

God...will wipe every tear from their eyes



*There will be no more death or
mourning or crying or pain.*

Revelation 21:4

FUNERAL SUGGESTIONS

A PLANNING GUIDE TO ASSIST MY FAMILY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 HOUSTON AVENUE
HOUSTON, TX 77007

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 "spiritually" 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, first of all, as a means to let your wishes be known to all concerned.

Secondly, pre-planning your funeral enables you to give expression to your faith through choosing and ordering what is to take place.

Also, it 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 gone that your loved ones, because of their grief, may forget your desires.

Finally, 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 or enforceable. Information will be sealed in an envelope and placed in a fire-proof safe at Trinity Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, for safekeeping. Trinity is not obligated or responsible for the execution of these instructions.

MY WISHES

Name: _____
First Middle Last Nickname

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Birth

Date: ____/____/____ Place: _____
City State

Baptism

Date: ____/____/____ Place: _____
Church, Hospital, etc. City State

Confirmation

Date: ____/____/____ Place: _____
Church City State

Occupation: _____ 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.

Do you wish the following:

☐ Yes ☐ No Funeral Service?
If so where? _____
Church, Funeral Home, etc. City State

☐ Yes ☐ No Memorial Service?
If so where? _____
Church, Funeral Home, etc. City State

☐ Yes ☐ No Body to be viewed at funeral home?

☐ Yes ☐ No Body to be viewed at church?

☐ Yes ☐ No Funeral Pall (used to cover the casket during services at the church)

Suggested Clergyman: _____

Suggested Choir or Soloist (if any): _____

Suggested Organist: _____

Suggested Funeral Home: _____
Funeral Home Name

Street City State

Type of Casket: _____

Clothing, Jewelry: _____

Suggested Cemetery: _____, _____
Name City State

Do you wish the following:

☐ Yes ☐ No Grave Plot?

☐ Yes ☐ No Mausoleum?

☐ Yes ☐ No Cremation? - Disposition of ashes: _____

I have already purchased a plot in _____, _____
Cemetery Name City State
Section _____ Lot # _____

Grave Monument Instructions

Grave Monument Inscription: _____

Other Instructions: _____

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

☐ Yes ☐ No Transplant of organs?

☐ Yes ☐ No Medical Research?

Hospital or recipient?: _____, _____
Name City State

Suggested Memorials:

☐ Memorials or flowers as people prefer

☐ Memorial gifts instead of flowers

Memorials gifts to the following churches or organizations:

_____, _____, _____
Church/Organization Street City State

_____, _____, _____
Church/Organization Street City State

_____, _____, _____
Church/Organization Street City State

Additional comments: _____

Suggested Crucifer: _____ Suggested Readers: _____

Suggested Pallbearers: _____

Suggested Honorary Pallbearers (if any): _____

☐ Check if military honors are suggested.

FUNERAL HYMNS AND 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 music director, is charged with the responsibility of final planning of the funeral service. However, you may be assured that they will take your desires fully 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 |
| ☐ Psalm 23 | ☐ Isaiah 61:1-3 | ☐ John 14:1-6 | ☐ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| ☐ Psalm 46 | ☐ Lamentations 3:22-23 | ☐ Romans 8:31-39 | ☐ 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| ☐ Psalm 90 | ☐ Mark 10:13-16 (children's) | ☐ Romans 6:3-5 | ☐ 1 John 3:1-2 |
| ☐ Psalm 121 | ☐ Luke 7:11-17 | ☐ Romans 14:7-9 | ☐ 1 John 4:15-18 |
| ☐ Psalm 130 | ☐ John 5:24-27 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:1-26 | ☐ Revelation 7:9-17 |
| ☐ Psalm 139 | ☐ John 6:37-40 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 | ☐ Revelation 21:2-7 |
| ☐ Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 | ☐ John 10:11-16, 27-28 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:35-57 | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 | ☐ John 11:21-27 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 | |
| ☐ Confirmation verse _____ | | ☐ Favorite Bible Story _____ | |
| ☐ Others _____ | | | |

Suggested Funeral Hymns

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ As With Gladness Men of Old (stanzas 1, 4, 5) | ☐ O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (stanzas 1, 4, 5) |
| ☐ In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (stanzas 1, 2, 4) | ☐ Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6) |
| ☐ Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | ☐ Once in Royal David's City |

Lent

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Christ, the Life of All the Living | ☐ O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (stanzas 1, 4, 6) |
| ☐ Go to Dark Gethsemane | ☐ There Stands A Fountain Where for Sin |
| ☐ Jesus, Refuge of the Weary | |

Easter

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ At the Lamb's High Feast (stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7, 8) | ☐ Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5) |
| ☐ I Know That My Redeemer Lives | ☐ This Joyful Eastertide |
| ☐ Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense | |

Ascension

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7) | ☐ On Christ's Ascension I Now Build |
| ☐ Draw Us to You | |

Liturgical Chant

☐ Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace

Comfort

☐ Be Still, My Soul

☐ Blest Be the Tie That Binds

☐ 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

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

☐ Children of the Heavenly Father

☐ For All the Saints

☐ For Me to Live Is Jesus

☐ Great Is Thy Faithfulness

☐ How Great Thou Art

☐ I'm But a Stranger Here

☐ Jerusalem the Golden

☐ Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

☐ Jesus, Still Lead On

☐ Nearer, My God to Thee

☐ Oh, How Blest Are You

☐ Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)

☐ Rock of Ages

☐ The Church's One Foundation

Children's Hymns

☐ I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

☐ Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

☐ Jesus, Shepherd, in Your Arms

☐ Others _____

☐ 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: _____, _____, _____
Name City State Zip Code

Parents

Living (check response):

Father's Name: _____

☐ Yes ☐ No

Father's Birthplace: _____, _____
City State

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

☐ Yes ☐ No

Mother's Birthplace: _____, _____
City State

Spouse

Living (check response):

Spouse's Name (include maiden name): _____

☐ Yes ☐ No

Marital Status: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Place: _____, _____
Church, Home, etc. City State

Children (name, spouse and city)

Living (check response):

_____	☐ 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 (check response):

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ 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
_____		_____
Street Address	City	State

_____	_____	_____
Name	Relation	Phone
_____		_____
Street Address	City	State

_____	_____	_____
Name	Relation	Phone
_____		_____
Street Address	City	State

Employer/Former Employer: _____

_____	_____
Name	Phone

Street Address	City, State

Social Security number: _____ Medicare number: _____

My physician: _____

Phone _____

My health insurance is: _____

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: _____
Name Phone

Street Address City State

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

If yes: _____
Name 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.)

My safe-deposit box is located: _____
Bank, Financial Institution, etc. Phone

Street Address City State

The key is located: _____ Key number: _____

My military records are located: _____

My financial records are located: _____

My income-tax records are located: _____

My financial advisor or tax-return preparer is: _____
Name Phone

Street Address City State

My property deeds are located: _____

My house and car, keys, etc. are located: _____

My banks/credit unions are:

Name	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Name	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Name	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Name	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Name	Phone
Street Address	City, State

My insurance policies are located:

Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State

My loans are:

Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State

My investments are:

Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State
Company	Phone
Street Address	City, State

Where are your family photos, heirlooms, and any other irreplaceables? Are they in a metal file?

Location: _____

The person who knows about this form and its location and who has discussed it with me is:

My Signature

Date



