

END of LIFE PLANNING GUIDE

*I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.
(Jesus' words, John 11:25)*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Why is Pre-Planning important?

Saying good-bye is never easy. Saying good-bye until we meet again in heaven is a heart-wrenching experience. Each of us can make our time of good-bye easier for those we leave here on earth by taking the time to write down important information that our loved ones will need. The following information and forms may be useful in serving as guides for you as you undertake the process of making your final wishes known.

End of life decisions are often difficult and very emotional. Talking about your wishes is a good idea, but talking will not assure that what you want will be remembered when the time comes. Writing your preferences clearly guides those who will be making decisions and takes away a burden of remembering what you would have desired. Any document that identifies your wishes can be changed any time.

Your funeral or memorial service can be a very effective time for reaching family and friends with God's message of love and grace. In their grieving they are open to what God would like them to hear. This opens doors, and hearts, that may be closed at other times. Therefore, your selection of Scriptures and songs may make an eternal difference to someone in attendance.

Advance Directives

Legal documents must be prepared in a specific way, including the signatures of legally appropriate witnesses and notarization. You may wish to consult an attorney to review your documents or if you do them yourself be sure that they are legally acceptable.

Once you complete these documents, a copy should be given to your health care provider, your attorney, and members of your family who will be responsible for all important decisions. Your pastor encourages you to keep your end of life plans up to date and, for funeral information, on file in the church office.

Please do not keep these types of records in a safe deposit box or put them in your will, because neither may be available when the information is needed.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." (Jesus' words, recorded in John 11: 25)

Note: This form is for pre-planning purposes and will be kept confidential by our pastors until such a time when the Lord sees fit to make its use necessary. It may be changed at any time.

Full Name _____

Address _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Date of baptism _____ Place of baptism _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Marital status ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced

Spouse _____ (Date of death?) _____

Date of Marriage _____ Place of Marriage _____

Children: _____ address _____

_____ address _____

_____ address _____

_____ address _____

Grandchildren: _____

Great-grandchildren: _____

Education: _____

Military Service: _____

Occupation(s): _____

Joined PoP in _____ Ministries involved: _____

Other church/spiritual interests: _____

Community Service: _____

Hobbies/Interests: _____

Other items you wish the church/pastors to be aware of:

(Please be aware that no Masonic rites or rituals will be allowed or observed at PoP or in any service led by a pastor of PoP.)

TYPE OF ARRANGEMENTS:

____ Casket/body burial (or) ____ Cremation

(check one)

____ Memorial service ONLY (Service with no remains present)

or ____ Service with Casket or Urn Present

or ____ Graveside service only

or ____ Columbarium service only.

or ____ Other (please specify) _____

____ Pre-service Viewing/Visitation:

____ at the funeral home? ____ at the church? ____ casket open?

WHEN: _____

If a casket present, please use: ____ funeral pall ____ American flag

(Note: Flags from all 5 service branches are available at PoP and can be displayed behind the table in the narthex. Please display _____.

Services to be provided by:

Funeral Home: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Contact: _____

Have funeral home services been preplanned? ____ Prepaid? ____

If so, where are these papers kept? _____

Cemetery/Columbarium: _____

Will there be military honors at committal? ____

If yes, who is making these arrangements? _____

Church: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Contact:** _____

Obituary/funeral notice:

Which newspapers will be used? _____

Is it pre-written? ____ Will there be a photo? ____ These are kept: ____

When will the obituary be run? _____

Service bulletin: (Standard practice is that PoP's office produces a bulletin for the service. The service itself is on the inside and a biographical sketch *OR* copy of the obituary is printed on the back or in a bulletin insert.)

Please estimate the number of bulletins: _____

Would you like there to be a "post-service" luncheon at church? _____

(It is customary for the family to make a contribution to the reception 'fund' suggested at \$5/person.)

Memorials: I request that memorials in my memory benefit the following:

PLANNING THE SERVICE

Remember that in this service YOU are accomplishing several things:

- *bringing God's comfort to those left behind.*
- *reminding others of God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.*
- *giving glory and honor to God for all He has done for you.*

Hymns and/or songs would you like for the service:

- a. _____ (verses?)
b. _____ "
c. _____ "
d. _____ "

Church organist ____ yes ____ no Other musician: _____

(Note: If the decedent is a member of PoP, the church provides the organist. It is customary for the family to pay the organist \$200. If there are other musicians involved, they are the responsibility of the family.)

Solos and/or special music pieces (please include singer/players):

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Psalm: _____ Read by: _____

Old Testament: _____ Read by: _____

New Testament: _____ Read by: _____

Gospel lesson: _____ (Generally read by the Pastor)

Would you like to suggest a theme for the message?

Pall Bearers ____ honorary? ____ actual? (Will they carry the casket?)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____

Estimated attendance? _____

Number estimated in family? _____ (To reserve family seating)

Bulletins will be printed by the church office, the number based on above.

Speaking at the Service: *(Please note: While it may be customary or desirable to have family members and/or friends offer eulogies, the PoP pastor urges you to remind anyone you are pre-selecting to be aware that the message of the Christian faith is clearly this: Salvation comes as a gift from God's grace only. No one, no matter how many "good works" we have done, deserves what God alone can give us as a gift.)*

Desired speaker(s): _____ phone _____
_____ phone _____

OTHER ITEMS of IMPORTANCE:

1. Do you have a WILL? _____ If yes, where is it kept? _____

Attorney's name: _____ Contact: _____

2. Do you have a life insurance policy? _____ If yes, what is the name of the company and contact information _____

3. A 'health care power of attorney?' Who? _____

Advance medical directives? _____

4. Will you be donating your organs?

_____ I do not wish to donate.

_____ I wish to donate any usable organs. (Have you signed the card?)

_____ I wish to donate only: _____

_____ I wish to donate my body to science for research. (If you have made this choice, where are the records kept? _____)

5. If you are/were military, where are your records kept? _____

6. Do you have any specific requests of which pastor(s) should be aware in helping your loved ones through their grieving?

*It is customary for the family to pay the pastor an honorarium.
PoP recommends \$250.*