

# Preparing for a Christian Funeral



*"For me to live is Christ, to die is gain."* Philippians 1:21

As the Christian gives witness to Christ in life, so even one's funeral is a unique opportunity to give witness to our belief "in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" (Apostle's Creed). It is an opportunity to comfort your family, strengthen the faith of believers, and give your final witness to unbelievers who gather in your memory.

When you complete this form, keep a copy for your records (and perhaps give a copy to your children) and submit a copy to the church office. This will be kept in a private file until needed, seen only by the pastor and church secretary.

## My Walk with Christ

I was **baptized** on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

I **confirmed** my faith on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

My **confirmation verse / favorite Bible verse** is \_\_\_\_\_

## Meaningful Words

**Scripture Readings** I would like to have read at my funeral are:

(Customary readings include an Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel Reading. However, you may choose any readings you wish. Additional readings may be included at the time of your funeral by the pastor or your family.)

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## Meaningful Worship

Three of my favorite **songs/hymns**, that I would like sung at my funeral are:

(Customary hymns are ones of faith, hope in Christ, and comfort for those in grief. Hymns and contemporary songs rich in Biblical hope and comfort may be submitted. Your family and the pastor will make arrangements for musical settings).

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Other things that I would like to request at my funeral are: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(continue any comments on back)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Other things I would like to request at my service (continued):

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You may attach additional pages as necessary. Your family and the pastor will finalize all service arrangements when the time comes.

## Notes on a Christian Service

The purposes of a Christian Funeral or Memorial Service is to:

- Worship Jesus and praise Him for the gift of eternal life we have through faith in Him
- Comfort the Family and Friends with the Message of Hope
- Celebrate the life, blessings, and grace given and received by the deceased loved one
- Gather the people of God, family and church family, to comfort, encourage, and pray for the family as they mourn with hope of a heavenly reunion.

*A Christian Funeral* means that a casket & body are present

*A Christian Memorial* means there is no casket & body present (cremains may or may not be present)

For a funeral, a graveside committal service should follow immediately after the service or after the luncheon that day.

When cremation takes place, the cremains should be committed to the ground with a committal service and prayers. Consult the pastor.

Our Savior Lutheran Church currently does services only for church members or persons under the pastoral care of our ministry. Only clergy of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are permitted to officiate.

Does your estate plan reflect your desire to a final offering to the Lord's work? Contact the church office for resources to help walk you through how to create plans that reflect your faith and Christ's mission.



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