

CHRISTIAN FUNERAL ADVANCE PLANNING

An advance planning form for a Christian Funeral, or memorial service is available to you. The focus of this form is to help one address a very important matter with an expression of faith in Christ. This form is also to assist those who are handling your personal affairs and deals only with pastoral information.*

Selecting hymns and Scriptures for a funeral service. During an Adult Bible Class study of spirituality, interest was expressed for some helps or guidelines regarding hymn requests and Scripture selections. Here are some key principals based upon good Christian practice.

1. Seek Christ-centered songs and hymns which are focused on the Lord's actions.
2. Recommend Scriptures and hymns which will give a Gospel witness to your family and friends, helping them to perhaps see Jesus as you see Him.
3. Request hymns and Scriptures that have been your favorites to sustain you in your journey of faith and speak to your hope in the Lord.
4. Ask, Which hymns and Scriptures will help my family and friends as they grieve?

In addition to standbys like, "Amazing Grace", "How Great Thou Art", and "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me", consider hymns and songs listed in a Lutheran hymnal under sections such as: Easter, Cross and Commitment, Redeemer, Justification, and Love and Obedience. While it may first seem to be a daunting task, consider working through a Lutheran hymnal to identify some strong candidates among your favorites.

The pastor suggests and selects hymns or Scriptures when they are not offered by the advance planner, or later, by the family. For your current pastor, such hymn selections are based upon additional criteria such as Church Season, sing-ability, strong suggestion of hope or comfort in Christ, evangelical emphasis, and the sermon theme.

As Pastor, I welcome opportunity to chat with you about any plans or questions you may have in this area.

**Different planning forms are advisable for wills, estate planning and/or funeral arrangements with a funeral home. Please check with a professional skilled in these matters. For estate planning, please consider the Ohio District LCMS Gifts Planner, Eileen Fitzenreiter. Her office is in Napoleon and she may be contacted by phone at (419) 599-0213 or e-mail "fitzenreitere@oh.lcms.org".*

**Christian Funeral Advance Planning Form
Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon, OH**

In witness to my faith in Jesus Christ and my assurance of sharing His resurrection, I have chosen to provide the following information for guidance at the time of my death, should I die before His return. This form is to assist those who are handling my personal affairs and deals *only* with pastoral information.

1. My full name is _____
(as it should appear in the bulletin, etc. Please include your MAIDEN NAME, if applicable.)

Date of your birth _____

Date of your Baptism* _____

Date of your Confirmation* _____ Verse* _____

**only if known*

2. Contact Person _____
(This is the family member or person in charge of your funeral arrangements and the chief contact for the church.)

Contact Person's phone number

1. Preferred phone number: _____

2. Alternative phone numbers: _____

3. I desire:

Funeral Service at church Yes/No

Viewing of the Body Yes/No

Service at the Funeral Home Yes/No

A memorial service Yes/No

Cemetery committal Yes/No

4. I request these Christian songs or hymns:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. I request the following Scriptures, e.g.:

Psalm _____

Old Testament _____

Epistle _____

Gospel _____

6. My Funeral Home of preference is _____
Funeral Home phone number _____
Flowers Yes/No
Visitation prior to service Yes/No
I desire memorials be given to _____

7. Name of the cemetery where you wish to be buried _____

8. Are you eligible for military honors? Yes/No

9. I desire a luncheon in connection with the Service Yes/No
After the committal Yes/No
Immediately after the Service Yes/No (e.g., when committal will take place
somewhere quite distant from the place of
the service.)

10. Names of Pallbearers

11. Important persons to be notified immediately of my death*

Name _____	Phone # _____
Name _____	Phone # _____
Name _____	Phone # _____
Name _____	Phone # _____

12. Any other special requests or instructions?

With this information I recommit myself to God's grace and care for me in Jesus Christ.

Signed: Name _____ **Date:** _____

*Please give copies of this form to all the persons mentioned in #11 and to the church office.