



# End of Life Liturgy Planning Guide for

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*(name)*

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

612.729.8358 ▪ HTLCMPLS.ORG

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## INTRODUCTION

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*“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? There we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” Romans 6:3-5*

When we baptize a baby, child, or adult at Holy Trinity, we say aloud (for everyone to hear) that the one being washed in the grace-filled waters is a beloved child of God. Baptism doesn't make one beloved; it celebrates this fact and makes it public. Baptism also proclaims that the baptized is united with the community in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the world.

The journey begun in baptism continues through one's life. Nothing can erase the promises that are made when a simple bowl of water is poured and simple words are spoken. Regardless of what we have done and what we have left undone, the Holy Spirit is with us until the end, and God's promises remain certain.

When someone dies and we carry her or him on the final leg of the baptismal journey, we honor the holy promises that were made to this beloved individual by both God and the community. We also trust that because of Jesus, death does not have the final word. Theologian Thomas Long writes that “when we [lower] a casket into the gaping earth, [we acknowledge that] this [is] not the end of the journey nor the final word but that God [is] already speaking a new word, already performing beyond our sight and our full knowing another mighty work of hope” (*The Good Funeral*, 45).

It's difficult to remember these promises without the help of the community, which is why the church stops and gathers when one among us dies. In the Christian funeral and burial, undertaker Thomas Lynch says “we get the dead where they need to go and the living where they need to be” (*Ibid.*, xii). By attending to the dead with reverence all the way to the end, we believe that we also learn something about the life that we're given in Christ Jesus.

It's our prayer and our hope that this document helps you to have faithful conversations with your families, friends, and faith community about both life and death. May the church surround you with love as you do.

Peace,



Pastor Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen



Pastor Angela T. Khabeb

Your instructions:

1. Complete pages 3-10, then date and sign this guide.
2. Make copies, one for Holy Trinity and one for the person(s) you designate to handle your arrangements. Keep the original.
3. Discuss your hopes with family members, friends, and pastor.
4. Update the guide annually. Initial changes. Update copies also.

Family or friend instructions:

1. Family members or friends should call Holy Trinity soon after the time of death, prior to making or announcing service arrangements. (Church office number: 612-729-8358; Pastor Ingrid's cell number: 612-875-6679)
2. Family members or friends should give this guide to the pastors at the time of death. Page 11 will be completed at that time.

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print.)*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like the following family member or friend to be the primary contact for my arrangements:

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

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

To my friends and relatives: Please accept the following as suggestions for my funeral and burial. I trust that you'll make changes that you see fit, particularly if they will better attend to the needs of the living.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

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## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

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1. I would like local arrangements to be handled by \_\_\_\_\_  
(funeral home) in \_\_\_\_\_ (location).

2. I have pre-arranged and pre-paid my funeral/burial with:

Funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I prefer:

To be buried in a casket

To be cremated

To have my body donated to a medical school. (Please list school and contact information.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other:

4. I would prefer:

A funeral with my body or ashes present

A memorial service without my body or ashes present

Other:

5. After death, my body may be viewed:

At the funeral home

At the church

I do not want my body to be viewed

6. I would like my funeral/memorial service to be held:

At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Graveside only

Other:

7. If a casket is used, I would like my pall bearers to be:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. I would like the following item(s) buried or cremated with me (including clothing preferences):

9. I would like my final resting place to be:

- Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ashes scattered: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. I would like to be an organ or tissue donor:

- No
- Yes with no restrictions (use everything possible)
- Yes with restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE FUNERAL SERVICE

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1. I would like a visitation before the service.

- Yes
- No

2. I would like the congregation to sing these hymns, if possible (see Appendix B for suggestions):

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3. I would like a choir or soloist to sing or an instrumentalist to play.

- Yes
- No
- Family, friends, and the pastor may decide on the special music.
- These are the selections I would like to have sung or played:

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4. Scripture Lessons (see Appendix A for suggestions):

First Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Special Readings (please attach copies):

6. I would like the following person(s) to offer a eulogy (include name and contact information):

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- I would prefer that no eulogies be delivered during the worship service.

7. I would like Holy Communion to be served:

- Yes
- No

8. I would like a reception after the service:

- Yes, public
- Yes, private, including: \_\_\_\_\_
- No

9. I would like my memorials to go to:

- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Any other information or guidance you would like to provide?

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## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND CONTACTS

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1. Location(s) of my Health Care Directive: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Location of funeral contract: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Location of burial contract: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Location of my will: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. I plan to include Holy Trinity in my planned giving priorities. (A planned gift is made during one's lifetime or at the time of death as part of a donor's overall estate planning.)
  - Yes
  - No
  - I have discussed my wishes with my friends and family.
  - I would like to have further conversation about this possibility with one of the pastors or one of the members of the financial stewardship committee.
  
6. Please notify these people when I die (names and phone numbers):
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

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## OBITUARY INFORMATION

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1. Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_



4. Spouse(s) and marriage dates and places (and accompanying narrative, if necessary):

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5. Partners or lifelong friends (and accompanying narrative, if necessary):

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6. Children (and accompanying narrative, if necessary):

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7. Grandchildren, number \_\_\_\_\_ and names:

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8. Great-grandchildren, number \_\_\_\_\_ and names:

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9. Education and/or work history:

10. Places I've lived and dates:

11. My organizational memberships:

12. My hobbies:

13. Other important information for my obituary?

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TO BE COMPLETED AT THE TIME OF DEATH

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1. Person making arrangements: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Date/time/place of visitation: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Date/time/place of service: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Pastor officiating: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Musicians participating: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Number of family members: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Total number expected to attend: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Worship participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## APPENDIX A—SUGGESTED READINGS

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### Old Testament

*Job 19:23-27a*—I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God

*Isaiah 25:6-9*—The banquet of the LORD

*Isaiah 61:1-3*—Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden

\**Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33*—Great is the LORD's faithfulness

*Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18*—The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom

*Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9*—The righteous are with God

### Psalms and Wisdom Literature

+*Psalm 23*—Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me

*Psalm 24*—They shall receive a blessing from the God of their salvation

*Psalm 34:1-10, 22*—Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD

*Psalm 42:1-7*—My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

*Psalm 46:1-7*—The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold

+*Psalm 90*—Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants

*Psalm 91:9-16*—On eagle's wings – assurance of God's protection: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name

+*Psalm 118*—Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the LORD

*Psalm 121*—Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep

+*Psalm 130*—My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning

*Psalm 139:1-12*—O LORD, you have searched me and known me

*Psalm 143*—LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness

*Psalms 149*—Sing the praise of the LORD in the congregation of the faithful

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a or 3:1-8*—For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven

## **New Testament Letters**

*Romans 1:16*—I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation

*Romans 5:1-11*—Reconciled to God by Christ's death

*Romans 5:17-21*—Through Adam came sin and through Christ comes justification

*Romans 8*—Life in the Spirit

*Romans 8:31-35, 37-39*—Nothing can separate us from God's love

+*Romans 14:7-9*—Accepting diversity in the community of faith

*1 Corinthians 15:12-26*—Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

*1 Corinthians 15:51-57 or 55-58*—Death is swallowed up in victory

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*—Living by faith

*Ephesians 1:11-23*—God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church

*Philippians 3:20-21*—Jesus will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*—The dead in Christ will rise

*2 Timothy 4:6-7*—I have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith

*Hebrews 13:6-8*—Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever

*Hebrews 13:14-16*—We are looking for the city that is to come

*1 Peter 1:3-9*—New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

\**1 John 3:1-3*—We are God's children

*Revelation 7:9-17*—The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

+*Revelation 14:13*—Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord

*Revelation 21:2-5a or 21:1-7*—A new heaven and a new earth

## **New Testament Gospels**

*Matthew 5:1-12*—Blessed are the poor in spirit

\**Matthew 11:25-30*—The yoke of discipleship

*Matthew 24:1-13*—The one who endures to the end will be saved

*Luke 6:20-31*—Jesus speaks blessings and woes

*Luke 12:35-40*—God will give you the treasure of the kingdom

*Luke 23:39-43*—You will be with me in paradise

*John 3:16*—God gave Jesus for the life of world

*John 5:24-29*—Any who hear my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life

\**John 6:37-40*—All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day

*John 10:1-5*—Jesus the Good Shepherd

*John 11:21-27*—The raising of Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life

*John 11:32-44*—The raising of Lazarus

*John 12:23-36*—Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit (committal)

*John 14:1-6*—Christ the way, the truth, and life

*Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20*—The Resurrection of Jesus

For more choices, consider texts for the season, festival or commemoration, or from the Revised Common Lectionary.

\*appropriate for the burial of a child

+appropriate for the graveside or graveside procession

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APPENDIX B — SUGGESTED HYMNS

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*All of Us Go Down to the Dust*.....223  
*Alleluia! Jesus Is risen!* .....377  
*Amazing Grace* .....779  
*Beautiful Savior*.....838  
*Blessed Assurance*..... 638  
*Blessing, Honor, and Glory*.....433  
*Borning Cry* .....732  
*Children of the Heavenly Father* ..... 781  
*For All the Saints* ..... 422  
*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* .....618  
*How Great Thou Art* .....856  
*I Am the Bread of Life* .....485  
*I Know that My Redeemer Lives!* .....619  
*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*.....815  
*In Peace and Joy I Now Depart*..... 440  
*In the Morning When I Rise* ..... 770  
*Jerusalem, My Happy Home*..... 628  
*Jesus Shall Reign*..... 434  
*Jesus, Remember Me*.....616  
*Jesus, Still Lead On*..... 624  
*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus* .....802  
*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*.....435  
*Lord of All Hopefulness* .....765  
*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*.....759  
*My Lord, What a Morning* ..... 438



<i>O Blessed Spring</i> .....	447
<i>O Christ the Same</i> .....	760
<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i> .....	632
<i>O Holy Spirit, Enter In</i> .....	786
<i>O Lord, Now Let Your Servant</i> .....	313
<i>Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand</i> .....	441
<i>On Eagle's Wings</i> .....	787
<i>On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand</i> .....	437
<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i> .....	773
<i>Shall We Gather at the River</i> .....	423
<i>Sing with All the Saints in Glory</i> .....	426
<i>Soon and Very Soon</i> .....	439
<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i> .....	502
<i>The Lord's My Shepherd</i> .....	778
<i>Thine Is the Glory</i> .....	376
<i>Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise</i> .....	826
<i>This Joyful Eastertide</i> .....	391
<i>Thy Holy Wings</i> .....	613
<i>Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying</i> .....	436
<i>We Walk by Faith</i> .....	635
<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i> .....	666

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## APPENDIX C — EXPENSES

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### Pastor

The pastors at Holy Trinity believe that presiding over the Rite of Christian Burial is included in their call to this congregation. While some families choose to give the presiding minister an honorarium, this is not necessary.

### Musicians

Should someone wish to have a keyboardist (organist or pianist), soloist, and/or other special musician, s/he should plan to compensate them for their time. At the time of printing (April 2014), we suggest an honorarium between 150-200 dollars per musician.

### Food and Drink

Holy Trinity provides coffee and sweet treats (cookies and bars) for all members' funerals and memorial services. Additionally, the church has a group of volunteers willing to serve a meal, should that follow either the service in the sanctuary or the graveside service. The cost of the meal will be the responsibility of the family or friends of the deceased.

### Bulletins

Holy Trinity prepares and prints the worship bulletins at no cost. The funeral home may prepare a memorial folder that includes an obituary and a picture; the bulletin prepared by the church guides worshippers through the service liturgy.

## Notes

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