

Planning Funerals at Immanuel Lutheran

Please accept our condolences at the loss of your loved one. In faith we know that he or she is held by God in God's good care. But we also know this is difficult time for you. As the Church, we want to accompany you through this confusing and unfamiliar process.

This document is intended to help you as you work with the pastor to plan a worship service that will honor your loved one's life and remember the promises of Christ. It is helpful if you and your family walk through it before the meeting with the pastor. You may complete as much or as little of the document as you wish. At the meeting we will discuss details of the worship as well as share some stories and thoughts about your loved one's life.

Personal information

The church keeps records of all church and pastoral acts. Our records date back to 1878, (the first records are in Norwegian!) Your loved one will be include in these records.

Full name of the deceased: _____

Date of birth: _____ Date of death: _____

Family contact: (for any questions)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Planning a visitation

Visitations may take place in the Gathering Space on the main level one or two hours before the service. The following will help us be prepared on the day of the visitation.

Are you working with a funeral home? _____ If so, which one? _____

Will there be a casket or urn present? _____

Will you need easels for photo boards? _____

Will you need a projector for a digital slideshow? _____

If so, will you need a computer? _____

Will you need extra tables for remembrances? _____

Other notes

- You will need to provide a guestbook. On request we can provide a basket for cards.
- During the visitation, the West Lounge will be available for family use for quiet space. If you wish to bring snacks for that space, you are welcome to do so.

Planning the service

Bulletins

The church will produce a bulletin for the worship service. You may provide a copy of the obituary (or let us know where and when it was published), and a digital picture of your loved one. If you do not have a digital picture, we can scan a physical one.

How many people do you expect to attend? (The count does not need to be exact, it just helps us prepare for the worship service.) _____

Entering the Church

If there is a casket or urn, the service begins in the back of the church at the baptismal font. Baptism is the way we all become children of God and enter the church. As a scripture about baptism is read, a white cloth (representing a baptismal garment) is placed on the casket or urn. Members of the immediate family may help drape the cloth. Who will do this? _____.

Family members walk in during the first hymn. They will sit together in the front pews during the service. How many family members should we reserve space for? _____

Music

The service includes 3 or 4 hymns sung by the congregation. You are welcome to choose the hymns, or we can choose them for you. If you and your family choose the hymns, please consider the following:

- You may wish to consider hymns that were favorites of your loved one or favorites of your family.
- You may wish to consider hymns that speak of the promises of God for your loved one, such as "Amazing Grace," "Eagle's Wings" or "How Great Thou Art."
- You may wish to consider hymns that have a resurrection theme, since that is the promise we proclaim at every funeral, such as "For all the Saints," "Thine is the Glory" or "I know that My Redeemer Lives."
- We do not use national or popular songs in worship. (For example we would not use the National Anthem or the Vikings theme song.) We celebrate the unique attributes of your loved one, and we have deep respect and admiration for our military and nation. However, it is important that as we worship we focus on God, God's promises to us and your loved one's place as a beloved child of God. (The U.S. military honors this by keeping flag or honors ceremonies separate from worship)
- Some suggested hymns may be found on page 5.

We would like the following hymns:

Solos

Vocal or instrumental solos are welcome. A solo may be in addition to or replace one or more of the hymns. The church can provide soloists, either male or female. The worship director can recommend options for music as well. Before you ask a family member to sing or play an instrument, please consider the difficulty of performing at an emotional time. We would like the following solos:

Eulogies

Eulogies or remembrances are a good way to connect the whole congregation with your loved one. Stories help us see God at work in their lives. However, speakers must be chosen carefully. Can this person speak without breaking down? Will this person be respectful and appropriate? After much experience we have created the following guidelines for eulogies:

- There can be no more than 3 speakers.
- Each talk must be under 3 minutes.
- The talk must be written out. (not an outline)

The following people will speak:

Readings

As in Sunday worship, we may include up to 3 scripture readings and a Psalm. (one each from the Old Testament, book of Psalms, New Testament, and the Gospels.) As you chose readings, consider any that might have been precious to your loved one. If s/he had a bible, you may want to see what they may have underlined. You can also see sample readings on page 6.

We would like the following readings:

Old Testament _____

Psalm _____

New Testament _____

Gospel _____

One or more family friends or relatives may read the scripture readings. They may bring their own Bible or one will be provided for them.
The following people will read:

Holy Communion

Communion may be served as a part of the funeral. Because communion is a foretaste of the heavenly feast, it is appropriate to share it at a funeral. Do you wish to include Holy Communion? _____

Interment

Will there be an interment or inurnment? _____

If so, when and where? _____

Luncheon

A luncheon may be served after the service. Luncheons should be arranged with the Immanuel Lutheran Church Women. You may contact Sandi Butler (651-738-2994) to make arrangements.

Fees

The following fees will apply. (If you are working with a funeral home, the Organist, Soloist, and Funeral Coordinator fees will be included in their services.)

Organist: \$150

Soloist: \$125

Funeral Coordinator: \$75

Luncheon: Cost of the food (paid to ILCW)

A Few Suggested Hymns:

313: O Lord, Now Let Your Servant
376: Thine is the Glory
377: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
380: Hallelujah Jesus Lives!
422: For All the Saints
423: Shall We Gather at the River
448: We know that Christ is Raised
502: The King of Love My Shepherd Is
504: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
*595: Jesus Loves Me!
597: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
608: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
*613: Thy Holy Wings
619: I know that My Redeemer Lives
629: Abide with Me
639: When We Are Living
721: Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
732: I was There to Hear your Borne Cry
759: My Faith Looks Up to Thee
770: Give Me Jesus
773: Precious Lord, Take My Hand
778: The Lord's My Shepherd
779: Amazing Grace
781: Children of the Heavenly Father
787: On Eagle's Wings
*815: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
838: Beautiful Savior
856: How Great Thou Art

**Although most of the suggested hymns are suitable for a funeral involving a person of any age, these may be especially useful at the death of a child.*

A Few Suggested Readings:

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a: I know that my Redeemer lives
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: For everything there is a season
Isaiah 25:6-9: God will swallow up death forever
*Isaiah 40:1, 6-11: God will gather the lambs
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31: Comfort my people, says your God
*Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7: I have called you by name
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19: I am about to do a new thing
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters Isaiah 61:1-3: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
*Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25: A new heaven and a new earth
*Isaiah 66:10-14: As a mother comforts her child
Jeremiah 31:8-13: I will turn their mourning into joy
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33: The steadfast love of the LORD

Psalm

*Psalm 23: The LORD is my shepherd
*Psalm 42:1-5: As a deer longs for flowing streams
Psalm 46:1-7: God is our refuge and strength
*Psalm 121: I lift up my eyes to the hills
*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: Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
*Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
1 Corinthians 15:12-26: Christ, the first fruits, has been raised
2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18: Treasure in clay jars
*1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18: Teaching about those who have died
Hebrews 12:1-2: Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses
1 Peter 1:3-9: A living hope through Jesus' resurrection
*1 John 3:1-2: See what love the Father has given us
Revelation 7:9-17: God will wipe away every tear
Revelation 21:2-7: I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem
Revelation 22:1-5: The Lord God will be their light

Gospel

*Matthew 5:1-10: Blessed are those who mourn
Matthew 11:25-30: I will give you rest
*Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14: A child is the greatest in the kingdom

*Mark 10:13-16: Let the little children come
Mark 16:1-7: The resurrection of Christ
Luke 24:1-9: the resurrection of Christ
John 1:1-5, 9-14: The light shines in the darkness
John 6:37-40: I will raise them up on the last day
*John 10:11-16: I am the good shepherd
John 11:21-27: I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:1-6: I prepare a place for you
John 14:25-27: Peace I leave with you

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