

Funeral Planning
Pastor Tania Haber

Session 1
April 14, 2021

WHY WE ARE HERE

As people of faith, we can face the end of our time on earth with hope and confidence because we do not believe this is the end of our story! We have a new life to look forward to, offered to us by Jesus, in heaven. And... we are leaving part of ourselves here in a legacy (our story that goes on here on earth!...our heritage) that includes:

- our witness to our faith
- the values and choices we've modeled for our family and friends
- memories we've created with those we love
- the ways we've served our neighbor
- and the decisions we've made around how our financial resources will be shared with our church, our family, and other organizations we care about.

Our hope is to help you think about YOUR legacy!

In these 3 sessions, we hope you can put your mind at ease by getting some practical planning done, talking through your decisions with family, and continuing to think creatively about how you can have a big impact the people and places you love---e.g. our beloved community here at Westwood---for years to come!

Week 1: Funeral planning

Week 2: Brenda Moore: financial advice & inspiration as we consider our financial legacy

Week 3: Shelly Halverson, End of Life Celebrant, helping us plan some very practical things

Thanks to the Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation for sponsoring Week 2 with Brenda and to a gift from Thrivent Financial for sponsoring Week 3 with Shelly!

Book: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande

II Cor. 4:16-18... We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

Westwood's "My Funeral Plan" form

All this info (the planning form, music and scripture suggestions and information on the Westwood Columbarium) can also be found on our website (www.westwood.church) under Life Events tab, click "Funerals".

This form can be completed at any time and put on file at Westwood in a confidential file in our vault. Please let a pastor know if you have questions, or when you've completed it and want to have it on file at the church.

The Worship Service

As the service begins, we say (Hymnal p. 279):

"Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to
 ...worship
 ...to proclaim Christ crucified and risen
 ...to remember before God our sister/brother
 ...to give thanks for their life
 ...to commend them to our merciful redeemer
 ...and to comfort one another in our grief."

Commendation (hymnal p. 283)

"Let us commend _____ to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
 Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant _____. Acknowledge, we
 humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own
 redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting
 peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light."

Scripture – see sheet for suggestions.

From 1-3 scripture can be chosen. The pastor may use some of these as thoughts in the sermon, so could also help share ideas for this. The scripture proclaims the Good News of new life and resurrection and brings comfort and assurance. It can be read by the pastor, or it is also a chance to include other friends or family members in a meaningful way, if reading publicly is something they are comfortable with.

Music – see sheet for suggestions.

The church's professional musicians are normally used (organ, piano, and we can find soloists) and can help coordinate the pieces of this, but talk with your pastor if you have someone else

you'd like to include. The style of music can vary widely, but within the worship itself, it should be of a sacred nature.

A brief Committal can either follow (or sometimes precedes) the service at a cemetery or columbarium. A pastor usually leads these short scripture and prayers as the casket/urn is laid in its resting place.

Westwood's Columbarium

Cost: \$1,100 for each niche that may hold 1 or 2 urns

This includes the brass urns and nameplates. Does not include cost of cremation.

\$500 of the \$1,100, based on IRS rulings, is a tax-deductible contribution to Westwood.

We have 115 niches with around a dozen remaining. Considering expansion.

Further information on the Columbarium is on the website under Life Events/Funerals and packets with forms to purchase are available in the church office.

Pastor Tania Haber: 952-767-5565 t.haber@westwood.church

Pastor Jason VanHunnik: 952-767-5575 j.vanhunnik@westwood.church

Church office for questions or Columbarium: 952-545-5623

Scripture texts for you to consider as you plan a funeral service

+These are not the only ones you can use, but this is a starting place. We recommend 2 texts as a place to start.

Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8... "a time for every purpose under heaven"

Isaiah 40:28-31... "Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength"

Isaiah 43:1-4... "I have called you by name, you are mine"

Psalms 23... "The Lord is my shepherd"

Psalms 46... "God is our refuge and our strength"

Psalms 121... "I lift up my eyes to the hills"

New Testament

Romans 6:4-11... "we will be united with him in a resurrection like his"

Romans 8:31-39... "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus"

Romans 14:7-9... "If we live we live to the Lord, if we die we die to the Lord"

I Corinthians 4:16-18... "we look not to the

I Corinthians 15:51-57... "the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised"

II Corinthians 5:1-9... "we walk by faith not by sight"

I Thessalonians 4:15-18... "we shall be with the Lord forever"

Revelation 21:1-7... "there will be no more death...for I am making all things new"

Gospels

John 11:21-27... "I am the resurrection and the life"

John 14:1-6... "I am going to prepare a place for you"

John 6:35-40... "I am the bread of life"

Luke 2:29-32... "Lord, now let your servant go in peace"

In thinking about music for a Funeral Service...

+There are hundreds of wonderful songs of faith that come from different traditions, cultures, time periods, and genres of music. In our sanctuary we play our wonderful pipe organ, our Steinway grand piano, drums, guitars, strings, brass and wind instruments, and we are certain God loves it all! We are open to your requests, but we ask that all music used in the context of the worship service is sacred in nature and proclaims the Good News that Christ is with us and offers us new life!

+The music can be sung by all, by soloists, or it could be instrumental. To decide this, you can consider what would work best with the congregation attending, what speaks to you as the grieving, and what lifts up the themes from scripture and/or the liturgical season we are in at the time. For example, in December, an Advent or Christmas hymn could be appropriate, or an Easter hymn in the Easter season.

+Our sanctuary has the ELW (the Lutheran red hymnal), or if the congregation is singing a song not in this hymnal, words can be printed in the worship bulletin.

Some beloved hymns from the ELW that are often chosen are:

Amazing Grace

Beautiful Savior

Children of the Heavenly Father

For All the Saints

How Great Thou Art

I Know that My Redeemer Live

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

On Eagle's Wings

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

O Day Full of Grace

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Abide with Me

Borning Cry

Give Me Jesus

Lift High the Cross

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Softly and Tenderly

The King of Love my Shepherd Is

What Wondrous Love Is This

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

When Peace Like a River

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Biographical Information:

Born (place and date of birth) _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Baptized where _____

If married, name of spouse, place and date _____

Other information that could be used in your obituary (education, work...)

Other items to consider and list on a separate sheet of paper and keep in a private place for family use:

1. Social Security Number
2. Veteran Records and Identification Number.
3. Insurance policies, policy numbers, agents, etc.
4. Pension benefits from employer. Who should be notified?
5. Location of safe deposit box.
6. Bank accounts.
7. Outstanding loans and credit obligations.
8. Cemetery, location, lot and deed number.

MY FUNERAL PLAN

To be filled out and filed with your personal papers and, if you are willing, we will place it in a confidential file in the vault at church.

It is often difficult for family to make decisions regarding funeral arrangements at the time of death of a loved one. In the midst of grieving, the family must make many important decisions and often wish that they had known the desires of the one who died. This is an opportunity for you to think about your funeral plans.

You may use this as a guide to make your personal desires known to your family or to the pastoral staff of Westwood Lutheran Church.

You may wish to complete this by yourself or together with a spouse, partner, children or friend.

Your willingness to look at death honestly, talk about it, and fill out this sheet may ease the path for your loved ones at the time of your death.

We ask that you prayerfully and carefully consider the matters suggested here. If you desire to discuss any funeral plans, please call the church office to meet with a Pastor.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Notify:

Church _____ Phone _____

Funeral home _____ Phone _____

Executor of Will _____ Phone _____

Relatives/Friends handling arrangements (Names and phone #s):

Do you want the service to be conducted at: (check one)

_____ Westwood Lutheran Church

_____ Funeral Home Chapel

_____ Other (please indicate) _____

The Worship Service:

Solos or hymn preferences: _____

Scripture passages you wish read: _____

Pallbearers names/contact info (optional with cremation):

Memorials: Indicate for whom:

_____ Westwood Lutheran Church

_____ Westwood Lutheran Memorial Foundation

_____ Other/s _____

Do you have any other information or request?

Logistics:

Do you have a Will? _____ Location _____

Do you have a Living Will or Healthcare Directive? _____

Location _____

Lawyer's Name and Number _____

Funeral Home being used _____

Cremation? Yes _____ No _____

(If you wish to donate your body or organ to a medical school or hospital, you need proper legal documents signed by you.)

Burial arrangements made where? _____

Westwood Columbarium niche purchased? _____

Do you want visitation at the mortuary the day before the funeral, or a visitation at the church just prior to the service (optional):

Yes _____ No _____

Do you want: (check one)

_____ Funeral Service with casket/urn present.

_____ Memorial Service without the casket/urn present.

Date _____ Signature _____