



Immanuel and St. John's Lutheran Churches' Funeral Planning Guide

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

John 11:25-26



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Prayer: Gracious Lord our Heavenly Father, You are the Lord of Life. Help us, Your people, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to find comfort in the resurrection of the dead. Give the promise of eternal life to all Your children who trust in Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever. Amen.



A Lutheran Funeral

God's mercy and peace to you through Jesus Christ in this most difficult time. As you mourn the loss of your loved one, we pray that you find comfort and peace in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life. (John 11) We can be certain that whoever believes in Him shall never die, but shall have eternal life.

As Christians, we have a unique perspective on death. We do not mourn as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that through Him, God will bring all those who have fallen asleep in faith to eternal life. (1 Thessalonians 4) And so we mourn trusting in Jesus. We believe that death is not our end.

The promise of eternal life comes to us in our baptism. St. Paul writes, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4) Our eternal identity is rooted in Christ Jesus in our baptism.

For that reason, we look not to our own earthly deeds and works, but only to Jesus. While we have many memories of our departed, it is only the works and deeds of Jesus that matter. It is only Jesus who has overcome sin. So the pastor will not eulogize but instead preach only Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The funeral service is above all a "rite" or service of the church. That means the church has the final say on what is acceptable. The whole rite must foremost reflect our faith and trust in Jesus.

Every part of the Christian Funeral Rite is especially designed to proclaim the hope of Jesus. As you plan for these services, ask this question: “What will best confess our faith in the resurrection through Jesus?” Your answer to this question will help inform your choices on hymns, psalms, and scriptures.

Our Redeemer lives. In Him we are also redeemed. We shall see Him one day with our own eyes. In Him and in Him alone we have hope. Even now, in the face of death and loss, we confess with the entire Christian Church:

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!
Amen.**



Basic Service Information

Funeral Date and Time: _____

Viewing Times: _____

Prayer Service Time: _____

Viewing and Prayer Service Location: _____

Funeral Pall – Yes or No

Organist _____

Attendance Estimate _____



Sample Prayer Service Bulletin.
Hymns may be added if desired.

Christian Prayer Service for

Invocation

Psalm _____ – on back of page

Prayer

Reading of the obituary

Prayer

The Word of the LORD

Epistle _____

Gospel _____

Words of Comfort

The Apostles' Creed

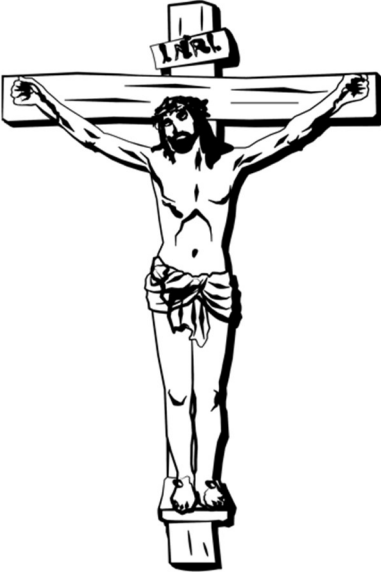
Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Cover:

Full Baptized Name:



Date of Birth and Date of Death:

Baptismal Date:

Confirmation Date:

Psalm _____ (See page 12)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of

death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.**

As it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be forever. Amen.

Order of Service page:

Name: _____

Processional Hymn* Hymn Title: _____ LSB _____
(See page 10-11)

Invocation* LSB 278
Remembrance of Baptism*

Psalmody* Psalm _____
(See page 12)

Scripture Readings OT reading: _____

Epistle reading: _____

Optional Hymn/Solo Hymn Title: _____ LSB _____
(See page 10-11)

Holy Gospel Gospel reading: _____

Apostle's Creed* LSB 279

Hymn Hymn Title: _____ LSB _____
(See page 10-11)

Sermon "Sermon Title"

Prayer of the Church*

Lord's Prayer*

Nunc Dimittis (Sung or spoken)* LSB 281

Concluding Collect and Benediction* LSB 281

Closing Hymn Hymn Title: _____ LSB _____
(See page 10-11)

Committal will be held at _____ Lutheran Cemetery
Following the service, you are invited to a lunch at _____ Lutheran Church,
*Please stand if able

Obituary and picture printed on back bulletin cover.

Christian Funeral Hymns:

In selecting music for a Christian Funeral, we want to remember several things.

1. First, we want to select hymns that are a reflection of our confession of faith. They should teach of God's service to us, even in the midst of death, and how He cares for the Christian bringing Him through death into life. For this reason, we request the use of our hymnal in selecting hymns.
 - The text should express the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - The music should provide a setting which will serve as a worthy offering to God.

Our Lutheran hymns have a unique theology which tells of Christ in times of loss. Pop songs or spirituals, such as "In the Garden", may be sentimental, but they don't communicate our unique theology. For that reason, we discourage their use in our services.

A list of suggested hymns follows to help narrow your search.

2. Second, we need to consider the liturgical time of the church year. Some seasons are somber. Some are joyous. A song that would be good during Easter may not be as appropriate in the season of Lent. For that reason, our list contains options for different seasons of the church year.
3. Finally, the called pastor, acting on behalf of the congregation, reserves the final right to approve all music selections.

Please see the following pages for an alphabetical list of suggested hymns. Bolded hymns are especially suggested. TLH and LW hymns may be considered also.

Soloists are asked to arrive early to arrange the sound system and practice with the organist.

Christian Funeral Hymn List

438	A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth
878	Abide with Me
596	All Christians Who Have Been Baptized
601	All Who Believe and Are Baptized
477	Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven
633	At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
467	Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
697	Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
676	Behold A Host Arrayed in White
725	Children of the Heavenly Father
509	Christ is Surely Coming
458	Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
420	Christ, the Life of All the Living
605	Father Welcomes
677	For All the Saints
742	For Me to Live is Jesus
607	From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee
594	God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It
740	I Am Jesus' Little Lamb
461	I Know That My Redeemer Lives
486	If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death
724	If God Himself Be for Me
748	I'm But a Stranger Here
745	In God, My Faithful God
938	In Peace and Joy I Now Depart
672	Jerusalem the Golden
741	Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense
490	Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won
743	Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Continues on next page

708	Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
880	Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow
395	O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
449 & 450	O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
679	Oh, How Blest Are They
675	Oh, What Their Joy
598	Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
671	Sing with All the Saints in Glory
508	The Day Is Surely Drawing Near
709	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
710	The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
758	The Will of God Is Always Best
762	There Is a Time for Everything
482	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
760	What God's Ordains Is Always Good
730	What Is the World to Me
763	When Peace, like a River
483	With High Delight Let Us Unite

During Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, the following may be used

397	As with Gladness Men of Old
364	Away in a Manger
347	Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
349	Hark, the Glad Sound
380	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
386	Now Sing We, Now Rejoice
334	O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
355	O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
376	Once in Royal David's City
348	The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
402	The Only Son from Heaven

Suggested List of Funeral Psalms

A shorter portion of a psalm may be chosen, if desired.

16	You make known to me the path of life
17:6-15	When I awake, I will be satisfied
23	I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
25:1-5, 15-20	Guard my soul and deliver me
27	I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord
31:7-24	Into your hand, I commit my spirit
34:1-9	Fear the Lord, you his saints
39:4-13	My hope is in you
42	Let them bring me to your holy hill
46	The Lord of hosts is with us
63:1-8	My soul thirsts for you
65:1-8	Blessed is the one you choose and bring near
71:14-24	From depths of the earth you bring me up
73:23-28	Afterward you will receive me to glory
84	Blessed are those who dwell in your house
90	Satisfy us with your steadfast love
102	The children of your servants will dwell secure
103:1-18	He redeems your life from the pit
116:1-9, 15	Precious in the sight of the Lord
118:1-21	This is the gate of the Lord
121	My help comes from the Lord
122	Let us go to the house of the Lord
126	Those who sow in tears will reap with joy
130	Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
139	When I awake, I am still with you
143	For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life
146	I will praise the Lord as long as I live



Immanuel Funeral Lunch Options:

The Circles will provide and serve one of the following options for funeral lunches. The circle leader will contact the spokesperson for the family to discuss the options. Any special requests made by the family need to be communicated with the circle leader and are the responsibility of the family.

Option 1: Open-face sandwiches, cupcakes or bars, pickles, lemonade and coffee.

Option 2: Scalloped potatoes and ham, dinner rolls, cupcakes or bars, pickles, lemonade and coffee. The circle will provide the ham, dinner rolls, cupcakes or bars, lemonade and coffee. *The family is responsible for the scalloped potatoes and any other ingredients.*

Option 3: “Funeral Hot Dish” (hamburger macaroni hot dish), dinner rolls, cupcake or bars, pickles, lemonade and coffee. The circle will provide the hamburger, dinner rolls, cupcakes or bars, lemonade and coffee. *The family is responsible for the macaroni and any other ingredients.*

Option 4: Barbeques, chips, pickles, cupcakes or bars, lemonade or coffee. The circle will provide ½ of the hamburger, buns, pickles, cupcakes or bars, lemonade and coffee. *The family is responsible for ½ of the hamburger and the chips, and any other ingredients.*

St. John’s Funeral Lunch Options:

The Circle will provide the bread, meat, pickles, cupcakes or bars, lemonade and coffee.

The Circle will serve one of the following options for funeral lunches. The circle leader will contact the spokesperson for the family to discuss the options or they can contact her. Any special requests made by the family need to be communicated with the circle leader.

Option 1: Open-face ham sandwiches, cupcakes or bars, pickles, lemonade and coffee. The circle will provide all the items.

Option 2: Scalloped potatoes and ham, dinner rolls, cupcakes or bars, lemonade and coffee. The ham may be in the potatoes or on the bread. The family will be responsible for the cost of boxed potatoes and milk to be added.

Option 3: “Funeral Hot Dish” (hamburger macaroni hot dish), dinner rolls, cupcakes or bars, pickles, lemonade and coffee. This will be catered in by a catering service. The circle will provide the hamburger.

If the family would like to make any donation to either circle for serving at the funeral, they are more than welcome. Feel free to speak with the circles about doing so.

Regulations Governing Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery

(From Immanuel's Constitution and Bylaws)

I

1. The following may be buried in our cemetery:
 - a. Voting members, their spouses, and their children;
 - b. Non-voting members who attend divine services and partake of Holy Communion – and their children.
 - c. Those who repent on their deathbed;
 - d. Transients who are one with us in faith;
 - e. Children who die in their baptismal grace before arriving at full use of reason.
2. No burial site will be granted upon our cemetery:
 - a. To manifest unbelievers;
 - b. To those who only occasionally attend divine services; in short, those at whose burial the pastor cannot officiate.

II

Only a truly Lutheran pastor, that is, a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or a sister synod may deliver a sermon or funeral address on the cemetery. Should no such pastor be available, one of the elders shall perform the last rites.

III

Only Christian memorial verses or symbols may be engraved on the memorial stones. Should the opposite happen, the congregation in orderly assembly must enter into the matter. If the offense is evident, the congregation has the right to order the removal of said verse or symbol. If such is not done within a set time, the stone or marker shall be taken from the cemetery.

IV

There shall be no family lots on our cemetery. The dead are to be buried in succession: the adults in a separate row; the children in a separate row.

V

Parents who are communicant members have the following privilege: If the wife dies first, the husband may, upon payment of a fee of ten (\$10.00) dollars, reserve the adjoining burial plot and vice versa. Such a wish must be entered upon the books of the congregation; otherwise Rule IV shall be enforced. Payment is to be made to the congregation's treasurer at the time the site is reserved.

VI

Now if someone has taken advantage of the above and then moves to another region or marries again, such a person is to inform the congregation whether he wishes to retain his plot. If not, then the plot reverts to the congregation which may then permit burial there of another person.

VII

Anyone wishing to reserve a grave site must make a written application to the voter's assembly. These applications will be acted upon on an individual basis. If approval is granted, and the proper fees paid, a stone must be set within one year of the approval.

VIII

1. Grave sites* (per person) in the cemetery shall be assigned to former members, who at the time of death were affiliated with a sister congregation, provided that for maintenance purposes the sum of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars be paid to the congregation for each grave site assigned.
2. Grave sites* (per person) in the cemetery shall be assigned to members of our congregation, who shall be privileged to bury deceased members of their household, who were not members of the congregation, provided that for maintenance purposes the sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars be paid to the congregation for each grave site assigned, and provided that no anti-Christian ceremonies be performed at such burials.
3. The funds which are received for such burial sites are to be placed into a perpetual Cemetery Fund. These funds are not refundable.

IX

While the congregation sees to the general maintenance of the cemetery, whoever has relatives buried on our cemetery are expected to maintain their graves. Whoever neglects the graves and does not keep them in order must pay for the care of the same. The graves of those who have no relatives in the congregation are to be maintained by the congregation.

X

It shall be the duty of the elders and trustees to see that the graves, as well as the cemetery proper, are kept in order.

Regulations Governing St. John's Lutheran Cemetery

(From St. John's Constitution and Bylaws)

1. Members of our congregation and of sister congregations in our Synod or in sister-synods may be buried in our cemetery.
2. With the approval of the elders and the pastor, relatives and friends of those listed in regulation #1 may be buried in our cemetery, even if our pastor cannot conscientiously officiate at the burial.
3. The family of the person buried in the cemetery shall be required to place some marker suitable on the grave.
4. In the event that a grave plot or plots have been reserved in a proper manner and the person holding such reservation leaves the LC-MS or sister synods, he forfeits his right to said grave reservations and forfeits his deposit fee to the congregation.
5. Request for the reservation of burial plots shall be made to the cemetery elder, and he shall bring the issue to the voters for their decision.
6. The congregation reserves the right to reclaim all unused reserved lots where there is no heir apparent.
7. There shall be no fee charged to the members of St. John congregation for burial on the cemetery. Nor shall any fee be charged for the reservation of a grave plot as long as such a reservation is made while the person is a member of St. John Congregation. If the member making such a reservation later transfers his membership to a sister congregation or synod, his reservation shall be valid. If the member joins another church not in fellowship with us, his reservation shall be void.
8. January 15, 1989, a motion was made and passed to raise non-members fee for lots on the cemetery to \$250 per lot.
9. Those who have left the membership of St. John Lutheran Church, Belford Twp., but hold valid reservations in the cemetery shall be expected to contribute (\$10.00) per year toward the maintenance of the cemetery.
10. It shall be the cemetery elder's duty to see to it that these rules and regulations are followed, and that the cemetery grounds are kept in proper order.
11. The congregation shall set up a Perpetual Trust Fund for the Cemetery in accordance with North Dakota State Law which went into effect July 1, 1973.