12:1-3 (Those who sleep shall awake)

Suggested Epistle Readings:

- _____ Romans 5:1-11 (Christ died for us)
- _____ Rom. 6:3-10 - (Baptized into Christ’s death)
- _____ Rom. 8 - portions (We are more than conquerors)
- _____ 1 Cor. 15 - portions (The resurrection body)
- _____ 2 Cor. 4:16-5:8 (Our heavenly dwelling)
- _____ Philippians 1:19-23 (To live is Christ)
- _____ 1 Thess. 4:13-18 (Grieving with hope)
- _____ 2 Timothy 2:8-13 (We will live with Him)
- _____ 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (I have finished the race)
- _____ 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Born again to a living hope)
- _____ 1 John 3:1-3 (Children of God)
- _____ Revelation 7:9-17 (The Lamb and His saints)
- _____ Revelation 21:1-7 (The New Creation)
- _____ Revelation 22:1-5 (The Lord will be their Light)

Suggested Gospel Readings:

- _____ Matthew 5:1-12 (Blessed are you)
- _____ Matthew 11:25-30 (I will give you rest)
- _____ Matthew 28:1-10 (He has risen, as He said)
- _____ Luke 2:22-33 (Depart in peace)
- _____ John 3:16-21 (God so loved the world)
- _____ John 5:24-30 (The believer has eternal life)
- _____ John 6:27-40 (I will raise him up on the last day)
- _____ John 10:11-16, 27-29 (The Good Shepherd)
- _____ John 11:21-27 (Resurrection and the Life)
- _____ John 14:1-6 (The Way, the Truth & the Life)

Sermon Text:

- _____ The Pastor may choose the text.
- _____ I would like the Pastor to preach from this passage: _____.

Hymns and Songs (Choose up to four):

(Note: while hymns or solos are not limited to these, they should reflect Scripture’s clear message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. The Pastor will have the final responsibility in selecting songs.)

- _____ “Abide with Me” (LSB 878)
- _____ “Amazing Grace” (LSB 744)
- _____ “Beautiful Savior” (LSB 537)
- _____ “Because He Lives”

- _____ "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"
- _____ "By Grace I'm Saved" (LSB 566)
- _____ "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (LSB 611)
- _____ "Children of The Heavenly Father" (LSB 725)
- _____ "Christ Be My Leader" (LSB 861)
- _____ "Christ, the Life of All the Living" (LSB 420)
- _____ "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (LSB 525)
- _____ "Eternal Father Strong to Save" (LSB 717)
- _____ "For All the Saints" (LSB 677)
- _____ "How Great Thou Art" (LSB 801)
- _____ "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" (LSB 740)
- _____ "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB 461)
- _____ "I'm But A Stranger Here" (LSB 748)
- _____ "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- _____ "In the Cross Of Christ I Glory" (LSB 427)
- _____ "In the Garden"
- _____ "I Will Rise"
- _____ "Jerusalem The Golden" (LSB 672)
- _____ "Jesus, Lead Thou On" (LSB 718)
- _____ "Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won" (LSB 490)
- _____ "Jesus Loves Me" (LSB 588)
- _____ "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
- _____ "Just as I Am" (LSB 570)
- _____ "Lord Take My Hand & Lead Me" (LSB 722)
- _____ "My Hope Is Built ..." (LSB 575)
- _____ "Nearer My God to Thee" (LW 514)
- _____ "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (LSB 733)
- _____ "On Eagles' Wings" (LSB 727)
- _____ "Rock of Ages" (LSB 761)
- _____ "Softly and Tenderly"
- _____ "Take My Life and Let It Be" (LSB 784)
- _____ "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (LSB 709)
- _____ "The Lamb" (LSB 547)
- _____ "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" (LSB 710)
- _____ "The Lord's Prayer"
- _____ "The Old Rugged Cross"
- _____ "This Is My Father's World"
- _____ "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (LSB 770)
- _____ "What Is the World to Me?" (LSB 730)
- _____ "When Peace Like A River" (LSB 763)
- _____ Other:

Special Music (optional):

(Please note if you would like any hymns or songs to be sung by a soloist.)

The Funeral Pall:

(Note: the funeral pall is an ornate covering placed over the casket at the beginning of the service. It signifies that, in Holy Baptism, you are God's child and clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin.)

- _____ Use the pall.
- _____ Do not use the pall.

Memorials:

(Note: memorial gifts are optional. You or your family can select one of the following, choose a different recipient, or leave this section blank.)

- _____ Faith Lutheran Church Endowment
- _____ Sioux Falls Lutheran School
- _____ Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls
- _____ Main Street Living
- _____ Other:

Please use this space to record additional notes or preferences:
