

Funeral Planning

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 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 guide will help you consider these details and provide you with a means of sharing 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 guide, with the necessary information to your pastor, your funeral director and several family members and friends.

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 because it:

- lets your wishes be known to all concerned
- enables you to give expression to your faith by choosing and ordering what is to take place
- eases the burden on your loved ones by eliminating the pressure of decision-making, particularly the need to fulfill your wishes. By putting them in writing, the possibility is gone that your loved ones, in their grief, may forget your desires.
- 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 assurances 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 an opportunity to openly share their love and sorrow, best shared now, rather than after the 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 guide may need to be updated. As you consider your death, burial and life everlasting, may the Lord bless you.

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 at the 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

Memorial gifts to the following churches or organizations:

_____ , _____
Church/Organization Address City State

_____ , _____
Church/Organization Address City State

_____ , _____
Church/Organization Address City State

Additional Comments _____

Suggested Crucifer _____ Suggested Readers _____

Suggested Pallbearers _____

Please check if military honors are requested

Funeral Hymns and Scripture Readings

Suggested Funeral Scriptures (not exclusive)

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

ELW:

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done
For All the Saints
Jesus Loves Me!
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy One
A Mighty Fortress is Our God
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
Soon and Very Soon

Other:

I Know My Redeemer Lives!
Amazing Grace
The Lord's My Shepherd
If You But Trust in God to Guide You
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Children of the Heavenly Father
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Beautiful Savior
All Creatures of Our God and King
How Great Thou Art
In Thee Is Gladness
Let All Things Now Living

Deep Within
On Eagle's Wings
Here I am, Lord
Abide With Me
The Love of the Lord

Others _____

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 _____
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parents

Father's Name _____ Living? _____

Father's Birthplace _____

Mother's Name _____ Living? _____

Mother's Birthplace _____

Spouse

Spouse's Name (include maiden name) _____ Living? _____

Marital Status _____ Wedding Date _____

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

Children (name, spouse and city)

_____ Living? _____
_____ Living? _____
_____ Living? _____
_____ Living? _____
_____ Living? _____
_____ Living? _____

Names of grandchildren

Names of great-grandchildren

Brothers and Sisters (name, spouse and city)

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

_____ Living? _____

Members 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	Relationship	Phone
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State Zip
_____	_____	_____
Name	Relationship	Phone
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State Zip
_____	_____	_____
Name	Relationship	Phone
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State Zip
_____	_____	_____
Name	Relationship	Phone
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State Zip

Employer/Former Employer _____

_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street	City State Zip

Social Security Number _____ Medicare Number _____

My Physician _____ Phone _____

My Health Insurance _____ 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 City State Zip

Have you designated power of attorney to someone? Yes No
If yes _____
Name Phone

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

Street 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/tax return preparer is _____
Name Phone

Street City State Zip

My property deeds are located _____

My house and car keys, etc are located _____

My banks/credit unions are

Name Phone

Street City State Zip

Name		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

Name		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

Name		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

My insurance policies are located

Name		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

Name		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

My loans are

Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

My investments are

Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip
Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip
Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip
Company		Phone	
Street	City	State	Zip

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 _____