

**FUNERAL & MEMORIAL
PLANNING GUIDE**

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Planning Faithfully, Choosing Wisely

When death occurs, what are the first steps that need to be taken?

Whether the person dies at home or in a care facility, contacting a funeral home is an important step. They will come out, attend to the body, and remove the body from its current location. The process of final arrangements then begins. It would be helpful to have decided upon a funeral home prior to death occurring. It is also important to contact the pastor. A meeting soon after the death to plan the types of services needed will help to answer questions and reduce stress and anxiety.

What is the difference between a funeral and memorial service?

Simply put, at a funeral service the body of the deceased is present, whereas at a memorial service either the deceased's ashes or no remains are present. Both services provide an opportunity to proclaim God's death defeating acts in Christ as we remember all that God has given us in the life of our loved one.

What is Faith Lutheran's position on cremation?

Cremation is seen by the church as a completely viable and appropriate alternative to the traditional burials. The cost of a cremation is significantly less than that of a burial. It is important that early discussions take place to know the person's views on cremation. All funeral homes can assist in cremation arrangements.

What is visitation?

It is a time for the family members of the deceased to greet and be greeted by friends and acquaintances of the deceased. It is typically done the day prior to the funeral or memorial service or just prior to that service on the same day. Some important questions regarding a visitation are:

How many should be done?

If there is a casket, should it be opened during the visitation?

Where should the visitation take place, the funeral home or the church?

How soon after death does a funeral or memorial service take place?

Funeral services are typically held within three to five days following death, thereby allowing appropriate time for family members and friends to gather for the service. Memorial services can be held any time, but it is recommended they be held within a few weeks.

Faith Lutheran is unable to hold funeral or memorial services on Sunday.

Where should the funeral or memorial service take place?

It is strongly suggested that the service take place in the church sanctuary. That is the place where resurrection and the promise of God's presence have been regularly preached and celebrated. It is much more difficult to celebrate resurrection at a funeral home.

How does a funeral or memorial service get planned?

The pastor will meet with the immediate family and discuss all aspects of the service and burial. It is very helpful if some planning for this time has been done earlier. Emotions are running high at this time; planning ahead can make this time less stressful.

Who is responsible for producing the order of worship and bulletin?

After the service has been planned with the Pastor, the church office will produce the bulletin at no cost to your family.

Who is responsible for submitting the death notice and obituary to the newspaper?

Typically, a funeral director will take care of this for you. There may or may not be additional costs to have the obituary published in certain newspapers.

Who plans the reception following the funeral or memorial service?

If the reception is held at Faith Lutheran, we have a funeral guild who will assist in making these arrangements at no cost. If you prefer, you can make other or additional arrangements with a caterer.

What is a memorial gift?

Often, in lieu of flowers, the deceased and their family have chosen one or more organization where memorial gifts can be made. It is important and helpful that this decision be made in advance of passing.

Family Visitation

A visitation is an informal gathering for friends and family to express sympathy, view photographs/video tribute, etc. You are invited to consider Faith Lutheran for the visitation when you work with a professional Funeral Director.

Will a visitation be held? Yes No

Location of visitation: _____

Time of visitation: Evening prior to funeral/memorial

Before funeral/memorial

Both

Will the remains be present? Yes No

Displays: Flowers Personal Objects

Cross Photograph (s)

Flag Other: _____

Funeral Home

Name of the Funeral Home chosen: _____

Are pre-arrangements made? Yes No

Burial Wishes: Funeral Only

Funeral and Burial

Cremation and Inurnment

Cremation and Memorial

Cremation Only

Eligible for Military Honors: Yes No

Name of Cemetery: _____

Funeral/Memorial Service Plans

Location of Service _____ Faith Lutheran
 _____ Graveside
 _____ Funeral Home
 _____ Other: _____

Who is presiding over Service: _____

Date and Time of Service: _____

Names of Pall Bearers (burial only)

Readers: _____

Soloist/Instrumentalists: _____

Hymns _____ The officiating pastor will choose hymns
 _____ The hymns chosen are indicated below:

Beautiful Savior	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer
I Know That My Redeemer Lives	Love Divine All Loves Excelling
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	For All the Saints
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Life High the Cross
The Lord's My Shepherd	Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me
A Mighty Fortress	My Faith Looks up to Thee
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	Amazing Grace
How Great Thou Art	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Other: _____	

Display items to be on/near the casket/urn:

Flowers Photograph (s)
 Cross Other: _____

Will the remains be present at the Service? Yes No

Will Holy Communion be celebrated? Yes No Family Only

Will child care be needed? Yes No Family Only

Remembrances to be shared during worship:

Please ask speaker (s) to limit their remarks to 3 minutes

Bible Readings: The officiating pastor will choose readings

The readings chosen are indicated below:

Job 19:23-27	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 40:28-31
Isaiah 65:17	Psalms 23	Psalms 46:1-5
Psalms 46:10-11	Psalms 90:1-10	Psalms 121
Psalms 130	Psalms 139:1-12	Matthew 5:1-12a
Luke 23:33, 39-43	John 11:17-27	John 14:1-6
John 14:25-27	Romans 8:14-23	Romans 8:31-39
Romans 14:7-9	Romans 14:10b-12	1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Revelation 21:1-4	Revelation 21:22-25	1 Corinthians 15:35-38
Revelation 22:3-5	Revelation 22:1-5	1 Corinthians 15:50, 53-58
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1		1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Other: _____

Desired Expression of Sympathy

_____ Flowers sent to _____

_____ Memorial Gifts give to _____

Reception Following Worship

You are welcome to host a reception at Faith Lutheran. Our funeral guild can provide coffee and punch, cookies and sandwiches for any funeral. Family and friends of the deceased are welcome to coordinate additional accommodations, and we would be happy to help arrange that.

I would like a reception: _____ Yes _____ No

Time of Visitation: _____ Following worship; before burial

_____ After burial

Location for reception: _____

Menu for reception: _____ Please have LCR handle the menu

_____ We have hired a caterer

_____ Other: _____

For additional questions or assistance, please feel free to contact our Church office at 205-680-2144,