



Planning your Funeral

Upon a person's death, the Church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. A funeral liturgy allows those who mourn to give voice to sorrow, thank God for their loved one, and entrust their companion into hands of God. At the time of death, your family should notify and work with both the pastor and funeral director, ensuring your wishes are honored and Lutheran funeral practices are observed out of respect for your faith, your family, and the church family of which you are a beloved member.

Because the whole of Christian life is shaped by our Baptism into the crucified and risen Christ, formed by the proclaimed Word of God, and nurtured through the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the normative funeral rite of the Church also reflects these practices. The body or cremated remains of a church member are brought to the church, celebrating one's Baptism into Christ and promise of resurrection of the body. A public liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion is celebrated and presided over by the current pastor of this congregation. The service is open to the congregation, family members, and guests who share in common grief. All those who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ may take part in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood at the Lord's own invitation as offered through the Church. Following the church liturgy, a committal service at the graveside is the normative practice. When extenuating circumstances requiring variations to these standard practices arise, other options should be discussed and arranged with the pastor.

For some, it is a comfort knowing that certain details of the funeral service have been prepared in advance. Still others prefer to have the pastor and loved ones plan the liturgy at the time of death. This worksheet gives you the opportunity to make some choices now regarding your funeral liturgy. If you would prefer to leave any of these decisions to the pastor or your next of kin, simply leave the options blank. Also on this worksheet is an option to communicate to the church your intended bequests, if any, and desired memorial gift recipients. This information will remain confidential and on file in the church office until the time of death,. You may update your information at any time.

God's Blessings,

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Your Personal Information

Your Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name(s) of next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements upon your death:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Years Married: _____

Children: _____

Grandchildren: _____

Work History: _____

Church Involvement: _____

Community Involvement and Activities: _____

Liturgy

The following readings are simply suggestions. Please choose one from each reading selection:

Old Testament

Reader: _____

	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (For everything there is a Season)
	Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death forever)
	Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
	Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for Him)
	Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
	Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
	Other:

Psalm

Reader: _____

	Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)
	Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation)
	Psalm 42:1-7 (As a deer longs for flowing streams)
	Psalm 46 (God is our refuge and strength)
	Psalm 103 (Bless the Lord, O my soul)
	Psalm 121 (I lift up my eyes to the hills)
	Psalm 130 (Out of the depths I cry to you)
	Psalm 139:1-14 (O Lord, you have searched me and known me)
	Other:

New Testament

Reader: _____

	Romans 5:1-11 (We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ)
	Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
	1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
	2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
	1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like Him)
	Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
	Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
	Other:

Gospel

Reader: Pastor _____

	Matthew 11:25-30 (I will give you rest)
	John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
	John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)
	John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
	John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
	John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)
	Other:

Hymns

The following hymns are simply suggestions.

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (ELW 377)
This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)
Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove (ELW 404)
For All the Saints (ELW 422)
We Know That Christ Is Raised (ELW 449)
I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)
The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW 502)
A Mighty Fortress (ELW 504)
O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)
Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (ELW 623)
Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)
Abide With Me (ELW 629)
In Heaven Above (ELW 630)
Love Divine, All Love Excelling (ELW 631)
O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)
You Are the Way (ELW 758)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW 759)
Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)
If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)
Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)
Jesus, Priceless Treasure (ELW 775)
The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)
Amazing Grace (ELW 779)
Children of the Heavenly Father (ELW 781)
On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)
Day by Day (ELW 790)
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)
Other:
Other:
Other:
Other:
Other:
Other:
Other:

Funeral Home & Visitation

Name of Funeral Home: _____ Location: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Have you done any pre-planning with the funeral home? Yes / No (Circle one)

Visitation Location: _____ At funeral home _____ At Good Shepherd (Check one)

Final Viewing Location: _____ At funeral home _____ At Good Shepherd (Check one)

Cemetery & Internment

Internment: ____ In the earth ____ In a Mausoleum ____ Cremation (Check all that apply)

Name of Cemetery: _____ Location: _____

If internment will be in the ground, have you secured a cemetery plot? Yes / No (Circle one)

Memorial Gifts

	I have shared with my next of kin where financial gifts in my memory should be directed. Recipients include:
	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
	Other:
	Other:
	Other:

Planned Giving (Optional)

	I/We have included Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in my/our will.
	I/We have planned another type of deferred gift (listed below).

I/We would like to discuss including GSLC:

If you checked one of the above boxes, you may wish to note the following:

	Percentage: ____% Estimated value of gift: \$ _____
	Fixed Amount: \$ _____
	Any additional details or requests: _____

Print Name of Planner: _____

Signature of Planner: _____ Date: _____

(month/day/year)

Do you desire a visit with the pastor to discuss these plans? Yes / No (Circle one)

Please feel free to call upon the pastor at any time for help with issues of death and dying.

Please return this form to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2000 Roosevelt Dr
Plover, WI 54467

Resources to Help in Time of Grief and Sorrow

Augsburg Fortress Publishers offers many resources to help children and adults address serious illness, the death of a loved one, and the planning of funeral services.

“Good Grief” by Granger E. Westberg

“Understanding Mourning” by Glen Davidson

“When a Loved One Dies” by Philip W. Williams

“Lament for a Son” by Nicholas Wolterstorff

“On Grieving the Death of a Father and Grieving the Death of a Mother” by Harold Ivan Smith

“The Bereavement Ministry Program” by Jan Nelson and David Asker

“Helping Children Grieve” by Theresa M. Huntley

“To Comfort to Honor” by Jeanne Daly McIntee

From Lutheran Funeral Practices: Looking Forward in Hope

DVDs (you may borrow from the pastor):

“Helping Parents Grieve” by Kris Ford and Paula D’Arcy

“Journey Through the Shadows” hope for healing after someone you love has died by suicide—featuring Iris Bolton and Stephanie Weber

“Footprints on Our Hearts” walking through grief after a miscarriage, stillbirth, or newborn death

“Confronting Death” a Christian approach to the end of life with Walter Wangerin, Jr.