**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.

Funerals are among the times that we as Christians do the task of the Church the best. We comfort one another in our grief, we gather in community, and we proclaim Christ crucified and risen. A Christian funeral is not a tribute to how wonderful you were, but instead it publicly affirms the saving power of God, as demonstrated in your life. We tell how God’s story interacts with your story. Baptismal imagery is important because it reminds us of God’s saving deeds. As Paul writes in Romans 6:5, “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

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 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 in a confidential file at Christ 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:

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/or those making funeral arrangements:

**Care of the body**

This worksheet is not a binding document, but it can guide your loved ones in making decisions. Please talk with your family about these options now. Some decisions require separate signed documents.

Organ donation (circle one): Yes No

Donation for research (circle one): Yes No

Autopsy (circle one):

None unless legally required

If it will benefit medical research

Final decision made by:

Cremation (circle one): Yes, before service Yes, after service No

Have you done any pre planning with a funeral home? (circle one): Yes No

If yes, which funeral home?

**Visitation**

The visitation is an opportunity for friends and family to gather, often the evening before the funeral.

No visitation Visitation at funeral home Visitation at the church

**Funeral service**

The pastor of Christ Lutheran normally preaches and officiates at funerals held at Christ. Other clergy may participate in the service at the pastor’s invitation and discretion. At Christ, a white funeral pall covers the casket as a reminder of baptism, and the paschal candle is lit as a reminder of Christ’s triumph over death. Lutherans leave the casket closed as a sign of resurrection. Communion can be a comforting option.

Funeral location (circle one):

Christ Lutheran Church Funeral Home:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Body/remains present? (circle one): Yes (funeral) No (memorial service)

Communion? (circle one): Yes No Unsure

**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 Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:12-26: Christ, the first fruits, has been raised

2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18L 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 hold city, the new Jerusalem

Revelation 22:1-5: The Lord God will be their light

**The pastor will read one Gospel, 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: Peach I leave with you

**Music**

Through music, we are often able to express what words along cannot. For services at the church, Christ’s organist will normally be the musician. Special music, including vocal or instrumental solos may be included in the service after consultation with the pastor. In selecting music, it is important to consider how the hymn proclaims Christ crucified and risen as demonstrated in the life of the deceased, as well as feasibility for congregational singing. This list is a starting point, and by no means exhaustive. Choose three to five hymns:

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)**

Abide with Me 629

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus 656

Amazing Grace 779

Beautiful Savior 838

Children of the Heavenly Father 781

For All the Saints 422

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer 618

He Leadeth Me 501 [LBW]

How Great Thou Art 856

I Know of a Sleep in Jesus Name 342 [LBW]

Lift High the Cross 660

My Faith Looks Up to Thee 759

Now Thank We All Our God 839,840

O God, Our Help in Ages Past 632

O Jesus, I Have Promised 810

The King of Love My Shepherd is 502

What a Friend We Have in Jesus 742

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 803

When Peace, Like a River, Attendeth My Way 785

Who is this Host Arrayed in White? 314 [LBW]

**Blue With One Voice (WOV)**

Baptized in Water 456

Blessed Assurance 638

Day by Day 790

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 543

Great is Thy Faithfulness 733

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry 732

Precious Lord, Take My Hand 773

Shall we Gather at the River 423

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise 826

Thy Holy Wings 613

**Remembrances**

Sharing stories and memories can be a helpful way of celebrating and grieving. However, discomfort with public speaking and strong emotions can make this a difficult task for many. The sharing of memories during the service itself should be limited to no more than three preselected people who have prepared their words in advance. An open time for memories is appropriate during the luncheon or with the family before the visitation.

Memories during the service? (circle one): Yes No

Names (no more than three):

**Including others**

*There are several opportunities for including friends and family in the service.*

Pall bearers (up to eight):

Honorary pall bearers:

Readers (up to three):

Ushers (two to four):

Acolyte:

Assisting minister:

**Funeral luncheon**

Christ Lutheran loves to provide food and hospitality at funerals.

No luncheon Full meal Coffee & dessert Finger food appetizers

**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**

*Those who have served in the military may be eligible for military honors. A flag is usually placed on the casket after the funeral for transport to the burial. At the graveside, the color guard finishes the military portion before the pastor closes with the committal.*

Have you served in the military? (circle one): Yes No

What branch? When?

**Memorial gifts**

I have shared with my next of kin where financial gifts in my memory should be directed. (circle one): Yes No

Recipients include:

\_\_\_\_\_ Christ Lutheran Church

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

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

**Planned giving (optional section):**

I have included Christ Lutheran Church in my will (circle one): Yes No

I have planned another type of deferred gift (circle one): Yes No

Please list: Life insurance, gift-annuity, charitable trust, etc.

If you have circled yes above, you may wish to note the following:

Christ Lutheran Church is included in my estate plan for:

Percentage: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% Estimated value of gift: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fixed amount: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please share any additional details or requests:**

Name of person preparing this form (print):

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you desire a visit with the pastor to discuss these plant? (circle one): Yes No

Please feel free to call upon the pastor at any time for help with issues of death, dying, grief, or mourning.

Please return this worksheet to:

**Christ Lutheran Church**

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Monroe, Michigan 48162

(734) 241-4554

[www.christlutheranmonroe.org](http://www.christlutheranmonroe.org)