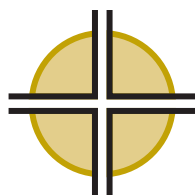


Memorial Services and Funerals

PLANNING GUIDE



Southwood
Lutheran Church



Dear Southwood Family,

The Care Ministries of Southwood Lutheran Church serve our faith community in a number of ways. One of the most significant ways is providing care before, during, and after the death of a loved one. We hope this information will provide you with a path to guide you during this time.

It is our belief that a Christian funeral is a celebration of joy and triumph as our baptism points us to the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. Sin and death are destroyed. Christ is our hope for eternal life and we offer this hope to you, and to family and friends, that your loved one is now in God's eternal kingdom. This service also provides an opportunity to acknowledge your loss and gather together as a caring community to support one another.

Planning a service can be a blessing to those in grief. A time to laugh and to cry as the stories are shared and retold. It is an honor for us to walk with you and your family during this time.

For questions regarding funeral or memorial planning, please call the church at 402.423.5511 and we would be glad to help you.

Blessings to you,
Southwood Care Ministry Staff



Email obituaries and photos to funeral@southwoodlutheran.org

Planning for the Service

Pre-Planning—Before Death Occurs

The Care Ministry Director is available to visit with you and provide you with a planning document. Once completed, a permanent file will be made and your database record will reflect that you have pre-planned your service.

When Death Is Imminent or When Death Occurs

When a death is imminent, our pastors are honored to come and pray with you. Please call the church office at 402.423.5511, and we will make every effort to have someone come to be with you.

Date, Time And Place Of Service

If you wish for one of our pastors to conduct the service for your loved one, please call the church office at 402.423.5511 before you schedule a date and time.

To avoid personal and building conflicts, the Pastor will contact the church to check on availability. The church Sanctuary is appropriate for a service, no matter the size, because this is where we baptize, confirm, marry and powerfully witness to the grace of God. What better place to gather and remember our future hope with God.

The Pastors are also available to conduct the service at the chapel of the funeral home, if that is the family preference.

Type of Service

There are several types of services to consider:

1. A funeral/memorial service in the church. We call this a Service of Resurrection as we celebrate the new life the deceased has in Christ.
2. A graveside service prior to or following the service.
3. A graveside service only
4. A service in the funeral home chapel.

Visitation

A visitation may be held at the church 90 minutes prior to the time of the service. Other visitation times may be arranged at the funeral home.

Making Service Plans

Following the selection of the date, time, place and type of service, the Pastor will arrange to gather the family together to share thoughts and memories in preparation for the service. This meeting at the church will be a time to select favorite scripture and discuss musical choices as well.

Internally, the church staff works behind the scenes to handle all logistics such as contacting the necessary musicians and soloists, the custodial services and sound technician. You will be asked about the number of guests you might expect and discuss seating of the family.

Memory Table

Frequently, family members set up a memory table in the entry area with photos, albums, display of hobby examples, and other personal items relating to their loved one. The church provides the table(s) and cloth(s) for these displays. We also have four easels available for displaying photos.

Guestbook

A guestbook is helpful for you to look back and see who attended. Guestbooks are usually offered through the funeral home or you may choose to purchase one on your own. We would encourage using a book with pages that can be added/removed.

Children at Funerals

Although children do not completely understand the ceremony surrounding the death, being involved in the funeral helps establish a sense of comfort and understanding that life goes on even though someone has died. Since the funeral is a significant event, children should have the same opportunity to attend as any other member of the family. Explain the purpose of the funeral: a time to honor the person who died, a time to support each other and a time to affirm what we believe. If you would like resources to help in visiting with your child about death and the funeral, please contact the Care Ministry Director for resources and support.

Southwood also has Blessing Bags that provide young children with items they may use throughout the service. For very young children, you may wish to have another person they know well available at the service. This person could take them to the nursery or for a walk if they are unable to stay for the length of the service. There is a cry room at the back of the Narthex for children and parents where they can see and hear the service.

Reception

Following the service, many families like to have a time to gather with those attending the service to share stories and support one another. Volunteers of the church offer the service of preparing a lunch for those attending. The Pastor or Care Ministry Director will discuss the food choice options. The church provides the beverages and paper products. Volunteers prepare, serve and clean up following the lunch. The family is asked to pay for the cost of the food. If you prefer, catering may be arranged and the church funeral teams can help serve.

Slideshow/Video

Families may create a slideshow/video to show during the reception following the service. A projector and screen is available in the Fellowship Hall for viewing during the reception. This allows those attending to share stories and memories as they offer support to one another.

We recommend testing the DVD or computer hookups prior to the day of the service.

It is our policy at Southwood to *not* show slideshows or videos in the sanctuary.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts provide a meaningful way for individuals, families and groups to witness their thanksgiving to God for the life of a loved one. To give a gift in another's memory is a faithful expression of respect and love that goes beyond death.

Southwood and other charitable organizations you choose are blessed when memorials are directed to support their ministries and mission. If memorial gifts are received directly by Southwood we will notify you of the amount given and by whom so you are able to send a Thank You note.

Your gift to Southwood will enable our church to provide special items or ministries that benefit our church beyond the general budget.

Southwood Practices

❖ Military Honors

Those who have served in the military may be eligible for Military Honors. Those honors are most appropriate at the graveside following the rite of Committal. At Southwood, a flag may be placed on the casket following the funeral for transportation to the burial site.

Gun Salute and Taps are appropriate for the grave side service at the cemetery.

❖ Balloon Release

In respect for those with allergies to latex and the impact on the environment, we do not allow balloon releases at Southwood.

❖ Fees

Southwood does not assess fees for funerals outside of food for the luncheon. If musicians are requested, the church has a suggested honoraria.

Worship Service

Order of Worship

This is a guide for the service at Southwood:

- Music for Preparation
- Welcome
- Processional Hymn
- The Liturgy or the Word
- Memories/obituary (*optional*)
- Lessons
- Song for Reflection or Hymn
- Message
- Hymn or Special Music (*optional*)
- Apostles' Creed
- Prayers
- Holy Communion (*optional*)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Commendation
- Closing Hymn
- Postlude

Flowers

Flowers are a way to pay tribute to a loved one and honor God's creation.

Floral arrangements may be delivered directly to the church. Please be sure deliveries are made two hours prior to the service.

You may select two arrangements to remain for Sunday Worship in memory of your loved one. All other flowers need to be removed from the church the day of the service.

Transportation of the flowers is the responsibility of the family or funeral home.

Worship Information

❖ Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper can be a great source of strength and consolation to the grieving and make the Communion of Saints a visible reality. Including Communion in the service is an option you may consider.

At Southwood we invite all who believe to come to the Lord's Table.

❖ Reflections/Remembrances

Some families choose to have a special friend or family member share memories of their loved one. If this is an option you desire, we ask that you choose one speaker, and suggest they limit their comments to approximately three minutes or less to keep the service at an appropriate length. The reception following the service is an ideal time for others to be able to share more memories, either individually with you or to the entire group. A microphone can be provided for this opportunity in the Fellowship Hall upon request.

❖ Bulletins

Southwood will provide the bulletins for the services at the church. These bulletins contain the worship service, so all may participate.

❖ Obituary and Photo

Please provide an electronic version of the obituary and photo to be included in the bulletin.

❖ Ushers

The funeral home usually provides ushers or ushers may be available from Southwood. If you are having communion served, a communion assistant from the church will be provided.

❖ Funeral Pall

The cloth that drapes the casket or urn during the funeral service is called the Pall. It symbolizes the white (Easter color) baptismal clothes we put on for our life's journey with God. It reminds us of our baptism and the resurrection of Christ, our hope for eternity.



Music

Music is an integral part of any worship service here at Southwood. So often music can convey our feelings, when we are unable to speak ourselves. There is wonderful church music available in the traditional or contemporary styles. Church staff will help you choose appropriate music for the service. Songs may be sung as a congregation or vocalists may be used to provide the music.

❖ **Musicians:**

Southwood will arrange for an organist/pianist for the service.

Soloists from the congregation may be available to provide music in the service. An honorarium for these musicians is requested.

❖ **Pre-recorded and Secular Music:**

Music should be worship focused and approved by the Director of Music. Pre-recorded and secular music may not be used during the service; however, it may be used as part of the reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Music in the Service

❖ **Music for preparation:**

The organist/pianist will play for 15 minutes prior to the service. This will include requested hymns or selections of the musician's choice.

❖ **Processional:**

The family will walk into the church with the Pastor, following the casket if present. They may be seated as they enter the pews.

❖ **Solos and congregational hymns:**

These add meaning and beauty to the service and are sung during the service.

❖ **Recessional Hymn:**

The casket, if present, the Pastor and family will exit the sanctuary to this music.

❖ **Postlude:**

The organist/pianist will play until the guests have left the sanctuary.

Suggested Congregational Hymns

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal

- #422 For All the Saints
- #423 Shall We Gather at the River
- #502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- #581 You Are Mine
- #597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
- #608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
- #613 Thy Holy Wings
- #614 There Is a Balm in Gilead
- #623 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
- #629 Abide with Me
- #638 Blessed Assurance
- #732 Borning Cry
- #733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- #742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
- #763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song
- #773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- #779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
- #781 Children of the Heavenly Father
- #785 When Peace like a River
- #787 On Eagle's Wings
- #790 Day by Day
- #838 Beautiful Savior
- #856 How Great Thou Art

There are also seasonal hymns such as Christmas hymns or Easter hymns that may also be appropriate for the service, depending on when the funeral is being held.

Southwood also has a CD of songs that may help you in selecting meaningful music to be sung by soloists or small groups. You may visit with your pastor about those selections appropriate during the service.

Suggested Special Music

The memorial service and funerals are worship services, therefore, the music should turn our thoughts to God and enhance worship.

- *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* (Matt Redman)
- *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* (Chris Tomlin)
- *Be Still and Know* (Steven Curtis Chapman)
- *Holy, Holy, Holy* (Steven Curtis Chapman)
- *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* (Stuart Townend)
- *How Great Thou Art* (Courtney)
- *I Can Only Imagine* (MercyMe)

- *If You Could See Me Now* (Kim Gordon Noblitt)
- *In Christ Alone* (Keith Getty)
- *It is Well With My Soul* (R. Schram)
- *Jesus Loves Me* (Lori Line)
- *My New Life Has Begun* (Ralph Funaro)
- *Remember Me* (Mark Schultz)
- *Still, My Soul, Be Still* (Keith Getty)
- *The Lord's Prayer* (Malotte)
- *There is a Higher Throne* (Getty/Larson)
- *Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)* (Chris Rice)
- *You Raise Me Up* (Josh Groban)

Suggested Scripture

“When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we, too, might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 280)

Scripture shares the foundation of our faith and the hope in which we believe. The following scriptures are suggestions that may be used in the service.

PSALMS

Psalm 16:9–11 (NRSV)

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 23 (RSV)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 46:1–7, 10–11 (NRSV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 86:12–17 (NRSV)

I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. But you, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalm 90:1–4, 9–10, 16–17 (NRSV)

LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

Psalm 139:7–12, 16b–18 (NRSV)

Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

OLD TESTAMENT

Job 19:25–27 (NIV)

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Ecclesiastes 3:1–12 (NIV)

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Isaiah 25:6–9 (NIV)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Isaiah 61:1–3 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

Lamentations 3:31–33 (NIV)

For no one is cast off by the LORD forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:1–12 (NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 11:25–30 (NIV)

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 18:3–4, 10, 14 (NLT)

Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.”

In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 6:37–40 (NIV)

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

John 10:14–16 (NIV)

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 11:21–27 (NIV)

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 14:1–6, 25–27 (NRSV)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Romans 8:31b–32, 35, 37–39 (NRSV)

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our LORD.

1 Corinthians 13:8–13 (NRSV)

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 15:51–57 (NRSV)

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:7, 16–18 (NRSV)

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Revelation 7:9–10, 13–17 (NRSV)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 21:1–5 (NRSV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Grief Support

Grief is a long process, so be kind to yourself. Everyone in your family may grieve differently and prefer different means of support. Our Pastors and Care Ministry Director provide grief support following your loss. We also send grief information through the first year, which offer words of hope and encouragement.

There are numerous *CareNotes* which address many grief issues available at Southwood Central and in the Group Room. They are provided for you to use or share with others. Additional grief resources may also be checked out from the Group Room.

Grief Groups are provided throughout the year to offer support as you begin the healing process. For information regarding current grief groups, please contact the Care Ministry Director at 402.423.5511.



Funeral Homes, Cremation Facilities and Cemeteries

Funeral Home Responsibilities

These are a few of the things you should rely on the funeral home to provide or give guidance:

- Casket or urn
- Cemetery choice—plot or niche space
- Flowers
- Processional to cemetery
- Visitation at the funeral home
- Obituary in the local newspaper
- Guest book

When Going To The Funeral Home

Once you have chosen a funeral home, they will provide you with a list of items you will discuss and need to provide. The following items are helpful to take with you when you are planning with the funeral home:

- Information regarding your loved one for documents and obituary
- Social Security card, birth certificate, marriage license
- Special wishes or prearrangements for service planning
- Cemetery deed or proof of plot/niche ownership, if applicable
- Clothing/jewelry for loved one
- Names of people you would like included in the service

The number of decisions and the cost of funerals can be overwhelming. Remember, the money you pay for these arrangements is not a reflection of love you have for the person who has died. It is all right to have a budget and question costs and the necessity of items as you plan.

Lincoln Funeral Homes and Cremation Facilities

There are many excellent providers in Lincoln. The church does not endorse anyone in particular. This is a very personal service and we suggest you interview and consult with them to make your decision.

- Alternative Funeral and Cremation Services
245 N. 27th St. | 402.429.1450
lincolnalternativefuneral.com
- Aspen Mortuary and Cremation Services
4822 Cleveland Ave. | 402.464.3111
aspenaftercare.com
- Butherus, Maser & Love
4040 A St. | 402.488.0934
bmlfh.com
- Colonial Chapel Funeral Home
5200 R St. | 402.467.5200
lincolnccfh.com
- Dignity Memorial: Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home
6800 S. 14th St. | 402.423.1515
dignitymemorial.com
- Lincoln Family Funeral Care
5844 Fremont St. | 402.464.6400
lincolnffc.com
- Metcalf Funeral Home
245 North 27th St. | 402.474.6161
metcalffuneralservices.com
- Ropers Funeral Home
Central Lincoln: 4300 O St | 402.476.1225
South Lincoln: 3950 Hohensee Dr | 402.261.5907
roperandsons.com
- Trump Funeral Services
1600 West O St. | 402.476.1501
trumpmemorials.com
- Wyuka Funeral Home
3600 O St. | 402.474.3600
wyuka.com

Funeral Planning Checklist

Select a Funeral Home

- Call to arrange a time to meet (see pg. 11 for Lincoln providers).

Contact Southwood

Call Southwood at 402.423.5511

- Check on Church availability for service.
- Set date for planning meeting at Southwood.

Meet with Southwood Staff

- Select 2–3 scriptures for the service.
- Select 2–3 hymns for the service.
- Special music for the service?
If yes, choose songs (see pg. 7).
- Communion during the service?
- Determine pallbearers or honorary pallbearers, if desired.
- Will someone share a family reflection?
If yes, who? _____
- Will a photo/memorabilia display be in the narthex of the church?
- Choose bulletin cover for the service.
- Will there be a luncheon?
- How many people will attend?
Consider the number of family members, neighbors, co-workers, friends.
- Who will transport flowers following the service?
Two arrangements may be given in their memory for Sunday services.
- Send final obituary and photo to Southwood at funeral@southwoodlutheran.org.
- Contact Southwood to test slide show at least one day prior to service.

Meet with Funeral Home

- Determine if service will be at Southwood or funeral home chapel.
- Burial or cremation.
- Choose casket or urn.
- Where will the burial site or disposition of cremains be and when?
- Decide on transportation to cemetery (if appropriate).
- Visitation
 - ___ Day before at funeral home
 - ___ 90 minutes prior to the service at Southwood
- Write Obituary
 - ___ Post on funeral home website
 - ___ Provide to newspaper
 - ___ Provide to Southwood
- Arrange for Military Honors at the Cemetery (if appropriate).

Other Decisions

- Order funeral flowers from the family (if desired).
- Purchase a guest book (funeral home or online).
We recommend one with removable pages.
- Locate photos for obituary, memory table and/or slide show.
- Photo slide show (if desired).

