

My Funeral Wishes

A Planning Guide to Assist My Family

Memorial Lutheran Church

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11:25-26

5800 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, TX 77057

General Information

As Christians, we can look forward with joy and anticipation to the day when our Lord will call us home to Himself in heaven. We can know for certain that heaven is ours through faith in Christ's atonement for our sins on the cross. Thus, we are most certainly prepared for our death.

Unfortunately, many people are not prepared for their death in terms of the preparations that are necessary for the funeral and its arrangements. This little booklet will help you consider these details and provide you with a means of sharing that information with your loved ones, your pastor, and the funeral director of your choice. In fact, it is good for you to give a copy of this booklet, with the necessary information to your pastor, your funeral director, and several family members and friends of your choice.

Planning now for your funeral is important. We make plans for many things in life. Some we are never able to do. Yet death and burial are inevitable, and thus it is crucial that we also plan for it. Planning does not hasten the event.

- Funeral pre-planning is necessary as a means to let your wishes be known to all concerned.
- Pre-planning your funeral enables you to give expression to your faith through choosing and ordering what is to take place.
- Pre-planning eases the burden on your loved ones by eliminating the pressure of decision-making, particularly the need of trying to do things "the way you would have wished." By writing them down, the possibility is diminished that your loved ones, because of their grief, may forget your desires.
- Pre-planning will give you a certain amount of peace, knowing that your affairs are in order.

Consider discussing your plans with your pastor and your funeral director. You will want not only their assurance that your plans are appropriate, but also their cooperation in respecting them at your death.

If at all possible, discuss these plans with your loved ones. Allow them to participate in the planning and express their thoughts. This brings the subject out into the open and provides loved ones with an opportunity to openly share their love and sorrow--best shared now, rather than after a death occurs.

Please bear in mind that the more complex and complete your plans become, the more tentative they must be. The events surrounding your death, or events that may occur between now and the time of your death, may necessitate changes. Therefore, from time to time, every several years, the plans in this booklet may need to be updated. As you consider your death, burial and life everlasting, may the Lord bless you.

This form is not legally binding. Information will be sealed in an envelope and placed in a file at Memorial Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, for safekeeping. Memorial is not obligated or responsible for the execution of these instructions.

This form does not cover all your end-of-life decisions. Please make sure that all the information necessary to help you family take care of your affairs is clear and accessible to them. Update your will periodically.

My Wishes

Name: (First Middle Last Nickname)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Birth Date: _____ Birth City and State: _____

Baptism Date: _____ Church: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Confirmation Date: _____ Church: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Occupation(s): _____ How long? _____

_____ How long? _____

_____ How long? _____

Pastor/Church should be called immediately at time of death. Discuss the timing and place of service before you go to the funeral home to make arrangements.

Funeral Service

Where? _____

City: _____, State: _____

Body to be viewed at funeral home? Yes No

Body to be viewed at church? Yes No

Suggested Pastor to Preach: _____

Suggested Choir or Soloist (if any): _____

Suggested Organist: _____

Funeral Home Name: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Type of Casket: _____

Clothing, Jewelry: _____

Suggested Cemetery: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Do you wish the following:

- Grave Plot? Yes No
- Mausoleum? Yes No
- Cremation? Yes No

I have already purchased a plot in _____

City: _____, State: _____ Section _____ Lot # _____

Grave Monument Inscription:

Other Instructions:

Do you wish for your body to be donated for the following:

Transplant of organs? Yes No

Medical Research? Yes No

Hospital or recipient: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Suggested Memorials:

 Memorials or flowers as people prefer

 Memorial gifts instead of flowers

 Memorial gifts to the following churches or organizations:

City: _____, State: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Additional comments:

Suggested Crucifer: _____

Suggested Pallbearers: _____

Suggested Honorary Pallbearers (if any):

Military honors are suggested. Yes No

Funeral Hymns & Scripture Readings

Hymns and readings of the Church Year could prescribe helpful thoughts for the planning of this service. The events surrounding your death may also have an effect in changing its character. It is therefore suggested that you choose several different Scripture readings. You may wish to choose at least one hymn in each of the hymn categories listed. This will enable selection to be made, no matter what the circumstances, that will be in accord with your wishes. It may also be good if you were to list as a 'must;' perhaps one hymn and one Scripture reading that will be used no matter what.

As with any service of worship, the pastor, in cooperation with the cantor, is charged with the responsibility of final planning of the funeral service. However, you may be assured that they will take your wishes into account.

A listing of possible funeral hymns and Scripture readings follow below.

Suggested Funeral Scriptures (not exclusive)

Job 19:21-27	Isaiah 40:28-31	John 12:23-26
Philippians 1:21	John 14:1-6	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Psalms 23	Isaiah 61:1-3	Psalms 46
Lamentations 3:22-23	Romans 8:31-39	1 Peter 1:3-9
1 John 3:1-2	1 John 4:15-18	Psalms 90
Mark 10:13-16 (children's)	Romans 6:3-5	Psalms 121
Luke 7:11-17	Romans 14:7-9	Psalms 130
John 5:24-27	1 Corinthians 15:1-26	Psalms 139
John 6:37-40	1 Corinthians 15:12-26	Revelation 7:9-17
Revelation 21:2-7	1 Corinthians 15:35-57	1 Corinthians 15:50-57
Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	John 10:11-16, 27-28	Isaiah 25:6-9
John 11:21-27		

Scripture selections (usually 3): _____

Confirmation verse _____

Favorite Bible Story _____

Some Suggested Funeral Hymns

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

As With Gladness Men of Old
In Peace and Joy I Now Depart
Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Once in Royal David's City

Lent

Christ, the Life of All the Living
Go to Dark Gethsemane

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

Easter

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won
This Joyful Eastertide

Ascension

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
Draw Us to You

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Canticle

Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace

Comfort

Be Still, My Soul
The King of Love, My Shepherd Is
If You But Trust in God to Guide You
In God, My Faithful God

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
The Will of God Is Always Best
What God Ordains Is Always Good

Death, Resurrection, Life Eternal

Abide with Me

Amazing Grace

Behold a Host Arrayed in White

Children of the Heavenly Father

For Me to Live Is Jesus

Rock of Ages

By All Your Saints in Warfare (stanzas 1, 3)

I'm But a Stranger Here

Jerusalem the Golden

Jesus, Lead Thou On

For All the Saints

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

The Church's One Foundation

Children's Hymns

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

Hymn selections: _____

Musical selections: _____

Thoughts I would like shared only with my family at the time of my funeral: _____

Thoughts I would like shared with the congregation at the time of my funeral: _____

Other suggestions for my funeral service: _____

Information for An Obituary

Full Legal Name: _____

Address: _____

Parents

Father's Name: _____

Father's Birthplace: _____, _____

Mother's Name (Include maiden name): _____

Mother's Birthplace: _____, _____

Spouse Living: Yes No

Spouse's Name (include maiden name) _____

Marital Status: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Place: _____

_____, _____

Children (name, spouse and city):

Living

_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No
_____	Yes	No

Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No
Yes	No

Names of grandchildren:

Names of great-grandchildren:

Brothers and Sisters (name, spouse and city):

Living

<hr/>	Yes	No
<hr/>	Yes	No
<hr/>	Yes	No
<hr/>	Yes	No
<hr/>	Yes	No

Member of professional group, club or other organization: _____

Activities in the community (job, church, volunteer service, etc.): _____

Hobbies and/or Interests: _____

Helping Those Who Care for Me

It is wise to update this information regularly, so it reflects your final wishes.

In the event of my death, please contact:

Name, Relation, Phone _____

City: _____, State: _____

Name, Relation, Phone _____

City: _____, State: _____

Name, Relation, Phone _____

City: _____, State: _____

Name, Relation, Phone _____

City: _____, State: _____

Employer/Former Employer:

Name, Phone: _____

City: _____, State: _____

My physician: _____

Phone: _____

My will is located: _____

My living will is located: _____

(A living will designates someone who can make medical decisions as you would have wished.)

My lawyer is: _____

City: _____, State: _____

Have you designated a durable power of attorney to someone? Yes No

If yes:

Phone: _____

(A durable power of attorney authorizes another person to act in your stead, either for financial or healthcare decisions. It may cover all your affairs or be limited to just certain matters.)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Reviewed and Updated: _____

Reviewed and Updated: _____