

## 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 the deceased.

List some music that they liked.

Who were the people closest to the deceased?

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 happy to serve you. Please contact us.

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**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

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# Funeral Planning Guide



## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

June, 2016

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Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Burial: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Military service: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

# Funeral Luncheon

## Social Time

Many families find it meaningful to gather with friends after a funeral service for food and conversation. The fellowship hall at Gethsemane is offered for this purpose. The fellowship hall can seat up to 150 people, or 200 people snugly using a secondary room.

A Funeral Luncheon Team is organized to serve. The Team will set up, serve, and clean up afterwards. A fee of \$100.00 payable to Gethsemane Lutheran Church covers kitchen supplies, and is usually added to the funeral home's charges. The team is prepared to serve coffee and bars. If you prefer more food, you may contact—and make arrangements directly with—a caterer of your choosing, and our team will work with them.

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.

## Caterers

<b>Deluxe Catering</b>	Harold & Carol Ebnet	225 Grant Ave Eveleth	744-4960
<b>Northgate Café &amp; Catering</b>	Corey Carlson	620 Ninth St N Virginia	749-4043 741-4404
<b>Paul's Italian Market</b>	Paul Nemanick	623 Garfield St Eveleth	744-1244
<b>Deb's Catering</b>	Deb Olivanti	Virginia Elks Club, Virginia	749-1269
<b>Adventure's Restaurant</b>	Martha & Greg Hartnett	5475 Mt. Iron Dr, Virginia	741-7151
<b>Little Gourmet Deli</b>	Mary Beth Petruska	302 Chestnut St, Virginia	749-1041
<b>Country Kitchen</b>	Keny Adams	Hwy 53 Virginia	741-3663
<b>BG's Catering</b>	Wayne	5494 Hwy 7 Mt. Iron	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 Faith, 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.

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## Popular Funeral Hymns

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
Lord of All Hopefulness	#765	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	On Eagles' Wings	#787
Shall We Gather at the River	#423	Rock of Ages	#623
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	#502	Soon and Very Soon	#439
The Lord's My Shepherd	#778	Thine Is the Glory	#376
What a Friend We Have in Jesus	#742	Thy Holy Wings	#613
When Peace like a River	#785		

# Christian Burial

## Why a Funeral Service?

- ✦ The death of a loved one usually 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, we see the gate 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

## Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is God's gift to us of forgiveness, resurrection, and new life. The funeral service usually begins at the baptismal font with a Remembrance of Baptism, because our hope as Christians is based on God's mercy and grace first received at Baptism.

## 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. The Sacrament must be offered to everyone. Be aware that some guests may belong to congregations which forbid them to participate in the Sacrament.

## Pall

The casket is closed prior to the beginning of the worship service, and remains closed during and after the service. A 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 assures us that we are all equal and loved in God's eyes.

## Remembrances

The family may choose to have one or two people 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.

## 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.

# 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. Here are some popular choices relevant for funeral services:

## Old Testament

Psalm 23	<i>The Lord is my shepherd</i>
Psalm 46	<i>God is our refuge and help</i>
Psalm 90	<i>You have been our dwelling place</i>
Psalm 121	<i>I lift up my eyes to the hills</i>
Psalm 130	<i>Out of the depths I cry to you</i>
Job 19:23-27a	<i>I know that my Redeemer lives</i>
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	<i>For everything there is a season</i>
Isaiah 25:6-9	<i>God will swallow up death forever</i>
Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>Comfort, O comfort my people</i>
Isaiah 55:1-3,6-11	<i>Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters</i>
Isaiah 61:1-3	<i>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me</i>
Jeremiah 31:8-13	<i>I will turn their mourning into joy</i>

## New Testament

Romans 5:1-11	<i>Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ</i>
Romans 8:31-39	<i>Who will separate us from the love of Christ</i>
1 Cor 15:12-26	<i>Christ, the first fruits, has been raised</i>
2 Cor 4:7-18	<i>We have this treasure in clay jars</i>
1 Thes 4:13-18	<i>We do not want you to be uninformed</i>
Hebrews 12:1-3	<i>Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses</i>
1 Peter 1:3-9	<i>A living hope</i>
Revelation 7:9-17	<i>God will wipe away every tear</i>
Revelation 21:1-7	<i>I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem</i>
Revelation 22:1-5	<i>The Lord God will be their light</i>

## Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10	<i>Blessed are those who mourn</i>
Matthew 10:26-32	<i>More value than the sparrows</i>
Matthew 11:25-30	<i>Come to me, all you who are weary</i>
Mark 16:1-7	<i>The resurrection of Christ</i>
John 1:1-5,9-14	<i>The light shines in the darkness</i>
John 3:13-17	<i>God so loved the world</i>
John 10:11-16	<i>I am the good shepherd</i>
John 11:21-27	<i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
John 14:1-6	<i>In my Father's house there are many rooms</i>
John 14:25-27	<i>Peace I leave with you</i>