

## Funeral Planning Worksheet

As Christian people, we know that death does not have the final answer. Through God's grace, Jesus has conquered sin and death forever. As we profess in the Apostles' Creed, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship states:

*At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing. – p. 279*

In the days following a death, it can often be overwhelming for family members to put the details of a funeral together. Whether it is following a long illness or a surprising accident, your loved ones may wonder what your wishes really were. This worksheet is an opportunity for you to think about these things now, discussing them with your family, friends, and pastor. You may provide a copy to be kept at Trinity to assist the pastor and your family in planning your funeral. It is not a legally binding document, but a guide and starting point for having conversation about what is to come.

You do not need to fill out every section; simply answer what seems most important or relevant to you.

### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

120 W 7th Street

Tipton, IA 52772

563-886-2991

[www.trinitytipton.org](http://www.trinitytipton.org)

**Adapted from Faith Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AK**

## Basic information

Full name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Date of baptism:

Place of baptism:

Date of confirmation:

Place of confirmation:

Date of marriage:

Place of marriage:

Spouse's name:

Survived by:

Preceded in death by:

Work and education:

Hobbies, activities, and passions:

Next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements:

## Care of the body

*This worksheet is not a binding document, but it can guide your loved ones in making decisions. Please talk with your family about these options now. Some decisions require separate signed documents.*

Organ donation (circle one):

Yes

No



**When choosing readings, it is typical to choose one each from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament, and the Gospel. You and your family may choose up to four readings from the lists below or elsewhere in the Bible:**

### **Old Testament**

Job 19:23-27a: *I know that my Redeemer lives*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: *For everything there is a season*  
Isaiah 25:6-9: *God will swallow up death forever*  
Isaiah 40:1, 6-11: *God will gather the lambs*  
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31: *Comfort my people, says your God*  
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7: *I have called you by name*  
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19: *I am about to do a new thing*  
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13: *Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters*  
Isaiah 61:1-3: *The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me*  
Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25: *A new heaven and a new earth*  
Isaiah 66:10-14: *As a mother comforts her child*  
Jeremiah 31:8-13: *I will turn their mourning into joy*  
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33: *The steadfast love of the LORD*

### **Psalms**

Psalms 23: *The LORD is my shepherd*  
Psalm 42:1-5: *As a deer longs for flowing streams*  
Psalm 46:1-7: *God is our refuge and strength*  
Psalm 121: *I lift up my eyes to the hills*  
Psalm 139:7-12: *The gracious omnipresence of the LORD*  
Psalm 142:1-6: *I cry to the LORD with my voice*  
Psalm 143: *LORD, hear my prayer*

### **New Testament**

Romans 5:1-11: *Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*  
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*  
1 Corinthians 15:12-26: *Christ, the first fruits, has been raised*  
2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18: *Treasure in clay jars*  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18: *Teaching about those who have died*  
Hebrews 12:1-2: *Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses*  
1 Peter 1:3-9: *A living hope through Jesus' resurrection*  
1 John 3:1-2: *See what love the Father has given us*  
Revelation 7:9-17: *God will wipe away every tear*  
Revelation 21:2-7: *I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem*  
Revelation 22:1-5: *The Lord God will be their light*

## Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10: *Blessed are those who mourn*  
Matthew 11:25-30: *I will give you rest*  
Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14: *A child is the greatest in the kingdom*  
Mark 10:13-16: *Let the little children come*  
Mark 16:1-7: *The resurrection of Christ*  
Luke 24:1-9: *The resurrection of Christ*  
John 1:1-5, 9-14: *The light shines in the darkness*  
John 6:37-40: *I will raise them up on the last day*  
John 10:11-16: *I am the good shepherd*  
John 11:21-27: *I am the resurrection and the life*  
John 14:1-6: *I prepare a place for you*  
John 14:25-27: *Peace I leave with you*

## Music

*Through music, we are able to express what words alone cannot. In selecting music, it is important to consider how the hymn proclaims Christ crucified and risen as shown in the life of the deceased, as well as ease of congregational singing. Recordings or popular tunes are more appropriate as music at the visitation or luncheon. This list is a starting point, and by no means exhaustive. Choose three or more hymns:*

### ELW Hymns

Abide with Me	629	
A Mighty Fortress is our God	504	
Amazing Grace	779	
Beautiful Savior	838	
Children of the Heavenly Father		781
For All the Saints	422	
Holy God, Holy and Glorious	637	
How Small Our Span of Life	636	
Give Me Jesus	770	
Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer	618	
How Great Thou Art	856	
I Know that My Redeemer Lives	619	
Lift High the Cross	660	
Lord of all Hopefulness	765	
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	759	
On Eagle's Wings	787	
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	773	
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	608	
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done	366	
Thy Holy Wings	613	

You may also elect to have a soloist sing or an instrumentalist play. If you have a particular piece you would like sung or played, please list it here:

Solo or Instrumental Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

## Remembrances/Eulogies

*Sharing stories and memories can be a helpful way of celebrating and grieving. However, discomfort with public speaking and strong emotions can make this a difficult task for many. The sharing of memories during the service itself should be limited to no more than three preselected people who have prepared their words in advance. An open time for memories is appropriate during the luncheon or with the family following the service.*

Memories during the service? (circle one):    Yes                      No

Names (no more than three):

## Including others

*There are several opportunities for including friends and family in the service.*

Pallbearers (up to eight):

Honorary pallbearers:

Readers (up to three):

## Funeral luncheon

*Trinity's funeral team is happy to coordinate a meal for funerals. The entree is typically catered from Family Foods, along with any desired sides. Our funeral team will provide salads and dessert as needed.*

No luncheon

Food at Trinity

Food at a home or other location

If food:

Full meal

Coffee and dessert

Items catered from Family Foods:

## Burial

Internment (circle one): In the earth      Mausoleum      Cremation      Other

If internment in the ground, have you secured a cemetery plot?

(circle one): Yes      No      Where?

## Military honors

*Those who have served in the military may be eligible for military honors. A flag is usually placed on the casket after the funeral for transport to the burial. At the graveside, the color guard finishes the military portion before the pastor closes with the committal.*

Have you served in the military? (circle one):      Yes      No

What branch?      When?

Are you currently a member of the VFW?

## Memorial gifts

*Giving to Trinity Lutheran and other charities is a way to ensure that the good work you supported during your life will continue to be supported in your death. Memorial gifts may be directed to the fund chosen by you or your survivors. If you would like to make a specified gift to Trinity in another way, please speak to the pastor.*

I have shared with my next of kin where financial gifts in my memory should be directed.

(circle one): Yes      No

Recipients include:

\_\_\_\_ Trinity Lutheran Church (circle one)

\_\_\_\_ General Fund      Memorial Fund      Endowment Fund      Other

\_\_\_\_ Other:

\_\_\_\_ Other:

Gifts are to be in lieu of flowers (circle one):      Yes      No

## Planned giving (optional section):

I have included Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in my will (circle one):      Yes      No

I have planned another type of deferred gift (circle one): Yes      No

Please list: Life insurance, gift-annuity, charitable trust, etc.

If you have circled yes above, you may wish to note the following:

Trinity Lutheran Church is included in my estate plan for:

Percentage: \_\_\_\_\_ %      Estimated value of gift: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fixed amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please share any additional details or requests:**

Name of person preparing this form (print):

Signature:

Date:

Do you desire a visit with the pastor to discuss these plans?    (circle one): Yes    No

Please feel free to call upon the pastor at any time for help with issues of death, dying, grief, or mourning.

Please return this worksheet to:

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