



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Ministry to All in the Heart of Superior

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Guidelines for Funeral Planning at Pilgrim Lutheran Church

The time around a death is a challenging one for families to gather and make decisions in the midst of their grief. Even when death is expected, this is a difficult moment. Our staff and volunteers here at Pilgrim are here to help you with whatever we can as you navigate this time. Our Pastor will invite you to sit down for conversation and planning in the days before a funeral service where we will discuss music, readings, and participants in the service. In addition to services at the church, we offer space for visitations, meals, and can provide graveside services as well. Please contact the church office when death is anticipated so our pastor can provide care for your family and help coordinate a time for services to be held.

You may want to take some time to plan details of your funeral service ahead of time. This can be especially helpful for your loved ones. Below is a guide to planning a service. This can be used at the time of death, or as a pre-planning document for one to make decisions about their own service. If you choose to fill out a pre-planning document, please bring a copy to the church office for our records, and make sure your family is aware of where you are keeping a copy at home.

Below is an outline for a basic funeral worship service utilizing our traditional liturgy:

At the Entrance to the Church
(Welcome and Prayers)

Opening Hymn

Procession

Liturgy of the Word

A Psalm read responsively

(Eulogy or Time of Sharing)

(Prayers and one or two readings from Scripture, including the Gospel)

(Sermon)

Sermon Hymn

Creed

Prayers

Blessing

Closing Hymn and Recessional

Readings and Songs

We are often asked for suggested readings and songs for a service. While you are welcome to choose your own favorite, below we've compiled some readings and music that are often favorites or frequently used at funerals. As a general rule, it's good to have a Psalm, one Old Testament or Epistle, and one Gospel lesson.

Psalms – read responsively or as a scripture reading:

Psalm 16:1,5-11	The Lord is my chosen portion
Psalm 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalm 27:1,4-5,13-14	Whom shall I fear?
Psalm 34:1-8	Taste and see that the Lord is good
Psalm 42:1-6a	As the deer longs for flowing streams
Psalm 46	God is our refuge and strength
Psalm 90:1-6,10,12-17	So teach us to number our days
Psalm 91:1-2,9-12,14-16	In the shadow of the Almighty
Psalm 103:1-5,10-18	God's steadfast love
Psalm 116:1-9,12-15	Precious is the death of his saints
Psalm 121	The Lord will keep you
Psalm 130	Out of the depths
Psalm 139:1-12,23-24	Pursued by God

Old Testament (except Psalms)

2 Samuel 12:16-23	Death of David's infant son
Job 19:23-27	My Redeemer lives
Proverbs 31:10-31	Portrait of a godly woman
Isaiah 35:3-10	The ransomed shall return
Isaiah 40:1-11	He shall feed his flock
Isaiah 40:27-31	They who wait for the Lord
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13	God's gracious covenant
Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11	The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isaiah 65:17-25	A new heaven and a new earth
Jeremiah 31:31-34	Written on the heart
Zechariah 8:1-8	Children at play in God's city

Epistle

Romans 5:1-11	While we were yet sinners
Romans 6:3-9	Baptized into Christ's death
Romans 8:14-23	Joint heirs with Christ
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	Who shall separate us?
1 Corinthians 13	But the greatest of these is love
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Raised on the third day
1 Corinthians 15:12-28	But Christ has been raised

1 Corinthians 15:51-58	O, death, where is thy sting?
2 Corinthians 4:5-18	God's power in our weakness
2 Corinthians 5:1-10	A house not made with hands
Ephesians 3:14-21	The love of Christ
Ephesians 6:10-18	The whole armor of God
Philippians 2:5-11	He emptied himself
Philippians 3:7-16,20-21	Becoming like him in his death
Philippians 4:1,4-9,13,19	Rejoice in the Lord
Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17	Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The comfort of his coming again
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11,23-24	Destined to obtain salvation
2 Timothy 2:8-13	Remember Jesus Christ, risen
Hebrews 11:1-10	By faith they obeyed
Hebrews 11:32-12:2	A cloud of witnesses
Hebrews 12:3-14	Disciplined by God
1 Peter 1:3-9	Born anew to a living hope
1 John 1:1-7	Walk in the light
1 John 3:16-24	Love in deed and in truth
1 John 4:7-21	Love is of God -- God is love
Revelation 7:9-17	A great multitude in white robes
Revelation 21:1-7,22-25	Behold, I make all things new
Revelation 21:22-27	The heavenly Jerusalem
Revelation 22:1-7	The Lamb of God and the Tree of Life

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-16	The blessed life
Matthew 6:19-34	God provides
Matthew 11:25-30	Easy yoke, light burden
Matthew 25:31-40	You gave me food
Mark 10:13-16	Let the children come to me
Luke 7:11-17	Raising the widow's son
Luke 18:15-17	Let the children come to me
Luke 23:32-43	Today ... in Paradise
Luke 24:13-35	Known in the breaking of the bread
John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
John 5:19-29	The Son gives life
John 6:35-40,47-51	The Bread of Life
John 10:7-16	The Good Shepherd
John 11:17-27,38-44	I am the Resurrection
John 14:1-7,15-21,25-27	The Way, the Truth, the Life
John 15:1-17	The Vine and the branches

Here are some hymns that are in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal. If you have additional hymn or song wishes, please talk to the pastor.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Abide With Me
All of us go down to the dust
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Amazing grace
Be Thou My Vision
Beautiful Savior
Blessed assurance
Borning cry
Children of the heavenly Father
Christ the Lord Risen Today
For all the saints
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Guide me ever, great Redeemer
He leadeth me
How great thou art
I am the Bread of life
I know that my Redeemer lives!
I want to walk as a child of the light
In the morning when I rise
Into paradise may the angels lead you
Jerusalem, my happy home
Jesus lives! The victory's won!
Jesus shall reign
Jesus, remember me
Jesus, still lead on
Let us ever walk with Jesus
Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Lord of all hopefulness

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
My faith looks up to thee
My Lord, what a morning
O God, our help in ages past
O Lord, now let your servant
O sacred head, now wounded
Oh, happy day when we shall stand..
On Jordan's stormy bank I stand
Precious Lord, take my hand
Shall we gather at the river
Sing with all the saints in glory
Soon and very soon
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
The King of love my shepherd is (Ps 23)
The Lord's my shepherd (Ps 23)
Thine is the glory
Thine the amen, thine the praise
This joyful Eastertide
Thy holy wings
Wake, awake, for night is flying
We are the Lord's
We walk by faith and not by sight
We were baptized in Christ Jesus
What a Friend we Have in Jesus
What wondrous love is this
Shepherd Me, O God; (Ps 23)
Day by day
On eagle's wings

Funeral Planning Worksheet

This form was filled out by: _____ On _____

Name as you want it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Choose an **Opening Hymn** to set the tone. _____

Choose a **Psalm** to be read responsively. _____

A Time for Remembrances (Eulogy) Decide whether or not you would like to have someone share some thoughts about you and your life.

Who are some people you can think of that you would like to say a few words about you?

Will there be an Honor Guard, VFW Auxiliary presentation, or Nurses Honor Guard? If so, please specify, and include branch of service if applicable. Yes/No

(If so, it will be held at the very beginning of the service or graveside.)

What are some **scripture readings** that have influenced your life?

_____ Old Testament

_____ Epistle

_____ Gospel

_____ Other influential readings

Write down your hymn choices here:

Please utilize the back with additional information.

Please return this form to the church office or to Pastor Tanner