

Messiah Lutheran Church

Funeral Planning Worksheet

Upon a person's death, the Church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth, as we remember the promise of the Resurrection. A funeral liturgy allows those who mourn to give voice to sorrow, thank God for their loved one, and entrust their companion into the hands of God. At the time of death, your family should notify and work with both the pastor and funeral director, ensuring your wishes are honored and Lutheran funeral practices are observed out of respect for your faith, your family, and the church family of which you are a beloved member.

Because the whole of Christian life is shaped by our Baptism into the crucified and risen Christ, formed by the proclaimed Word of God, and nurtured through the Sacrament of the Altar, the funeral rite of the Church also reflects these practices. Except in very unusual circumstances, the body or cremated remains of a church member are brought to the church, celebrating one's Baptism into Christ and promise of resurrection of the body. A public liturgy of the Word is celebrated and presided over by the current pastor(s) of this congregation. The service is open to the congregation, family members, and guests who share in common grief. Following the church liturgy, a committal service at the graveside is the common practice. When extenuating circumstances requiring variations to these standard practices arise, other options should be discussed and arranged with the pastor.

For some, it is a comfort knowing that certain details of the funeral service have been prepared in advance. Still others prefer to have the pastor and loved ones plan the liturgy at the time of death. This worksheet gives you the opportunity to make some choices now regarding your funeral liturgy. If you would prefer to leave any of these decisions to the pastor or your next of kin, simply leave the options blank. Also on this worksheet is an option to communicate to the church your intended bequests, if any, and desired memorial gift recipients. This information will remain confidential and on file in the church office until the time of death, and you may update it at any time.

Your Information

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Please fill in your name as you would like it in the bulletin.

Baptismal Date: _____ Confirmation Date: _____ Confirmation Verse: _____

Special/Favorite Bible Verse(s): _____

Church Involvement: _____

Work History: _____

Contact Information

Name(s) of next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements upon your death:

1.) _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

2.) _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

Family Information

Spouse: _____ Years Married: _____

Child(ren): _____

Grandchild(ren): _____

Other Information: _____

Funeral Service Information

Special Speaker: _____
You may choose one person to speak during the funeral service or you may choose to have no one to speak other than the pastor. Remember people are free to speak at the following reception/luncheon.

Special Musician: _____
You may wish to have someone play or sing a special piece of music during or before the service.

Special Music Piece: _____
Not all music is appropriate for a Christian Funeral, so this is subject to pastoral approval.

First Reading: **Standard Suggested Reading*

- _____ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, ...)*
- _____ Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (For everything there is a season, ...)
- _____ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever...)
- _____ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn...)
- _____ Psalm 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd, ...)
- _____ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him, ...)
- _____ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives...)
- _____ Other: _____

Second Reading: **Standard Suggested Reading*

- _____ 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (Now if Christ has been proclaimed as raised from the dead...)*
- _____ Romans 5:11 (We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...)
- _____ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed...)
- _____ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal...)
- _____ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him...)
- _____ Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear...)
- _____ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I will make all things new...)
- _____ Other: _____

Gospel Reading: **Standard Suggested Reading*

- _____ John 11:1-4, 11-44 (Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany...)*
- _____ Matthew 11:25-30 (I will give you rest...)
- _____ John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life...)
- _____ John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me...)
- _____ John 10:11-16 (I am the Good Shepherd...)
- _____ John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life...)
- _____ Revelation 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms...)
- _____ Other: _____

Hymns

Please select 3 hymns.

- _____ I Know That My Redeemer Lives (LSB 461)
- _____ Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (LSB 474)
- _____ Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord (LSB 497)
- _____ Holy, Holy, Holy (LSB 507)
- _____ O Savior, Precious Savior (LSB 527)
- _____ Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (LSB 563)
- _____ Just as I Am, without One Plea (LSB 570)
- _____ We Know That Christ is Raised (LSB 603)
- _____ A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656,657)
- _____ For All The Saints (LSB 677)
- _____ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (LSB 700)
- _____ My Faith Looks Up to Thee (LSB 702)
- _____ The King of Love My Shepard Is (LSB 709)
- _____ The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (LSB 710)
- _____ On Eagles' Wings (LSB 727)
- _____ How Firm A Foundation (LSB 728)
- _____ I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (LSB 729)
- _____ O God, Our Help in Ages Past (LSB 733)
- _____ Jesus, Priceless Treasure (LSB 743)
- _____ Amazing Grace (LSB 744)
- _____ Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (LSB 761)
- _____ Abide with Me (LSB 878)

- _____ Other (as available in Lutheran hymnals) _____
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Funeral Home and Visitation

Name of Funeral Home: _____ Location: _____

Have you done any pre-planning with the funeral home? (Circle One): Yes / No

Visitation Location (Check One): ___ Funeral Home ___ The Church

Final Viewing Location (Check One): ___ Funeral Home ___ The Church

Cemetery/Internment

Internment (Check One): ___ In the Ground ___ Mausoleum ___ Cremation

Name of Cemetery: _____ Location: _____

If internment will be in the ground, have you secured a plot? (Circle One): Yes / No

Do you want the pastor present during the internment for a committal?
(Circle One): Yes / No / Unsure

Funeral Reception/Luncheon

Will there be a reception at Messiah? (Circle One): Yes / No / Unsure

If you answered yes to the above:

Do you desire to have a (Check One): ___ Light Refreshments (Provided by Messiah)
 ___ Full Luncheon (Provided by Family)
 ___ Nothing

If you want a luncheon, who will be providing the food? (Check One)

- ___ Family
- ___ Caterer: _____
- ___ Other: _____

Eulogies and speakers are normally invited to share their memories of you during the reception/luncheon rather than at the funeral service itself. This provides a comfortable atmosphere and plenty of time for your loved ones to speak. Do you want to allow for such a time at the reception/luncheon? (Circle One): Yes / No / Unsure

Memorial Gifts

I/We have shared with my next of kin where financial gifts in my memory should be directed. (Circle One): Yes / No / Unsure

Recipients Include:

_____ Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle

_____ Other _____

_____ Other _____

_____ Other _____

Planned Giving (Optional Section)

_____ I/We have included Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle in my/our will.

_____ I/We have planned another type of deferred gift.

(Please list: life insurance, gift-annuity, charitable trust, etc.): _____

If you have checked one of the above options, you may wish to note the following:

Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle is included in my/our estate plan for:

_____ Percentage: _____%

_____ Fixed Amount: \$ _____

Signature

Please share any additional details or request:

Name of person preparing this form: (print) _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do you desire a visit with the pastor to discuss these plans? (Circle One): Yes / No

Please return to: Messiah Lutheran Church, 7050 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115