

# Funeral Planning Worksheet

As Christian people, we know that death does not have the final word. 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.

The Evangelical Lutheran Book of 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 and discuss them with your family, friends, and pastor. A copy will be kept at Redeemer 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.

## **Redeemer Lutheran Church**

139 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St

Hinsdale, IL 60521

(630) 908-7072

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

## **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 for 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.*

Cremation (circle one):      Yes, before service      Yes, after service      No

Have you done any pre planning with a funeral home? (circle one): Yes      No

If yes, which funeral home?

## Visitation

*The visitation is an opportunity for friends and family to gather, often in the hour before the service at church or in the evening before the funeral at a funeral home.*

No visitation      Visitation at funeral home      Visitation at the church

## Funeral / Memorial Service

*The pastor of Redeemer preaches and officiates at services held at Redeemer. Other clergy may participate in the service at the pastor's invitation and discretion. At Redeemer a white funeral pall covers the casket or the cremains as a reminder of baptism, and the paschal candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's triumph over death. Lutherans close the casket once the funeral begins as a sign of resurrection. Communion is very appropriate at Lutheran funerals.*

Funeral location (circle one):

Redeemer

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

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Body / cremains present? (circle one): Yes (funeral)                      No (memorial service)

Communion? (circle one):    Yes                      No                      Unsure

Would you be interested in discussing interment at Redeemer if the church were to build a columbarium to house ashes? (circle one):    Yes                      No

### **You may choose one Old Testament reading, such as:**

*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*

List your choice here: \_\_\_\_\_

**You may choose a Psalm to be prayed by the congregation, such as:**

Psalm 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*

List your choice here: \_\_\_\_\_

**You may choose a New Testament reading, such as:**

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*

List your choice here: \_\_\_\_\_

**You may choose a Gospel reading, such as:**

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*

List your choice here: \_\_\_\_\_

## Music

*Through music, we are often able to express what words alone cannot. For services at the church, Redeemer's Director of Music Ministry will normally be the musician. Services may begin with a prelude and conclude with a postlude. From preludes and postludes you may select a specific piece, composer (such as Bach) or let the Director of Music Ministry decide. In selecting music, it is important to consider how the hymn proclaims Christ crucified and risen as demonstrated in the life of the deceased, as well as feasibility for congregational singing. Recordings or popular tunes might be more appropriate as music at the visitation or luncheon. At Redeemer, we have copies of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

Prelude Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Postlude Selection \_\_\_\_\_

*This list is a starting point, and by no means exhaustive. Choose three to five hymns keeping in mind processional hymn, recessional hymn, communion, and hymn of the day choices.*

### General 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
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
On Eagle's Wings	787
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	608
The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done	366

## Hymn Selections

Processional Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Sermon Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Recessional Hymn \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Hymn(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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*You may also elect to have a soloist sing or an instrumentalist play. Appropriate honoraria will be charged for this service. If you have a particular piece you would like sung or played, please list it here:*

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

## Remembrances

*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 visitation or the meal following the service.*

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

Names (no more than three):

Open time for sharing memories after the service?

(circle one):    Yes                  No

## Including others

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

Pall bearers (up to eight):

Honorary pall bearers:

Readers (up to three):

Ushers (two to four):



## Funeral luncheon

*Redeemer does not provide a meal for funerals. We do provide coffee for visitation. If you would like to have a meal or other food at the church, space can be provided and food can be catered in.*

No luncheon

Food at Redeemer

Food at a home

If food:

Full meal

Coffee and dessert

Finger food appetizers

## Burial

Internment (circle one):

In the earth

Mausoleum

Cremation

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?

## Memorial gifts

*Giving to Redeemer 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. Gifts to Redeemer may be made to the General Fund, to the Memorial Fund, or to the Covenant Endowment Fund. Gifts made to the Covenant Endowment Fund will enable a long legacy of the gift. If you would like to make a specified gift to Redeemer 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:

Redeemer Lutheran Church (circle one)

General Fund                  Memorial Fund                  Covenant Endowment Fund

Other:

Other:

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

**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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**Hinsdale, IL 60521**  
**(630) 323-5530**  
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