



Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

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Proclaiming Easter Victory in Your Funeral

by Pastor Boehne

There is something that most Lutheran pastors want congregation members to know—but we don't say it nearly often enough. What pastors want you to know is the blessings and benefits of planning your funeral service. To some it might seem morbid—but it's quite the opposite. We have just celebrated the joy and victory of Christ's resurrection from the dead on Easter morning. Death and the grave have lost their sting. We realize that the death of Christ's saints are precious in His sight (Psalm 116:15). Because of Christ's Easter victory, a Christian's funeral is one more opportunity to proclaim what God has done for us in Christ. It is a gift to your family and friends to make sure they hear the true comfort of Christ's death and resurrection that drives away all doubt and sorrow.

This is something I have been planning to include in a newsletter for a while. With this article and the planning sheet that is included in the newsletter, I hope to encourage many of you to consider putting down on paper some plans for your own funeral service. We all recognize the importance of planning ahead when it comes to the end of our lives here on earth. This usually includes things like life insurance, wills, beneficiaries, powers of attorney, medical directives, etc. All of those are important. Many people also work with funeral homes to pre-plan details such as cemetery plots, caskets, and even payment for the funeral. All of these plans help to take care of our family and friends after we have died.

However, one thing that often gets lost in all those end-of-life details is the actual funeral service. And why should it? Your funeral service is one of the best opportunities to bless your family and friends—by proclaiming to them the truth that you believed and confessed. The funeral service is one last opportunity for you to show them what is most important in this life. It is a chance to give them the true comfort and joy which is found only in our Savior Jesus Christ and in His forgiveness, life, and salvation. After all, we all need to remember that a funeral service is never given for the deceased. Your funeral service won't be for you. You will be rejoicing in the presence of your Savior. The funeral service is always for the comfort and joy of the family and friends.

I have provided in this newsletter a very simple sheet to fill out with details for your funeral service. The main things to consider for your funeral service are the Scripture readings and the hymns. I have given many examples of texts and hymns that would serve well for a funeral. Generally you will want to pick a psalm, an Old Testament reading, and Epistle, and a Gospel reading. You will also want to pick several hymns that will give the joy and comfort of Christ's resurrection to your family. I would be glad to help anyone fill out the sheet if you so desire. You can call me anytime to do that.

Once you have completed the funeral planning sheet, you should keep a copy for yourself, give a copy to your family, and bring a copy to me in the Church office. Please make sure you get a copy to me since family and friends may not always remember that you completed it.

Please consider leaving this blessing for your family and friends. Make sure that your funeral service will proclaim the joy and victory of Christ's death and resurrection. I have been involved in quite a few funerals over my first five years in the ministry. I can say without reservation that family and friends were always very appreciative and thankful when their loved ones had given thought to the readings and hymns of their funeral service. Christ's Easter joy be with you all.

May Mission Project – CID Scholarship Endowment Fund

During May we will support the Central Illinois District's Scholarship Endowment Fund which gives scholarships to students from the District training to be Lutheran pastors and church workers. On Sunday, May 8th there will be a special envelope in the bulletin for you to return anytime during the month of May. These gifts will all be sent on to the District fund.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Bob Eichelberger	May 7
Josh Matzke	May 8
Jordan Matzke	May 8
Erica Gerth	May 11
Barb Miller	May 16
Nick Parkhouse	May 17
Annette Wilkey	May 17
Brandy Porth	May 19
Luke Meyers	May 19
Marge Krug	May 23
Darrell Schieber	May 24
Dee Parkhouse	May 25
Herman Reich	May 27
Hannah McFarland	May 27
Matt Copple	May 31



(If there is a birthday we have missed, please let us know.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vacation Bible School
June 6th – 10th, 2011

LWML National Convention in Peoria, IL
June 23rd – 26th, 2011

APRIL 27TH VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

The April 27, 2011, voters' meeting was called to order with 38 members present. Opening devotion was given by Pastor Boehne. Minutes from the January voters' meeting were read and approved.

There were no new members received. Pastor reported that Terry and Carol Woodley are requesting transfer to another Missouri Synod church in TN. However, their two sons are not requesting a transfer. Motion was made by Jerry Faulk to accept the transfer, seconded by Diana Uphoff. Motion carried.

Joan reported the balance on hand is \$27,463.24. Barb reported the light fund balance is \$10,256, the building fund balance is \$4,421.47, which makes a total of \$14,677.47. Nancy reported the Memorial Fund balance is \$1,527.84. Motion was made by Jacqueline Meyers to accept the financial reports, seconded by Sharon Duncan. Motion carried.

Jerry Faulk gave the elders' report. The Rite of Confirmation for seven students was held on April 17. Pastor's report is on the back of the voters' meeting agenda handout.

Jeff Barhum reported the trustees have received four bids for the roof replacement at the parsonage and a bid from Dale Kleen for the cost of new boilers for the church.

Diana Uphoff gave the board of education report. Plans are progressing for Vacation Bible School to be held June 6-10. Youth group is planning a junior high trip to Camp CILCA this summer, and the high school youth group is working on plans for an event later in the summer. Trivia Night is Friday, April 29.

Donna gave the worship report, with thanks and praise for the dedication of our members for their service to the church.

Unfinished business. The light fund goal has now been met and plans will proceed for the light project. Paul Meyers has been in contact with Springfield Electric. They need the amount of \$8,912.80 in advance. The order will be fulfilled in approximately six weeks with installation to begin in or around July.

The bids on the parsonage roof range from \$7,700 to \$8,850. Questions were asked about quality of shingles, etc. After discussion Mert Franke made a motion for the trustees to choose a bid from the four with the understanding that the contractor chosen will purchase materials from an El Paso business, and that the money needed for the project will be taken from the building fund and then borrowed from the general fund as needed. The motion was seconded by Bob Jarrett. Motion carried. Pastor reported that the cost of the cd/dvd duplicator was \$100.

New business. The Council recommended bringing the issue of the summer church schedule back to the voters. Diana reported the Sunday School teachers had stated concerns about inconsistent times, reduced time with students when church was first, and that it limits their ability to participate in counting offering. Discussion was held. Many members stated they like the bible study time of 9:00. Tom Gerth made the motion to keep the church schedule of 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School and 10:00 a.m. for worship year round. Seconded by Barb Weber. A hand vote was taken. Those in favor -- 30. Opposed -- 4. Motion carried.

The subject regarding the possibility of starting a Lutheran preschool at Trinity was brought to the voters. Secor's preschool will be closing at the end of this school year. Discussion involved principles that a preschool would follow, finances involved, teachers needed, facilities required. Joan Cominciolli made a motion to form a committee to study the possibility of having a preschool, including the goals to be achieved. Seconded by Jerry Faulk. Motion carried. Volunteers were sought. Joan, Donna Parkhouse, and Lisa Hocker will be on the committee. Claire Eichelberger will check on possible mission funds from LWML for a preschool.

Bob Jarrett gave a report on the need for the sound system in sanctuary to be upgraded and two new mics purchased. Cost is \$900. Bob made a motion to use Thrivent choice dollars to purchase these. Seconded by Paul Meyer. Motion carried.

Herman Reich has items to put on a garage sale if anyone is interested in selling his items on a sale. He wants to donate proceeds to church. See Pastor if interested in helping out.

Luke Meyers is working on a plan for the landscaping around parsonage and the church sign area. He will use and move existing plants but will need approximately \$800 for materials to complete the project. He will provide all labor. Motion made by Denise Iskryzcki to use funds from the general fund for this project, seconded by Sharon Gerth. Motion carried.

Larry Finck will be forming a committee of three to handle Thrivent fund distributions. Right now over \$1,000 is coming in per month from 26 members. The committee will make recommendations at the July voters' meeting as to how funds are to be best used.

Corn festival booth money is due. Kevin Evans suggested we pay the fee of \$240. Joan will make the payment.

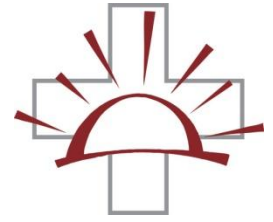
The cost for the three boilers needing to be replaced in the church is \$39,455 for the 95% efficiency and \$33,555 for the 80% efficiency. Discussion held. It was decided that it is a necessary project and that it needs to be done now. Utility cost savings will be realized due to the age of the old boilers. Mert Franke made a motion to purchase the 95% efficiency boilers for a total of \$39,455 that Dale Kleen will install, and the funds will be procured from a bank loan. Seconded by Dennis Hocker. Motion carried. Details will be placed in the church bulletin of the need for continued donations to the building fund for this project.

Mert Franke made a motion to adjourn the voters' meeting, seconded by Jerry Faulk.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

MY FUNERAL SERVICE PLANS

In Romans 17:7-8, St. Paul writes, "None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."



For Christians, the funeral service is a final opportunity to proclaim to family and friends the hope and joy that is ours in Christ's death and resurrection. By planning your service, you may comfort your survivors with the true comfort of Jesus Christ and reassure them that they are fulfilling your desires. A helpful thing to remember is to not simply ask, "What are my favorite readings/hymns?" but to ask, "How will this reading or hymn give the promise of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life and the resurrection?"

This sheet is provided for you to make plans for your funeral service. You are encouraged to fill out this form and bring it in to the pastor (you may also discuss it with him at anytime). This form will be placed in your family file, a copy is given to you for your records, and we suggest you give a copy to the person(s) who will administer your wishes after your death.

Name: _____

Funeral Pall: Yes No (circle one)

The funeral pall is a large white cloth which covers the casket during the service. It symbolizes the washing of Holy Baptism and the white robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all our sin.

Psalm: _____

*Some suggested Psalms are: 1, 16, **23**, 27, **46**, 51, 90, 91, 100, **103**, 116, 118, **121**, **130**, 148*

(optional)

Old Testament Reading: _____

Some suggestions are:

Job 19:21-27	Proverbs 3:5-6	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8(9-15)
Isaiah 25:6-9	Isaiah 40:27-31	Isaiah 43:1-3
Isaiah 61:1-3	Jeremiah 29:11-14	Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Epistle: _____

Some suggestions are:

Romans 5:1-11	Romans 6:3-10	Romans 8:28-39
Romans 14:7-9	1 Corinthians 15:12-26	1 Corinthians 15:51-57
2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Philippians 3:8-11, 20-21	Colossians 3:1-4
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	2 Timothy 4:6-8	Hebrews 12:1-3
1 Peter 1:3-9	1 John 3:1-2	Revelations 7:9-17
Revelation 21:1-7	Revelation 22:1-5	

Holy Gospel: _____

Some suggestions are:

Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 11:25-30	Matthew 25:31-40
Luke 2:25-32	Luke 7:11-17	Luke 23:33,39-43
John 3:16-18	John 5:24-30	John 6:27-40
John 10:11-16, 27-30	John 11:17-27	John 14:1-6

Easter Account: **Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-8**

Sermon Text: _____

If you wish to specify which Scripture text the Pastor should preach from—please indicate it here. This may be one of the readings selected above, your confirmation verse, or any other appropriate verses.

(continued on reverse)

Congregational Hymns: *(Normally at least two hymns should be selected from Lutheran Service Book (LSB). A list of suggestions is provided.)*

Hymn # _____ Hymn Title: _____

Hymn # _____ Hymn Title: _____

Hymn # _____ Hymn Title: _____

Hymn # _____ Hymn Title: _____

461 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives

- 467 - Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 482 - This Joyful Eastertide
- 537 - Beautiful Savior
- 575 - My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
- 656/7 - A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- 676 - Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
- 679 - Oh, How Blest are They
- 709 - The King of Love My Shepherd Is
- 715 - Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
- 722 - Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
- 740 - I am Jesus' Little Lamb**
- 742 - For Me to Live Is Jesus
- 752 - Be Still, My Soul
- 763 - When Peace, Like a River
- 790 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- 895 - Now Thank We All our God

464 - The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

477 - Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

490 - Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

566 - By Grace I'm Saved

605 - Father Welcomes

671 - Sing with All the Saints in Glory

677 - For All the Saints Who From Their Labors Rest

708 - Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

710 - The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

718 - Jesus Still Lead On

725 - Children of the Heavenly Father

741 - Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

748 - I'm But a Stranger Here

761 - Rock of Ages

770 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus

809 - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

878 - Abide With Me, Fast Falls the Eventide

Solo/Vocal Selection: _____

Memorial List Preferences: _____

(This is a place for you to offer suggestions where you would like your family to direct memorial gifts.)

(Other details such as choice of funeral home, place of interment and selection of casket bearers may be communicated to your immediate family members. You may use this space to write down any further notes that you have regarding your funeral arrangements.)

If for some reason it is not possible to fulfill my desires for my funeral as outlined by the above requests, I release my survivors to use their best judgment in conjunction with the Pastor.

Signed: _____

Date: _____