**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**Funeral Pre-Planning for** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is often difficult for families to make decisions regarding funeral arrangements at the time of the death of a loved one. In the midst of grieving, families must make many important decisions. They frequently wish that they knew the desires of the one who died. This is an opportunity for you to think about your own funeral plans or talk with your family members about their wishes, as well as do some reflecting on your life. Use this as a guide for conversation and planning in whatever ways are helpful. If you chose to return a copy of some or all of this information to the church it will be kept in a file available to the pastors. Pastors are happy to meet with you individually to help you with any preplanning you would like to tend to or to talk through any questions you might have. Thanks for doing this important work and engaging in these conversations.

Glossary:

A **Funeral Service** is a service held to memorialize a deceased person with their body present.  This happens less than one week from death. A **Memorial Service** is a service held to memorialize a deceased person with their body not present or with cremains present. This can happen anytime after death and works well with cremation or when family has to come from long distances or when the service needs to be delayed for any reason. Either type of service can be held at a place of worship, a funeral home, or another gathering place. A **committal, interment, or graveside service** all refer to the actual burial of either the body or cremains. **Cremation** is the process that reduces the body to ashes. Ashes can be interred at cemeteries, kept at home, or scattered (depending on local rules). There are **niches**, which are cubbies in cemeteries where cremains are put called **columbariums**, or **plots**, where caskets are placed into the ground. These can be purchased ahead of time and both are considered property with deeds. Prince of Peace has a columbarium on site. **Funeral directors** coordinate the care of the body (embalming, cremation), burial, and funeral/memorial service. The **visitation/viewing/wake** is the time for family and friends to come and see the deceased and pay respects to the family. This often happens the evening before a service and/or one hour prior to the service.