



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

## Pre-Funeral Planning Worksheet

T.S. Elliot reminds us in his *Four Quartets* that “in our beginning is our ending, and in our ending is our beginning.” Planning your funeral is an act of faith in Jesus Christ. Faith calls us to see that we belong to God and that nothing can separate us from that love (Romans 8: 31 - 38). Faith motivates us to think about our death as, perhaps, the single defining moment of our very lives. As we plan for our death we honor the Lord Jesus and give to our families a gift that will bring them strength and comfort when we say good-bye, for now.

This worksheet guides you through some basic pieces of information that will be needed after you have died. With your input now, your family can honor your wishes and take comfort in your honest preparations. The sections of these worksheet begin at the moment of death and carry you through to your grave side committal.

### Personal Information:

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***“Death has been swallowed up in victory...” (1 Corinthians 15: 54)***

Name of Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

City and Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you pre-arranged your funeral with the Funeral Home? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you talked about your obituary with loved ones? \_\_\_\_\_

(Where do you want it printed? Local papers only, previous cities or towns?)

Do your loved ones know where to locate the documents needed at the Funeral Home? \_\_\_\_\_

(Birth Certificate, Military Discharge Papers, Social Security Card/Number, Names of Parents (including Mother’s maiden name), educational background, work history, special clubs or organizations, Church membership, etc.)

Do your loved ones know of your wishes for Memorials? \_\_\_\_\_

(Church, Colleges, Medical Foundations, Mission projects, etc.)

Do you wish to be buried or cremated or donated for medical research? \_\_\_\_\_

If your plan is to donate for research, is your family aware of the process? If cremation, have you discussed the visitation and your wishes regarding viewing of your body? Have you discussed the type or urn or casket (metal/wood) and the cost? Have you discussed the vault type and cost?

***“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
(1 Corinthians 15: 57)***

Do you want the visitation at the Funeral Home or at Church? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do you wish to have the visitation the night before, or the day of the service?)

Do you have any pictures you would like displayed at the visitation? \_\_\_\_\_

The Funeral Service follows an ancient service order with many places for personal touches. The main questions for you to consider center on the music, scripture passages, celebration of communion and participants in the service. The Deacon will place the hymns in the best location in the service for you.

What hymns would you like sung at your funeral? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What scripture passages would you like read at your funeral? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Communion is often celebrated at funeral services. One consideration in this decision is your family and their participation in the Sacrament at their home congregation. Would you like communion celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_ Traditional distribution or intinction?

There are many roles for family and friends within the funeral service and at grave side. Here are some roles to consider and invite participation.

Lectors (to read lessons at the Funeral): \_\_\_\_\_

Family Greeting/ Remembrances (one, maybe two people, 5 minutes each):

\_\_\_\_\_

Assist with distribution of Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Soloists/ Special Music: \_\_\_\_\_

Assist with Prayers of the Church/ Prayers at grave side: \_\_\_\_\_

Pall Bearers (six recommended, 6 additional honorary pall bearers possible):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*“Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”  
(1 Corinthians 15: 58)*

Where will you be buried or interred? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any specific instructions for the final grave side service? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a reception following the service? Discuss the arrangements, the food and the location with your family and make your notes here.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are your family birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death/funeral anniversaries or other significant dates to note? (It is not uncommon that our death overlaps or connects with a specific family date that is important to note.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who might we expect to hear from and work with at the time of your death? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other comments or notes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

