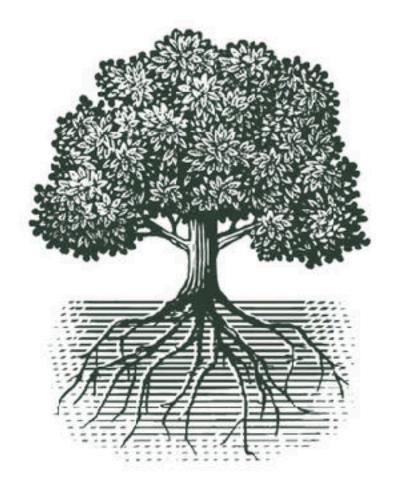
Funeral Planning

Guide and Worksheets

Messiah Lutheran Church, 305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette, Michigan 49855



Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet

Jesus said: "I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself so that where I am, there you may be also."

John 14:3

At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 279

Thank you for picking up Messiah's Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet. This material is designed to:

- to provide a tool for planning for the future when your life on this earth ends, and
- to support and guide families making plans upon the death of a loved one.

In the first days following a loved one's death, the family makes an average of 200 decisions. During such an emotional, stressful and demanding time, plans that have been made earlier lighten the load after death. If you've not made advance plans, this guide will be helpful to you as you make arrangements for services and burial of your loved one.

This guide will walk you through a series of questions. Your responses can be marked on the worksheet at the end. Messiah's pastors are available to discuss any items with you. When you are finished, please share your worksheet with a family member or friend who will act on your behalf after your death. It would also be helpful to contact one of Messiah's pastors to share your worksheet so that it can be held in safekeeping for the future.

The Goal of the Christian Funeral Service

The gathering of family and friends, who form a community of hope for a funeral or memorial service, is a rich opportunity to recall the promises of God through Christ. Because of His suffering, death, and resurrection to new life, each time we gather to worship upon the death of a loved one, we do so in the context of God's promise. Every funeral includes praising God in Christ who is our hope and our salvation, even as we remember the deceased and give thanks to God for the time shared with that person.

Lutheran Christians believe in Jesus Christ whose bodily death and resurrection made possible life everlasting. Christians view death as another step in our life as children of God. Yet, Christians also experience death as a time of loss when sorrow, grief, and bereavement are both natural and appropriate. These two truths inform the Christian funeral service and guide the church in its ministry to those who have lost a loved one to death, affirming with both joy and tears the promise and hope of the Good News of Jesus.

A funeral or memorial service should be comforting to those who mourn as well as bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. The concern of gathered friends does minister to our grief but, above all else, a funeral is a service of worship to God. There, in God's presence together, we witness to our faith in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and the life ever-lasting. In doing so, the assurance of God's love and salvation in Christ become a ministry, especially to the bereaved. Since a funeral is a service of worship, all that takes place should be consistent with this principle.

Planning Faithfully, Choosing Wisely

What is the difference between a funeral and memorial service? Simply put, at a funeral service the body of the deceased is present, whereas at a memorial service either the deceased's ashes or no remains are present. Both services provide an opportunity to proclaim God's death defeating acts in Christ as we remember all that God has given us in the

How does the Church view cremation?

life of our loved one.

Cremation is an acceptable way for Christians to deal with one's earthly remains. The Scriptures tell us that we are formed "of the dust of the ground" (Genesis 2:7) and, after death, we shall return "again to dust." (Job 34:15)

If I choose cremation, do I need to secure the services of a Funeral Director?

We highly recommend working with a Funeral Director. This professional will ease the strain upon family members by coordinating all the details and thus contributing to your wishes being carried out with dignity and honor. Even if cremation is your desire, a Funeral Director handles many details that are not taken care of by the church, the Pastor, or family members. Attempting to save money by not using a Funeral Director is likely to cause confusion and frustration at a time when you most need guidance and support.

Should I make pre-arrangements with a Funeral Director?

Making the decision to pre-arrange some aspects of your funeral and/or burial is helpful. An appointment with a Funeral Director in advance of death is a wise step to help you decide what you and your family need from the many services available. If you are a family member caring for a dying loved one, making an initial contact now with a Funeral Director can be very helpful and will lessen the decisions and demands you'll face upon death. Messiah's pastors are available to talk with you about the selection of a Funeral Director or to refer you to Funeral Directors they know well and hold in high regard.

How soon after death does a funeral or memorial service take place?

Funeral services are generally held within three to five days following death, thereby allowing appropriate time for family members and friends to gather for the service. Memorial services can be held at any time. However, waiting for weeks or even months after a death will have a bearing on finding a sense of closure, and this will impact the grief work that follows the death of a loved one. Therefore, it is recommended that a memorial service be held within a few weeks after death.

If a funeral or memorial service is to be followed by a burial that same day, the schedule of the cemetery workers dictates that burials be held during normal business hours for city cemeteries. Surcharges apply for weekend burials, and burials are not available on holidays. It is also possible to have the burial before the service which allows for a late afternoon or evening service.

Funeral or memorial services on Sunday are highly discouraged, as Sundays are reserved for the worship services of the congregation.

What fees are associated with a funeral or memorial service at Messiah? There is no building rental fee for Messiah members, but there are costs associated with the service and reception. Payment of these fees are coordinated through the Funeral Director. A current fee schedule can be picked up in the church office or you can ask the Funeral Director.

Who makes arrangements for the musician(s)?

Messiah's musician serves as the pianist or organist for all funerals. A vocalist maybe selected by you or your family, or the vocalist can be arranged by the Funeral Director.

May we have a visitation at the church the evening before the service, or must that take place at a funeral home?

The visitation may take place at Messiah the afternoon or evening before the service if there are no other events already scheduled in the Sanctuary. In addition, a visitation time is typically offered at the church prior to the service. Who is responsible for producing the order of worship and bulletin? After the service has been planned with the Pastor, the church office will produce the bulletin at no cost to your family.

Who is responsible for submitting the death notice and obituary to the newspaper?

The Funeral Director will take care of this for you. A simple death notice is printed in The Mining Journal shortly after death at no cost to you. A full obituary normally appears 2-3 days before the visitation and funeral. There is a cost for this, and the Funeral Director will assist you. Notices to other newspapers can also be handled by the Funeral Director at your request.

Who plans the reception following the funeral or memorial service? If using Magnuson Hall, the church office will schedule the room and make these arrangements with the Funeral Director and your family. When plans are being made for the funeral following death, the Funeral Director will work with the Messiah office staff (and our volunteers) to arrange for food appropriate to the number of people you anticipate attending. We know it is difficult to estimate a number. But we have years of experience at planning these events and, with a few questions, we can assist in that estimate. We assure you that there will be sufficient food and seating for all who choose to attend the reception. Any leftover food is yours to take home or to deliver to agencies in the community that welcome donations (such as the The Warming Center). Payment for the reception food is coordinated through the Funeral Director.

What if I desire to have memorials directed to Messiah or other organizations?

This is an honorable thing to do. Messiah and any other organizations you choose are blessed when memorials are directed to support their ministries and missions. The Funeral Director will be happy to include any memorial designation(s) in the notices about the funeral service. All memorial gifts received directly by Messiah will generate an acknowledgment to you.

FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHEET

When planning your funeral, or a funeral for a loved one, there are many choices to make. Facing some of those choices now will make the process less demanding for your loved ones later. This Funeral Planning Worksheet will lead you through a variety of decisions. After death, a pastor from Messiah will meet with family members and review your worksheet to form the funeral or memorial service.

This worksheet may be used by:

- an individual making their advance plans known, or
- a family planning the funeral of a loved one nearing death or recently deceased.

Please supply as much information as you wish to share on any parts of the worksheet.

Guide for the Christian Funeral of_	
	Full Name: First, Middle (Maiden), Last
Date Completed:	

For the Person Making Advance Plans:

When you have completed this worksheet, please consider sharing it with Messiah's Pastor(s). Your information will be kept in a confidential file available only to the Pastor(s). It will be used in consultation with your family or whomever you have directed to carry out these wishes upon your death.

Also, after completing the worksheet, consider telling someone you trust about it. You may wish to discuss with them what you have written to be certain that it is clear. Consider providing copies:

- 1. To your Family
- 2. Attached to your Five Wishes Booklet and/or your Will or Trust Plan (see www. agingwithdignity. org/ five-wishes.php)
- 3. To a Funeral Director

Or simply give it to someone you trust with a note that says, I have recorded my desires regarding my death and burial. I keep this information in the following place: (i.e. on file at the church, with my will, etc.). At the time of my death, I ask that you use this information to provide guidance for my family and my church in making arrangements for the

funeral I desire. Although this information is being left for safekeeping, I understand that it is not legally binding or enforceable. This worksheet does not make the church or anyone obligated or responsible for the execution of these instructions. With gratitude, Signature and Date

For Family Members Making Plans for the Funeral of a Loved One Nearing Death or Recently Deceased:

Please use this worksheet to assist with plans that will honor your loved one's expressed wishes or desires and will reflect his/her values. If you haven't already contacted a Funeral Director, please consider doing so now. The professional services, compassionate care, and guidance they provide will greatly assist you in the days ahead. Messiah's Pastor(s) are available to refer you to Funeral Directors they know well and hold in high regard.

When death occurs, please contact the church office at 906.225.1119 or, after hours, please use the personal phone number of the pastor (listed on our answering machine and in the bulletin/newsletter). Area Funeral Directors also have personal contact information for the Pastor(s) and will contact him/her on your behalf.

Visitation

A Visitation is an informal gathering for friends and family to express sympathy, view photographs/video tribute, etc. You are invited to consider Trinity for the visitation when you work with a professional Funeral Director.

Will a Visitation be Held?
Yes
No
Location of Visitation
At the Funeral Home
At Messiah Lutheran Church
Other:
Will the Remains be Present at the Visitation?Coffin with Viewing of Body
Closed Coffin
Urn with Photograph next to it
No Remains Present
Time of the Visitation
Evening Prior to the Funeral or Memorial Service
Before the Funeral or Memorial Service Only
Both
Displays
Photographic Displays
Momentos (Awards, Certificates, etc.)
Bible of the Deceased
Video Tribute (Usually Produced by the Funeral Home)
Other:

Christian Worship Service Plans

Location of Service
Messiah Lutheran Church
Funeral Home
Cemetery (A Graveside Service Only)
Other: (i.e. Care Facility Chapel,etc.)
Time of the Worship ServiceMorningAfternoonEvening
Will the Remains be Present at the Worship Service?
Yes (Coffin or Urn with Ashes)
No
140
Will Holy Communion be Celebrated? (Only available for services at Messiah)YesNo
Display Items to be On or Near the Casket/Urn
Floral Spray and/or additional Flower Bouquets
Bible or Other Symbol of Faith:
Photograph
Cross
Flag (Only Used During Visitation and at Cemetery)
Please Note: The Funeral Pall will always be used to cover the
casket during the worship service unless expressly declined.
Favorite Biblical Theme or Image
Readers
The Pastor who officiates will read.
I would like this/these person(s) to read at my service:

Bible Readings
The Pastor who officiates may choose the readings.
My Family will choose the readings.
I have chosen the readings as indicated below (see page 17-18).
Old Testament:
Gospels:
New Testament:
Other Readings Selected:
Congregational Hymns
The Pastor who officiates may choose the hymns.
My family will choose the hymns
I have chosen the hymns as indicated below.
Hymns (see list on page 19):
I have not chosen any hymns, but DO NOT want the following hymns sung:
Soloist
If possible, I would like this vocalist to sing:
Vocal Solos Selected (Selection of solos must aim to reflect the spirit of Christian worship.)
Remembrances to be Shared During Worship by a Family Member or a Friend (Please ask speakers to limit their remarks to 3 minutes.)YesNo
I would like this person to speak:

Reception Following Worship

I would like a reception following the service for mutual conversation and consolation.
Yes
No
I would like the Reception
Immediately Following the Worship Service; Before BurialFollowing the Worship Service and After Burial
Location for the ReceptionMessiah Lutheran ChurchOther Location:
Menu for the Reception
Dessert and Coffee/Beverage
Light Lunch (Sandwiches, Salads, dessert)
Secure your own caterer and wait staff.
Other:
Funeral Home
Preferred Company
(Specific arrangements in advance at the funeral home of your choice are
encouraged.)
Have Pre-Arrangements Been Made?
Yes
No
Disposition of the Body
Embalm Body (Usually required if unrefrigerated over 24 hours
before burial.)
Cremate Body Shortly After Death
Cremate Body After Visitation and/or Service

	r: nclude keeping ashes with a family member, spreading ashes
riis migne	at a favorite spot, etc)
•	fin or Urn
	re Visitation
· ·	Visitation but Before Funeral Service
	Funeral Service but Before Luncheon Reception
	Luncheon Reception
At a	_ater Date:
Grave Ma	ırker
I have ma	de arrangements for a grave
	th this company:
	te the following to be included
	ave marker:
Name:	
Dates: (b	rth/death dates)
	ame:
	se:
Othor	

FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE

Cemetery	
I have made arr	angements for my burial.
Name of Cer	metery
	Cemetery
I do not have an	rangements for my burial. I suggest the following
arrangements:	
I have arrangen company:	nents for a memorial marker with the following
• •	Include Contact Information)
Desired Expressior Flowers	ns of Sympathy
	al Gifts in lieu of Flowers
Memorial Suggestion	ons
Messiah's Memo	orial Fund
Specific Mission	or Ministry:
Obituary	
•	ıMaiden Name)
,	ion
Parent's Names (including Mother's Maiden Name)	
-	ch, and Location
	Church, and Location
	Spouse(s)
Names of Children	
Additional Next of Ki	in

Personal History

On a separate page, record additional information including place(s) of residence, special events, hobbies/interests, schools attended and degrees received, accomplishments, memberships, employment history, volunteer activities, military service, etc. Include as many full names, city of residence, birth and death dates, etc. as possible. All this information is important to your family.

This information does not need to be prepared in paragraph form.

Important Documents and Advisors

It is important that survivors be able to locate vital records and important documents. Before your death, you should have a current will/living trust and related health care directives which express your wishes on important personal, financial, medical, and charitable issues for your survivors. If you need information regarding estate planning, planned giving, and/or the inclusion of a Christian preamble for your will, please consult your legal or financial advisor.

Location and Date of Will/Living Trust	
Location of my Five Wishes Booklet or Living Will	
Attorney/Will Preparer	
Power of Attorney/Financial	_
Power of Attorney for Health Care	
Executor of Will/Estate	
Guardian (for Minor Children)	

Additional Comments

Scripture (*appropriate for the burial of a child

+appropriate for the graveside or graveside procession)

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a For I know that my Redeemer lives

Isaiah 25:6-9
Isaiah 61:1-3
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces
The Lord has anointed me... to bind up the brokenhearted
He will have compassion according to the abundance of his

steadfast love

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom

forever

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God

Psalms

+Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd

Psalm 34:1-10,22 O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take

refuge in Him

Psalm 42:1-7 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disguieted

within me?

Psalm 46:1-7 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. +Psalm 90 Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Psalm 91:9-16 Under his wings you will find refuge

+Psalm 118 Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his steadfast love endures

forever

Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? +Psalm 130 My soul waits for the LORD, more than those who watch for the

mornina

Psalm 139:1-12 O LORD, you have searched me and known me... even the

darkness is not dark to you

Psalm 143 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put

mv trust

Psalm 149 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the

faithful

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a; or 3:1-8 For everything there is a season, and a time for every

matter under heaven.

New Testament Letters

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for

salvation

Romans 5:1-11 Reconciled to God by Christ's death

Romans 5:17-21 Through Adam came sin and through Christ comes

justification

Romans 8 The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free

from the law of sin and of death

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

Jesus our Lord

Romans 9 It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who

shows mercy

+Romans 14:7-9 Accepting diversity in the community of faith (14:1-12)
1 Corinthians 15:12-26 Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have

died (15:12-20)

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 or 55-58 Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is

your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Living by faith

Ephesians 1:11-23 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him

from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the

heavenly places

Philippians 3:20-21 Christ will transform the body of our humiliation that it may

be conformed to the body of his glory

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even

so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have

died.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have

kept the faith

Hebrews 13:6-8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

Hebrews 13:14-16 We are looking for the city that is to come

1 Peter 1:3-9 New birth into a living hope through the resurrection

*1 John 3:1-3 We are God's children

Revelation 7:9-17 The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

+Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord

Revelation 21:2-5a or 21:1-7 A new heaven and a new earth

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are the poor in spirit

*Matthew 11:25-30 Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy

burdens, and I will give you rest

Matthew 24:1-13 The one who endures to the end will be saved

Luke 6:20-31 Jesus speaks blessings and woes

Luke 12:35-40 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when

he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have

them sit down to eat

Luke 23:39-43 Today you will be with me in paradise

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
John 5:24-29 The hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will

hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will

live

*John 6:37-40 All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal

life; and I will raise them up on the last day

John 10:1-5 Jesus the Good Shepherd

John 11:21-27 The raising of Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life

John 11:32-44 The raising of Lazarus

John 12:23-36 Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it

remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

John 14:1-6 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

Christ the way, the truth, and life

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20 The Resurrection of Jesus

Hymns

(all are from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship [ELW] hymnal)

Abide with Me (629)

All of Us Go Down to the Dust (223)

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! (377)

Amazing Grace (779)

Battle Hymn of the Republic (890)

Beautiful Savior (838)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus (338)

Blessed Assurance (638)

Blessing, Honor, and Glory (433)

Blest are They (728) Borning Cry (732)

Children of the Heavenly Father (781)

Come Away to the Skies (669)

For All the Saints (422)

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (618)

He Leadeth Me; O Blessed Thought! (501)

How Great Thou Art (856) I am the Bread of Life (485)

I know that my Redeemer Lives! (619)

I Love to Tell the Story (661)

I want to Walk as a Child of the Light (815)

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (440) In the Cross of Christ I Glory (324) In the Morning When I Rise (770)

Into Paradise may the Angels Lead You (222)

Jerusalem, My Happy Home (628)

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense (621)

Jesus Shall Reign (434) Jesus, Remember Me (616) Jesus, Still Lead On (624)

Just As I Am, Without One Plea (592)

Let All Things Now Living (881)

Let us ever walk with Jesus (802)

Lift High the Cross (660)

Lo! He comes with clouds descending (435)

Lord of All Hopefulness (765)

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (767)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (759)

My Lord, What a Morning (438)

O Blessed Spring (447)

O Christ the Same (760)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (632)

O God, Whose Will is Life and Good (435)

O Holy Spirit, Enter In (786)

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (313)

O Master, Let MeWalk with You (818)

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (351,352)

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand (441)

On Eagle's Wings (787)

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand (437)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (773)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (623)

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (789)

Shall We Gather at the River (423)

Sing with All the Saints in Glory (426)

Soon and Very Soon (439)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (502)

The Lord's My Shepherd (778)

Thine is the Glory (376)

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (826)

This is My Father's World (824)

This Joyful Eastertide (391)

Thy Holy Wings (613)

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (436)

We Walk by Faith and not by Sight (635)

We were Baptized in Christ Jesus (451)

We who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord

(779)

What Wondrous Love is This (666)
Who is this Host Arrayed in White (425)

Solo Favorites

Psalm settings, especially of Psalm 23, 121, 42:1-7; 46:1-7, 143

Shepherd Me, O God; Marty Haugen (Ps 23)

Day by day

On Eagle's Wings; Michael Jounces

Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace

Lord's Prayer

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling

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Pastor Andrew Plocher Pastor Molly Eversoll