



MY FUNERAL PLANS

Planning one's own funeral is probably something most avoid doing. Some people refuse to talk about their death at all! Making plans for your funeral, however, is a remarkable gift you leave for your family. It is one thing they do not have to worry about when you die. It is an opportunity for you to share with your church, family, and friends what you believe and decide what scripture lessons to read and hymns you would like people to sing at your funeral.

We have nothing to fear about death. The grace, love, and mercy of God encompasses us in this life and continues to be our gift after we die. Jesus told his disciples he was going to prepare a place for us and this incredible place will be ours when we die. I am happy to be alive, and see life as a great gift. When I die, I will be sad to leave family and friends whom I love. But knowing what lies ahead makes funeral preparations a lot less difficult. How great it will be to stand before the throne of God with an incredible number of saints worshipping and singing hymns of praise! That is our hope.

Thanks be to God.

Phil Heide
Pastor Emeritus

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Name _____ Date _____

Choose what applies to you.

- I would like to have a visitation. _____
- My body will be available for review. _____
Clothing for burial, special mementos to be in casket, etc _____

- My body will be in a closed casket. _____
- I will have a funeral service. _____
Location:
at church _____
at funeral home _____
at cemetery _____
- I will have a memorial service. _____
- My body will be cremated
before the service _____
after the service _____
- I would like my ashes to be at the funeral/memorial service. _____

I have pre-planned my funeral with _____

- My funeral home is _____
Phone # _____
- My body will be cremated at _____
Phone # _____
- My cemetery is _____
Phone # _____

I would like my ashes to be placed at _____

I would like organs and other parts of my body to be given for others. Please inform _____ immediately!

Telephone number is _____

Phone calls to be made right after my death. (Make an attached list.)

1. To my church _____
Phone # _____
2. Family-names and telephone numbers
3. Friends-names and phone numbers
4. Later- Hospice workers, work place, organizations, attorneys, social security, financial advisors

The pastor will establish a time to visit the family and plan the funeral service.

I would like these scripture passages to be read at my funeral service:
(Usually two or three are read)

Some options: Job 19:23-27a; Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Psalm 46: 1-7;
Ecclesiastes 3:1-9; Romans 8:31-35, 37-39; I Corinthians 15:12-26;
Revelations 21:2-7; John 11:21-27; John 14:1-6.

You are free to choose your own special passages from the Bible.

I would like these hymns to be sung at my funeral:
(Use your memory or check through a hymnal to find ideas.)

I would like:

- the congregation to sing all the hymns _____
- a soloist to sing some _____
(Normally there are two or three hymns)

The Pall Bearers will be

There will or will not be lunch for family and friends after the service. _____

Give this document to your family, put one in a safe place and you may also give a copy to the church

AT THE FUNERAL HOME

The funeral home will establish a time for the family to meet and plan details for the funeral. The details of the funeral will be worked out at the meetings with the pastor and at the funeral home.

The funeral home will need:

- Your date of birth and social security number.
- A copy of your military discharge papers, if you want military rites.
- Clothing for burial
- A recent picture
- A list of family members who have died and who are still living
- Where you were born
- Where you went to school
- Where you worked
- What community organizations you were involved in
- Your church home
- What ministries you were involved in at church
- What to do with flowers after the service
- Where the family would like memorial monies be sent.

The funeral home will suggest how many Death Certificates will be needed and other helpful ideas for the family. Obituary articles in the *Pioneer Press* and/or *Minneapolis Tribune* are paid for by the family. They are normally submitted by the funeral home.

To Do Before You Die

- 1) Gifts for your family.
 - a) Write your memories
 - i) Don't forget your feelings about things.
 - ii) Ideas that intrigued you.
 - iii) People who helped and supported you
 - iv) How your faith/struggles of faith were lived out.
 - b) Decide what you want to sell, give away, and make available for gifts to your family and friends.
 - i) Some people let the family decide this
 - ii) Put all this in writing and place it in your file
- 2) Put together a will or trust to determine how your estate will be divided.
 - a) Choose a lawyer who is well qualified to help you.
 - b) Consider a gift to church along with gifts to family members and other organizations.
- 3) Provide for a will or Health Directive. This gives direction for the type of medical care you want when you are unable to speak for yourself. This document should be in your files and copies given to your doctor, clinic, hospital, nursing home and other groups who give you medical care.

There is a book published by Thrivent Financial entitled, Step By Step, Your Guide to Making Practical Decisions When a Loved One Dies, Two copies are in the Mount Calvary Library. Thrivent members can get a copy from their Thrivent representative.