

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 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 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 a conversation about what is to come.



Christ Lutheran Church
225 E Elm Avenue
Monroe MI 48162
(734)241-4554

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. Others may participate in the service at the pastor's invitation and discretion. At Christ, a white funeral pall normally 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 for some families but is not required.

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

Scripture:

At funerals and memorial services, we find comfort in the words of scripture that remind us of God's promises not just for this life, but for the life to come. Readings from scripture are a good way to incorporate important people from the deceased's life into the worship service. Usually, a service will include between two and four readings.

Old Testament:

Job 19:23-27a

I know that my Redeemer lives

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7

I have called you by name

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season

Isaiah 61:1-3

God comforts all who mourn

Isaiah 25:6-9

The Lord will swallow up death
forever

Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25

As a mother comforts her child

Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31

Comfort my people, says God

Jeremiah 31:8-13

I will turn their mourning into joy

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast Love of the Lord never
ceases

Psalms:

Psalms 23

The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalms 42:1-7

As a deer longs for flowing streams

Psalms 25:1-10

To you I lift up my soul

Psalms 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength

Psalm 63
Eagerly I seek you

Psalm 84
How lovely is your dwelling place

Psalm 90
You have been our refuge

Psalm 116
You have delivered my soul from death

Psalm 121
I lift up my eyes to the hills

Psalm 122
Let us go to the house of the Lord

Psalm 130
Out of the depths I cry to you

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

New Testament:

Romans 5:1-11
Justified by faith, we have peace with God.

Romans 6:3-9
Baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection

Romans 8:14-23
We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Romans 14:7-12

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:12-26
In Christ shall all be made alive

1 Corinthians 15:51-57
Death is swallowed up in victory

2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18
Treasure in clay jars

2 Corinthians 4:14-5:1
What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10
We have an everlasting home in heaven

Philippians 3:20-21

Jesus will transfigure our bodies to be like his glorious body

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18

We shall stay with the Lord forever

2 Timothy 2:8-13

If we have died with him, we shall live with him

1 John 3:1-2

We shall see God as God really is

Revelation 7:9-17

God will wipe away every tear

Revelation 21:2-7

Behold, I make all things new

Revelation 22:1-5

The Lord God will be their light

Gospel:

Matthew 5:1-10

Blessed are those who mourn

Luke 24:13-355

The road to Emmaus

Matthew 11:25-30

Come to me and I will give you rest

John 1:1-5, 9-14

The light shines in the darkness

Matthew 25:1-13

The bridegroom is coming; come out to meet him

John 6:37-40

All that God gives me will come to me

Mark 16:1-7

The resurrection of Christ

John 6:51-58

All who eat this bread will live forever; I will raise them up on the last day

Luke 2:25-32

Simeon is able to die in peace

John 10:11-16

I am the Good Shepherd

Luke 23:33, 39-43

Today you will be with me in paradise

John 11:21-27

I am the resurrection and the life

John 12:23-28

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground
and dies, it yields a rich harvest

John 14:1-6

In my Father's house there are many
rooms

John 14:25-27

Peace I leave with you

Music

Through music, we are often able to express what words alone cannot. For services at the church, Christ's Sunday musician 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 the feasibility of congregational singing. This list is a starting point, and by no means exhaustive. Choose three to five hymns:

Abide with Me
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Amazing Grace
Beautiful Savior
Children of the Heavenly Father
For All the Saints
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
He Leadeth Me
How Great Thou Art
I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name
Lift High the Cross
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Now Thank We All Our God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
O Jesus, I Have Promised

The King of Love My Shepherd is
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
When Peace, Like a River
Who is this Host Arrayed in White?
Baptized in Water
Blessed Assurance
Day by Day
Go, My Children, with My Blessing
Great is Thy Faithfulness
I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Shall we Gather at the River
Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
Thy Holy Wings

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 preselected people who have prepared their words in advance. An open time for memories is appropriate during the luncheon or with the family during the visitation.

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

Names:

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?
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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 plans? (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:

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