

***Gethsemane  
Lutheran Church***

***Plans for my Funeral/Memorial Service***

It is often difficult for families to make decisions regarding funeral arrangements at the time of the death of a loved one. In the midst of grieving, the family must make many important decisions and frequently wish they knew the desires of the person who has passed away. This is an important opportunity for you to think about the legacy of your faith and what type of witness you would like your funeral/memorial service to be.

You may wish to complete this request sheet together with your family and friends, or you can complete it on your own. Feel free to fill in all or only those sections that you have opinions about. You can leave some things up to your family that may better suit their needs at the time of your death. This is not a binding document but meant to convey your wishes to your family. We would like to keep a copy of the completed form at church but the original should stay with your important documents and you should notify your family about its existence. Additional forms are always available for updating your wishes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mortuary to be used for arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral/Memorial service to be held at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodily burial \_\_\_\_\_ Cremation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Funeral with the casket/urn present  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Service without the casket/urn present

I prefer: \_\_\_\_\_ Earthly burial at a cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mausoleum entombment  
\_\_\_\_\_ My ashes be placed in Gethsemane's Columbarium  
\_\_\_\_\_ My ashes to be scattered \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery name, location and lot numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Visitation at the mortuary  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visitation at the church (1 hour before the service)  
\_\_\_\_\_ I would like a Funeral Pall placed on my casket

**Funeral/ Memorial Service Preferences:**

Preferred hymns/music: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scripture passages I would like used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other preferences for the service:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Apostles Creed

\_\_\_\_\_ Holy Communion

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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I prefer memorial gifts be designated for organizations and institutions that are meaningful to me. Such as:

\_\_\_\_ Gethsemane Lutheran Church

\_\_\_\_ Gethsemane Memorial Fund

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Persons to be notified at the time of my death:

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Location of my will \_\_\_\_\_

Lawyer's name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses \_\_\_\_\_

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# Leaving a Faith Filled Legacy

## *Advance Funeral Planning:*

A practical guide for  
Christian funeral and burial  
plans

The time to think about death and funeral arrangements is not when a death occurs but long before it happens. At the time of death one's emotions can cloud one's ability to make objective decisions.

At the time of death many people are unaware of what to do or how to act in the midst of crisis and grief. This little pamphlet is designed with the purpose of providing some simple guidelines for decision-making. It is not definitive nor comprehensive but will help you get started in the right direction.

- 1) Make the decision for yourself if you are to be DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)/DNI (Do Not Intubate) in the case of an incapacitating or life-threatening illness such as stroke or heart failure. This will prevent unnecessary heroic measures to be performed and will save your family from making a very difficult decision. Also let them know if you are an Organ Donor.
- 2) If you should have the unfortunate experience of discovering that a family member has died you must call 911. If no one was present at the time of death be prepared to answer many questions by the police and medical examiner.
- 3) Call the funeral home. It is wise to know in advance which funeral home should be called.
- 4) Call the church office or one of the pastors. Never hesitate to ask one of the pastors to be with you at the hospital or at home during times of crises. They are very experienced in terms of what to do during these situations.
- 5) Try to meet with one of the pastors before meeting with the funeral director. This may help you avoid some unnecessary expenses and can help focus your mind before making any major decisions. Your pastors have walked many families through this many times. For you, it may be your first.
- 6) Remember, you do not have to spend excessive amounts of money to show your love for the deceased. This is not a time to worry about what others may think.
- 7) Give serious thought to a private graveside service. This allows that family a more private moment at the graveside. It also eliminates the need for a funeral procession, which is an

added expense and is becoming extremely dangerous from a traffic standpoint. It is more convenient for everyone involved to move directly from the funeral service to the fellowship hour. This is especially true if the burial is at Ft. Snelling.

- 8) The church office, in consultation with the pastors, will make all the necessary arrangements for music, including organist, soloist, and luncheon volunteers.
- 9) It is nearly impossible to prevent people from sending expensive floral arrangements, but a suggestion from the family for memorials in lieu of flowers is always in order.
- 10) Cremation is becoming more and more common as a way of burial and is fully sanctioned by the church. A word of caution, however. Since cremation is still a sensitive issue for many people, persons considering cremation for themselves should discuss this with family members since they are the one who will have to carry out your wishes.
- 11) Discuss your funeral plans with your family members long before the time arrives. It will help to alleviate a great deal of confusion, wondering, and guilt if plans are made apart from the trauma of death. Try to avoid making requests of family members that may be difficult to carry out or that are inappropriate.
- 12) Make a list of the people who ought to be notified in the event of a death. Ask for help from friends and other family members to do the difficult calling.
- 13) If the deceased was an active, professing Christian, then the funeral service is the time to sing some of the victorious, resurrection hymns of faith. It is also appropriate to have music that puts our grief into words and song. All too often the music selected for funerals is based on sentiment or what one may have heard sung at the last funeral. Music selected should embody high standards of quality and reflect the spirit of Christian confidence, trust and hope in the resurrection. Secular music is often not appropriate for the funeral service.