

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Funeral Brochure



Christian funerals take place within the context of our trust in the promises of God, promises of both forgiveness and new life in Christ. While we grieve, we also remember that death is but a transformation, a change, or a passage to this promised new life.

We trust that you will find information in this brochure that will help you during this difficult time.

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INTRODUCTION

When death comes to members and friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, we all feel the loss, but your sense of loss is always unique. The death of a loved one is a painful, difficult and confusing time that is filled with many emotions. It is also a celebration of the resurrection for us who have been joined to the death of Christ in our own baptism.

When you experience a death in your family, please call the church office to inform us so we can be a support and help to you in this difficult time. If the deceased has not preplanned their funeral, you will be faced with a multitude of decisions in a very short period of time.

Because you are planning a worship service, there are some things set by church policy and other things where you will have more discretion. These will be spelled out in this booklet.

As you plan, you may consider what your loved one would have wanted, but also consider what is meaningful to you. The funeral service is primarily for you, your family and friends to express your needs and faith in God. Ritual is a powerful, necessary experience we all need as we face loss and life transitions.

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THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

The death of a human being is a reminder of the brevity of life on earth and of the universal, inescapable nature of life's end. In the face of death, care for the dying and those who have died is a fundamental sign of humanness, giving expression to deeply held convictions about the meaning of life's end. The church's most deeply held conviction is the Paschal Mystery—Christ's saving passage through death to resurrected life as the new creation. The ritual of worship that gathers God's people at the death of a loved one calls upon this Paschal Mystery in which we live and which is the mutual consolation and hope presented by the church in the worship service for a Christian funeral.

The service generally lasts from 35 to 60 minutes. Holy Communion may be celebrated as a part of the funeral worship. All in attendance are invited to participate in the sacrament. While it is very appropriate for family members or friends to share memories and deliver eulogies remembering the deceased, they should be brief and concise. Because the focus of our liturgy is the hope of baptism and the promises of the resurrected Christ, the sanctuary of the church is the most appropriate place for a Christian funeral. If you desire to have the service at the funeral home or a short service at the grave site, this is also appropriate, and the pastor(s) will be happy to lead the service in these locations.

MEETING WITH THE PASTOR

Plan a meeting between the pastor and immediate family members or a family representative to discuss details for the service before finalizing arrangements with the funeral home. This will include such things as who is to participate in the service, preferred scripture readings, choice of hymns to be sung, or other musical preferences. You will also be asked to share insights about the deceased which will help to prepare the sermon, prayers and other aspects of the service.

Meaningful funerals do not just happen. They require your time and focus. Planning may feel less burdensome when you create a personalized, inclusive ceremony that will help your family and other mourners during this time of bereavement and beyond.

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WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE FUNERAL HOME

As soon as you make contact with a funeral home they will immediately begin to take care of the details. The funeral director takes responsibility for the body of the deceased, the gathering of the necessary information for the death certificates, the ordering of the death certificates and compliance with legal requirements. He/She will meet with the family to discuss your wishes and will also coordinate the details of the service to meet your plans as discussed with the Pastor. You can expect to be offered a wide selection of caskets, vaults or urns that will reflect your wishes. They also can contact and make the cemetery arrangements, if you provide the deed to the burial site.

Appropriate clothing for the deceased would be what is generally worn for a special occasion. Normally you would choose their favorite color in the suit or dress selected. A shirt and tie is most appropriate for men. Jewelry that has family significance and coordinates with the clothing is most generally used. The jewelry will be removed prior to the closing of the coffin if the family requests it to be returned.

The family is expected to write the obituary. The obituary is often made available through the internet. The death announcement and the obituary appearing in the newspaper or on the internet will be taken care of by the funeral directory. Obituary folders are printed by the funeral home. Prince of Peace prints bulletins for the service at no cost.

The funeral director will also take care of the arrangements for viewing/visitation and family prayer service, if desired, prior to or on the day of the funeral.

May God support us all the day long till the shades lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in mercy may God give us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.

- John Henry Newman

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THESE THINGS WILL BE NEEDED

The following are items that may be needed by the funeral home:

Recent Photo	Glasses
Dentures	Jewelry
Organization/Association Pins	Suit
Shirt and Tie	Dress
Full Underclothing	Officiating Clergy
Soloist or Choir (if desired)	Organist/Musician
Hymns	Cemetery Deed
Veteran's Discharge Papers	Social Security Number
Deceased's Birthplace	Father's Name
Mother's Maiden Name	

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE

At a funeral home the body may be present for viewing prior to the service and often the night before during visitation with family and friends. If the service is held at Prince of Peace, it is possible to have a viewing in the Gathering Space. The casket is closed for the funeral service itself.

Cremation is an acceptable option for those who wish to consider it. Viewing of the body of a loved one remains an important part of the grieving process and arrangements may be made for that possibility, if desired, with a memorial service scheduled following the cremation.

When the body is present for a funeral service, the pastor will lead the procession with the coffin. The family may choose to process in with the coffin or be ushered into the sanctuary beforehand. A memorial service does not ordinarily begin with a processional. If the deceased has been cremated, the cremains may be placed before the altar during the memorial service or may not be present at the service.

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THE DEATH OF A CHILD

The death of a child leaves parents, grandparents and the community with a multitude of losses. Not only the death of this little one who already became such a precious part of one's life (whether born or stillborn), but also the loss of our hope and dreams for this child. It can be experienced as the loss of our future.

Whether this loss is through miscarriage, stillbirth, shortly after birth, or after they have grown, it is essential to have ritual around the death of a child and for the parent(s) to have support. It can be therapeutic to be actively involved in creating a meaningful worship service (ritual) for the child(ren). There are resources of poems, readings, prayers, etc. available at the church, hospitals and funeral homes.

While emergency baptism should not be done out of a fear of God, there are pastoral occasions when the sacrament is most fitting—such as when a newborn child and the parent(s) are wrestling with impending death and the comfort of baptism can be called upon. In cases of imminent death, a person may be baptized by any Christian.

At the funeral or memorial service for a child, you can use hymns and songs that consider the songs used in Sunday School, like “Jesus Loves Me” or “This Little Light of Mine.”

THE FUNERAL PALL

One of the symbols we have available at the church for your use during the funeral liturgy is a funeral pall. The funeral pall is a woven covering placed over the casket prior to the start of worship and remains on the casket throughout the service. It is symbolic of the garment we believe God put on us when we were joined to the death and resurrection of Christ in our own baptism. The pall is removed when the casket is taken from the church building for burial. It is not appropriate to have anything on top of the pall. Flowers may be placed on the casket during viewing prior to the service.

A funeral pall is available to cover the urn containing the deceased's cremains at a memorial service. The pall is placed over the cremains when they are carried into the service and remains until the cremains are carried out of the service. The pall may also be placed over the cremains at the baptismal font or when they are placed at the front of the sanctuary.

Our funeral palls are an off-white woven material with Christian symbols. There is no cost for the use of the palls.



SCRIPTURE TEXTS

The family is invited to choose scripture texts which are meaningful for them. In addition, the pastor may also choose a text or two. The following is a suggested list which is by no means exhaustive:

Death in General

Job 19: 1, 23-27a	“For I know that my Redeemer lives”
Psalms 23	“The Lord is my Shepherd”
Psalms 91	“My God, in whom I trust”
Psalms 121	“I lift up my eyes to the hills”
Psalms 130	“Out of the depths I cry to you”
Psalms 139: 1-18	“O lord, you have searched me and known me”
Isaiah 25:6-9	“God will wipe away tears from all faces”
Isaiah 40:27-31	“They shall run and not be weary”
Isaiah 43:1-3a	“I have called you by name”
Matthew 5:6-8	“Blessed are they who thirst after righteousness”
Matthew 25:1-13	“Ten bridesmaids and their lamps”
John 10:27-29	“My sheep hear my voice”
John 11:21-27	“I am the resurrection and the life”
John 14:1-6	“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places”
Romans 5:1-11	“Since we are justified by faith, we have peace”
Romans 8:31-35,37-39	“Nothing can separate us from God’s love”
Romans 14:7-9	“We do not die to ourselves”
I Corinthians 15:12-26	“Christ has been raised from the dead”
I Corinthians 15:51-57	“We will all be changed”
Philippians 3:20-21	“Our citizenship is in heaven”
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	“Do not grieve without hope”
1 Peter 1:3-9	“A new birth into a living hope”
Revelation 7:9-17	“Who are those robed in white”
Revelation 14:13	“Blessed are the dead”

Sudden Death:

Genesis 4:10	“The voice of your brother’s blood cries”
Job 12:10	“In God’s hand is the soul of every living thing”
Job 13:15	“Though he slay me, yet will I trust”
Job 14:1	“Man born of a woman is of a few days”
Psalms 46:1-7	“God is our refuge and strength”
Psalms 103:15-16	“As for man, his days are like grass”
Isaiah 55:8-9	“My thoughts are not your thoughts”

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SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Death after Prolonged Illness

Job 3:20-22	"Which long for death, but it doesn't come"
Psalms 16:6	"I have a goodly heritage"
Psalms 30:11-12	"You have turned my mourning into dancing"
Psalms 31:24	"Be of good courage, he will strengthen you"
Psalms 34:19	"Many your afflictions, but the Lord delivers you"
Psalms 126:5-6	"Those who sow in tears will reap in joy"
Psalms 130: 5	"I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait"
Lamentations 3:22-24	"Great is your faithfulness"
Matthew 5:12	"Rejoice for great is your reward in heaven"
Luke 13:43	"Today you will be with me in paradise"
John 16:22	"Now you have sorrow, but you will see me again"
Romans 5:33-35	"Suffering produces endurance"
2 Timothy 4:7-8	"I have fought the good fight"
James 1:12	"Blessed is the one who endures..."
Revelation 2:10	"Be faithful unto death"

Death of Parents

Genesis 48:21	"I die, but God will be with you"
Genesis 50:21	"Fear not, I will nourish you and your little ones"
Psalms 10:14	"You are the helper of the fatherless"
Psalms 46:10	"Be still and know that I am God"
Psalms 146:8-9	"God upholds the orphan and the widow"
Isaiah 41:13	"Fear not, I will help you"
Isaiah 63:16	"O Lord, you are our father and redeemer"
Isaiah 66:13	"As one whom your mother comforted I will comfort"
John 14:18	"I will not leave you comfortless"
1 Peter 5:7	"Cast your care on him, he cares for you"

Death of Youth

Isaiah 40:30-31	"Even youth shall faint and be weary"
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Death of Children

Genesis 37:35	"I will go down to the grave of my son, mourning"
1 Samuel 27:28	"I have lent this child to the Lord"
2 Samuel 12:23	"Now he is dead, can I bring him back again"
2 Samuel 18:33	"O my son Absalom, would I have died for you"
Isaiah 65:17-20a	"No more...an infant who lives but a few days"
Jeremiah 31:15	"Rachel is weeping for her children"
1 John 3:1-2	"We should be called children of God"

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MUSIC

Music is a meaningful medium as an expression of our grief and our celebration. When selecting music for the funeral, consider the hymns of the church which share messages of God's love and grace. Congregational hymns provide an opportunity for those gathered to participate more fully in the worship. Easter hymns are always fitting.

Since this is a worship service, music which expresses our faith in God and/or God's faithfulness in our lives is most desirable. While secular music is not inappropriate and is sometimes used, it should have this same focus and be discussed with the Pastor and Organist in advance.

Other dimensions like strings, flute, brass, woodwinds, guitar, liturgical dance, etc. add to the service. The pastor will help the family plan for special music, arrange for the services of the church's organist and for the selection of hymns. The following list is provided as a starting point.

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 376 Thine is the Glory | 391 This Joyful Eastertide |
| 422 For All the Saints | 427 For All Your Saints |
| 449 We Know that Christ | 502 The King of Love |
| 504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God | 508 My Hope is Built On Nothing
Less |
| 608 Softly and Tenderly | 614 There is a Balm in Gilead |
| 612 Healer of Our Every Ill | 629 Abide with Me |
| 619 I Know that My Redeemer Lives | 656 Blest Be the Tie that Binds |
| 638 Blessed Assurance | 666 What Wondrous Love |
| 660 Lift High the Cross | 733 Great is Thy Faithfulness |
| 732 Morning Cry | 763 My Life Flows On |
| 742 What A Friend | 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand |
| 765 Lord of All Hopefulness | 781 Children of the Heavenly |
| 779 Amazing Grace | |

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RITUALS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

If there is to be a ceremony or tribute of social or fraternal organizations, they must be done apart from the funeral service. Military rites are generally done at the conclusion of the committal (burial) service. When no burial of cremains is planned, the flag and taps portions of military rites may be done in the Gathering Space following the service. Ceremonies or tributes by other organizations are generally done the night before the funeral service.



FLOWERS, MEMORIAL GIFTS AND PHOTO DISPLAYS

It is recommended that the use of flowers at or near the altar be modest. If there are additional flowers, they would be placed in the Gathering Space. The family needs to designate where the flowers are to be taken after the funeral service; i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, the church, family members, etc. They should be removed from the church as soon as it is convenient. However, if the funeral is on a Saturday, a bouquet may be left in the Gathering Space for the Sunday worship service.

In lieu of flowers, you may consider a lasting gift which will perpetuate the memory of your loved one. You may want to suggest contributions be given to memorial funds and charities of your choice. Funds may be designated to Prince of Peace for ministries identified by the Pathways of Giving. These could be listed in the obituary.

Photo arrangements for display at the visitation or in the church Gathering Space before the service help participants give thanks for the life of the deceased and remember moments of celebration.

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FUNERAL LUNCHEON

Following the funeral/memorial service or the burial, it is most appropriate to have some fellowship time with family and friends at the church. The gym/dining area is available for this purpose and Prince of Peace members can be drawn upon to make arrangements for setting up the room and serving the luncheon. Family and church members may prepare and contribute food for the meal. Costs for the food not donated will be funded from the Funeral Fund. Contributions to the Funeral Fund by the family are welcome. For non-member families, a catered meal also may be held at Prince of Peace through special arrangement. Costs for any catered meal will be the family's expense. To arrange for a funeral luncheon, please contact the pastor or church office.

FEES

Whether the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home or at Prince of Peace, it is best to arrange for the payment of the pastor, organist, musicians, etc. through the funeral director, on your behalf. The funeral director can also provide guidance on current fees and honoraria amounts.

PLANNING AHEAD

There is nothing unseemly, morbid or inappropriate about anticipating what should be done when death comes. Written documentation in advance about the kind of service you prefer, choice of funeral home, place of burial, music and scripture, the desire for burial or cremation, selection of pallbearers and memorials preferred, are most helpful for your loved ones. The funeral home you choose to work with can help you with the prearrangements.

When a family member is in a terminal condition, it is most helpful to talk openly about the situation and together make plans for their funeral service. Your pastor is available for counsel and guidance in these matters and can help facilitate family decisions surrounding these issues. Death is a reality we all face.

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FIFTY-TWO THINGS THE FAMILY NEEDS TO DO

Notify:

The Doctor or Coroner
The Funeral Director
Church or Clergy
Family Members
Relatives and Friends
Church Office re Funeral Luncheon

Choices to be made:

Clergy
Soloist or Choir Director
Instrumentalists
Pallbearers/Honorary
Type of Service/Communion
Cemetery

Papers to find:

Birth Certificate
Marriage License
Cemetery Deed
Insurance
Veterans

Select:

Special Poems or Verses
Special Seating for Group(s)
Photos of Family for photo board and/or video

Additional Things to Do:

Write obituary	Find recent photo of deceased
Determine Number of Certified Death Certificates needed	Select Memorials
Arrange transportation needs	Provide or find lodging for guests
Pick up people from airport	Select special items of individual's hobbies
Provide vital statistics about deceased	Contact Bank/Safety Deposit Box
Contact Lawyer or Executor	Keep records of food, flowers, etc. given by others
Arrange for cleaning of home	Receive sympathetic calls, messages and letters
Write personal thank you notes	Determine honorariums to be given
Determine distribution of flowers/plants	Make appointment with Social Security Office
Pay Doctor/Hospital bills	Pay Funeral Expenses

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THE GRIEVING PROCESS AND RESOURCES

How we handle our grief is unique to each of us. There is no particular way through grief except at your own pace and in your own way. You will experience a multitude of emotions and at times may feel like you are going crazy. It can be a very confusing time as you move through this difficult transition. Others may appear to be handling it so much better than you. Anger, pain and depression will be your companions at times. All of that is normal and can be expected.

At Prince of Peace we have a caring community and you may work with the Pastor to get additional support. Ask for assistance in contacting a grief support group in the community. Our church library has excellent books dealing with grief and loss that can help you in your grief journey.

Your grieving can last for months or years, depending on the circumstances. You need not deal with it alone. Help is available.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

Grief Support Group (free)

269-397-2782

Survivors of Suicide (free)

Gryphon Place
3245 South 8th Street 616-381-4357

Journeys, A Path to Healing

222 North Kalamazoo Mall Suite 100 Or
269-345-2073

2255 W. Centre Ave.
Portage

Reverence Home Health and Hospice

348 North Burdick
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
269-552-0717

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