

Funeral Information Sheet

(Revised March 2011)

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we live in the hope of the resurrection and eternal life. St. Martin's has experienced some untimely deaths throughout the years. By making some of your wishes known now, the family burden of making these decisions can be lightened during an otherwise stressful time. This funeral arrangement form is provided for you to consider the witness you wish to leave to your faith in Jesus Christ through your funeral service. Pre-planning of your funeral, the order of worship, and planned giving through memorial gifts and estates are all opportunities for us to comfort others in their grief and to express our confidence in our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

Please take the time to examine this form, our church policy regarding funerals (available from the church office), and discuss the various questions with your family. If you decide to fill out this form, please return a copy to the church office. We will keep all forms on file for use by Pastor Paul and the Worship Coordinator in funeral preparation. This form contains information beyond that which is needed by St. Martin's for worship planning. It is for your family members too. Give them a copy once completed. Please be assured that all information will be kept in confidence. If you make any changes in your funeral plans, please let the church office know. This form is for everyone regardless of age. May God bless and guide you as you consider the stewardship of the life and faith God has given you. If you have further requests, please include them on an attached sheet.



Name: _____ Date Completed: _____

I have already pre-planned my funeral arrangements: YES NO

Desired Funeral Home: _____

Disposition of Remains

Please check those that apply:

I desire that my remains be cremated and:
My ashes be buried in a cemetery (*specify cemetery*): _____
My ashes be disposed by (*specify*): _____

I desire that my remains be embalmed and that they be buried in a cemetery (*specify cemetery*):

I desire that memorial contributions be made to (*specify*): _____

I would like more information on how I can remember my congregation and the larger church through planned giving in my will.

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The Funeral Service

A Christian funeral is a worship service offered to Almighty God by the living, taking assurance in the resurrection of the dead and the promise of eternal life. An open casket during the service or following is not appropriate and will not be observed in this congregation or by its pastor. The service will be planned in accordance with the funeral policy of St. Martin's Lutheran Church (available in the church office) and in accordance with the doctrine of the Lutheran Church. The celebration of Holy Communion is also encouraged as a sign of the completion of baptism, the foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and the anticipation of all the faithful reunited before God and the Lamb.

- I would desire a visit from the pastor or worship coordinator to assist in the planning of my service.
- I desire that the funeral visitation be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church.
- I desire that the funeral service be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church.
- I desire that Holy Communion be celebrated as a part of the funeral service.
- I desire that there not be a funeral but rather a "memorial service." (No casket present at the service.)
- Other requests: _____

Music

If at all possible I desire the following musician(s) for the funeral (specify if there is a preference):

Usually there is about 20 minutes of music prior to the funeral service. Please specify if there are any musical selections that you desire to be played during this time that are in keeping with a Christian funeral:

Usually there are 3 to 4 hymns/songs that may be sung during the funeral service. This is a wonderful way for the community of faith to share their faith and grief at the same time. Hymns from the hymnal are the most convenient but other appropriate hymns may be used also. Secular music is not appropriate.

[Some traditional hymn suggestions are: A Mighty Fortress is Our God; Amazing Grace; Morning Cry; Children of the Heavenly Father; For All the Saints; How Great Thou Art; I Know That My Redeemer Lives; Lift High the Cross; also look in the LBW or WOV under the hymns for Easter(#128-155, 671-679) and Christian Hope (#313-352, 742-746).]

Selected Hymns/Songs (list according to order in the service if you have a preference) _____

Scripture Readings

Usually three or more Scripture texts are read during the funeral service. These do not necessarily need to speak of eternal life but they should point to Jesus who is the resurrection and the life. Readings other than Scripture are generally considered inappropriate without consent of the Pastor.

[Some suggestions: Psalms 23, 121, 130; Ecclesiastes 3; Isaiah 41; John 3:16-18; John 11; John 14:1-7; Luke 2:29-34; Romans 5 and 8; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Timothy 4:6-8.]

Desired Scripture Readings: _____

Assurance of Salvation: (Please answer the following questions.)

- I believe that Jesus paid the penalty for my sin.
- I believe that trust in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the way to eternal life.
- I do trust in Jesus Christ (through the power of the Holy Spirit) and not my own actions, to receive the forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life