

Assembling Memories

Planning a funeral service might be assisted by gathering together thoughts and memories of the deceased.

Think about your personal favorite memories of them.

List some music that they liked.

Who were the people closest to them?

Did they have a favorite saying, or poem, or piece of wisdom?

Were they active in any community groups or organizations?

Did they have a favorite place to visit?

What were their favorite meals, flowers, food, etc.?

Did the deceased have any favorite charities, causes, or beliefs to which they would want donations made in their name?

What mattered to them?

Contact Us

Our mission is:

*To draw all people to Christ, nurture faith,
and fulfill our calling to serve.*

We would be honored to serve you. Please contact us.

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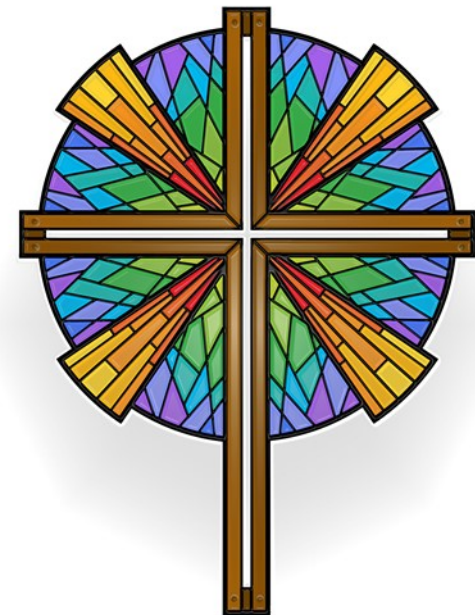
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Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Funeral Planning Guide



**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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About the Deceased

Full Name:

Family Contact Person:

Funeral Home:

Place of Burial:

Birth date and place:

Immediate Family Members (relation): *e.g. Betty Smith (sister)*

Marriage date and place:

Primary employment:

Military service/Important Organizations:

Funeral Luncheon

Social Time

Many families find it meaningful to gather with friends after a funeral service for food and conversation.

Due to COVID precautions, funeral luncheons are not currently being offered in our church fellowship hall.

See below for recommendations for alternative options for social gathering following a funeral service.

Social times can also take place at venues that can more easily handle larger groups of people, like the Virginia Elks Club, the Virginia Serviceman's Club, The Senior Center, or the Mt. Iron Community Center.

Some families also choose to gather in a local park or reserved pavilion, weather permitting. Reservations for outdoor settings must be made separately with parks or city authorities.

Caterers

These are a few local caterers. A more complete list is available by request.

Deluxe Catering	Harold & Carol Ebnet	225 Grant Ave Eveleth	218-744-4960
Kunnari's Kitchen	Rozy and Kelly	1305 8th St. S Virginia	612-360-0920 218-290-5557
Paul's Italian Market	Paul Nemanick	623 Garfield St Eveleth	218-744-1244
Deb's Catering	Deb Olivanti	Virginia Elks Club, Virginia	218-749-1269
Adventure's Restaurant	Martha & Greg Hartnett	5475 Mt. Iron Dr, Virginia	218-741-7151
Little Gourmet Deli	Mary Beth Petruska	302 Chestnut St, Virginia	218-749-1041
BG's Catering	Wayne	5494 Hwy 7 Mt. Iron	218-741-0512

Music

All music selected for the funeral service should reflect faith, hope, and trust in the grace of God. **Since the funeral service is a worship service in the Christian tradition, the music must be religious in nature.** Popular songs that are not religious in spirit can be played during visitation or luncheon time.

Congregational singing is highly encouraged, allowing worshippers to sing their faith. Favorite hymns of the deceased or the family may be included. Available hymnals are: the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the blue *With One Voice*, the gold *Contemporary Song*, and the tan *Hymns for the Family of God*. Some *ELW* hymns popular at funeral services are named below. Soloists and other musicians may also be included in funeral services.

Popular Funeral Hymns (ELW)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	#504	Abide with Me	#629
Children of the Heavenly Father	#781	Amazing Grace	#779
Eternal Father, Strong to Save	#756	Beautiful Savior	#838
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer	#618	Be Thou My Vision	#793
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	#836	Blessed Assurance	#638
Just a Closer Walk with Thee	#697	Borning Cry	#732
Great is Thy Faithfulness	#733	For All the Saints	#422
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	#631	Give Me Jesus	#770
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	#759	How Great Thou Art	#856
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	#632	Jesus Loves Me	#595
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	#773	Jesus, Still Lead On	#624
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	#789	Lord of All Hopefulness	#765
Shall We Gather at the River	#423	On Eagles' Wings	#787
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#502	Rock of Ages	#623
The Lord's My Shepherd	#778	Soon and Very Soon	#439
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	#742	Thine Is the Glory	#376
When Peace like a River (It Is Well)	#785	Thy Holy Wings	#613

Christian Burial

Why a Funeral Service?

- + The death of a loved one causes many different feelings in us. A funeral service creates a time and place when these feelings of grief can be named, honored, and expressed in healthy ways.
- + A funeral service gathers together family, friends, and community for mutual support at a time when it is most needed.
- + A funeral service provides an opportunity to give thanks for the life of the deceased.
- + A funeral service offers comfort and hope to people through God's Holy Word, prayer, and song. It helps people move ahead with their lives following the loss of a loved one.

Jesus Christ

We see the grace of God most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his living, we learn how to live. In his death on the cross, we learn about God's forgiveness and grace for each of us. In his resurrection from the dead on Easter morning, Jesus opened a way to eternal life in heaven. Our faith in Jesus Christ is what gives us hope at a time of death.

Funeral Service/Memorial Service

If the deceased's body is present in a casket, the worship service is called a funeral service. If the body is not present, the service is called a memorial service. In both instances, the worship service is the same. The focus is on God's grace, with attention given to remembering the deceased. For the purpose of this guide, all references are to *funeral services*.

The Committal

An integral part of the funeral service is the Committal, which takes place at the place of burial. Because the Committal gives finality and reality to the funeral process, it serves the family and friends best when it is done before the social time. If the weather is inclement, or services on weekends make it difficult for a graveside Committal, the Committal may be held at the close of the funeral service in the sanctuary or the funeral home chapel. Arrangements may also be made with the pastor through the funeral director for the Committal to be held at a later date.

Worship Guidelines

Remembrance of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is God's gift to us of forgiveness, resurrection, and new life. The funeral service usually begins with a Remembrance of Baptism, because our hope as Christians is based on God's mercy and grace first received at Baptism. If the deceased person was not baptized, the service may begin with an acknowledgement of God's mysterious work through the Holy Spirit.

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is an essential part of worship services in the Lutheran tradition. The family may choose to have Holy Communion be part of a funeral service, but it is not required. The Sacrament must be offered to everyone. Some guests may belong to congregations which forbid them to participate in the Sacrament.

Pall

A white pall is used to cover the casket or urn during the service as a sign of God's mercy and grace that covers us even in death. The pall reminds us that we are all equal and loved in God's eyes.

Remembrances

The family may choose to have one or two family members or close friends share some thoughts, feelings, and remembrances about the deceased in the first part of the funeral service. The total time available for this is ten minutes, and speakers must commit themselves to this time constraint. An open call for remembrances is most appropriate at a reception or other luncheon gathering.

Pastor

The pastor of Gethsemane is responsible for leading funeral services. The day and time of a funeral service must fit the schedule of the pastor and the calendar of the congregation, in addition to the preferences of the family and the availability of the funeral home. Therefore, it is important that the pastor be involved with all funeral arrangements as early as possible. The pastor does not charge a fee for members, but will accept an honorarium for their services. Commonly this amount is \$150-200 (this is often paid through the funeral home). If not paid through the funeral home, payment is made directly to the pastor.

Scripture

Bible verses that are personal favorites of the deceased or the family are encouraged for funeral services. If the deceased read the Bible at home, there may be some favorites highlighted in their Bible. Generally, one or two Old and/or New Testament passages are read by friends or family members, and then the Gospel is read by the Pastor. Here are some popular verses relevant for funeral services:

Old Testament

Psalms 23
Psalms 46
Psalms 90
Psalms 121
Psalms 130
Job 19:23-27a
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Isaiah 25:6-9
Isaiah 40:1-11
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11
Isaiah 61:1-3
Jeremiah 31:8-13

*The Lord is my shepherd
God is our refuge and help
You have been our dwelling place
I lift up my eyes to the hills
Out of the depths I cry to you
I know that my Redeemer lives
For everything there is a season
God will swallow up death forever
Comfort, O comfort my people
Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
I will turn their mourning into joy*

New Testament

Romans 5:1-11
Romans 8:31-39
1 Cor 15:12-26
2 Cor 4:7-18
1 Thess 4:13-18
Hebrews 12:1-3
1 Peter 1:3-9
Revelation 7:9-17
Revelation 21:1-7
Revelation 22:1-5

*Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
Who will separate us from the love of Christ
Christ, the first fruits, has been raised
We have this treasure in clay jars
We do not want you to be uninformed
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
A living hope
God will wipe away every tear
I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem
The Lord God will be their light*

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10
Matthew 10:26-32
Matthew 11:25-30
Mark 16:1-7
John 1:1-5, 9-14
John 3:13-17
John 10:11-16
John 11:21-27
John 14:1-6
John 14:25-27

*Blessed are those who mourn
More value than the sparrows
Come to me, all you who are weary
The resurrection of Christ
The light shines in the darkness
God so loved the world
I am the good shepherd
I am the resurrection and the life
I go to prepare a place for you
Peace I leave with you*