

AGING WISELY

Frequently Asked Questions

(Even Though I Don't Want To Think About It)

As adults approach their later years it is appropriate to write wills, plan your estate and prepare for long term medical care. Pre-planning your funeral should be an extension of these activities. It spares a lot of the stress on your loved ones in making the needed decisions under the pressure of time and strong emotions. In conjunction with informing your family and contacting a funeral home, make known your desired arrangements in advance by informing our Pastor and Cemetery Committee.

The following information has been prepared by the St. David Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee.

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Bernie Lee, Chair, 803-348-0631

Pastor James Laurence 356-3035



A caring community called to love, serve and proclaim God's eternal grace to all people.
132 St. David Church Road, West Columbia SC 29170

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Do I need a [Living Will](#) or a [Medical Power of Attorney](#)?

The Cemetery Committee has an information sheet to briefly describe the purpose and difference between these two documents. Do-It-Yourself Will Kits are available (such as the *Five Wishes* living will) but wills must be written and have two witnesses to be valid in SC. Otherwise your doctor and lawyer can help you. Most importantly, talk with your children and explain your reasons and desires for your decisions.

Why Should I Consider [Long Term Care](#)?

We all hope for continued good health but aging usually means lengthy illnesses. 1 out of 3 people who reach age 65 are expected to enter a nursing home at least once (average stay – 1 year for \$78,000). Long Term Care (LTC) helps you with activities of daily living (personal custodial care and homemaker services, not medical treatment). Medicare and health insurance usually won't pay for LTC. Medicaid, if you qualify *after* you spend down your savings, can assist but will not pay for everything. If you can afford the premiums, LTC is an insurance program designed to cover for your personal care whether you stay at home or are in an assisted living facility, nursing home or medical care facility. Your local Thrivent or insurance representative can provide further information.

What is **Funeral Pre-Planning**?

Pre-Arrangement is done by the family immediately after a loved one has passed away to arrange their funeral. This includes notifying appropriate government agencies of the passing, preparing and delivering an obituary and photo to the local newspapers, as well as making plans for the funeral and service itself.

Pre-Planning is very much different – you do your own arranging so your family won't have to make those types of decisions during the stressful and emotional time of your death. When the time comes for these arrangements to be carried out it will be the responsibility of your executor or next of kin to implement.

You will need to meet with a Funeral Home Director. The following are the Funeral Homes in Lexington usually used by our church members (listed alphabetically; other Funeral Homes are also available in the Columbia area):

Barr-Price

356-4411 Landis D. Price
609 Northwood Rd

Caughman-Harman

359-6118 Todd Caughman
503 North Lake Dr.

Thompson

996-1023 Chad Frye
4720 Augusta Rd.



You should also discuss your funeral service plans with Pastor James Laurence to ensure hymns, scriptures and other details you want are specified. You can get a Funeral Pre-Planning Worksheet from the Church Office or the Cemetery Committee.

St. David Cemetery

Who do I contact about applying for a burial plot at St. David's Lutheran Church?

Applications can be obtained from the Church Cemetery Committee who will assign you a burial location. Contact Bernie Lee, 803-348-0631 cell or 356-8560 HP

If my family has a "square" of burial plots, why do I need to make a burial application?

A general family assignment in a square of plots is not the same as a specific personal plot assignment. Making an application ensures you with a specific plot assignment next to a loved one of your choosing. Also, other family members, even distant ones, may incorrectly assume having a family square means there will be a burial plot available for them, too.

When do I need to apply for a burial plot?

Whenever you become serious about Long Term Care or estate planning you should also do funeral pre-planning. Note: When your spouse dies, the Cemetery Committee will automatically contact you to assign the adjacent plot to you. It is also appropriate for parents to apply for themselves should a child pass.

Why are family squares no longer assigned?

Even today it is common for families to have several generations attend St. David. In the past a large number of plots in a family square were often assigned to parents and for their children. Over the years there have been many plots not filled due to children marrying and having their own families, wanting and needing their own family squares, or they simply moved away. So as to be better stewards of the limited spaces in our cemetery, the practice of assigning family squares has been minimized.

Are non-members allowed to be buried in the Church Cemetery?

St. David Lutheran Church maintains a private cemetery for the burial of its active members and, under limited and special circumstances, the Church Council will allow burial of non-members in the cemetery on a case-by-case basis.

How much does it cost to be buried in the Church Cemetery?

There is no burial fee for active church members. Non-members (persons not on the current active church member roll) are charged a burial application fee of \$800.00* per person. This is to provide perpetual maintenance care for the cemetery. We invite all non-members to become active church members by talking with Pastor Laurence.

Why is there grass growing on gravesites?

Family members are responsible for maintaining inside of family squares. The Church contracts for general cemetery grounds maintenance.

If I am cremated can I be buried?

Persons wishing to be cremated have the option of an in-ground burial or being placed in a niche in our above-ground Columbarium. Each niche costs \$650.00* for church members or \$1,000.00* for non-members; up to two urns can be placed in each niche. These fees are for maintenance and construction of an additional Columbarium, as needed.

* Fees are subject to change



Monuments

How do I get a headstone or coping and gravel on my gravesite?

Be sure to contact the Cemetery Committee prior to making “improvements” (head stones or foot markers, coping, gravel, etc.) to your burial plot. Though currently allowed in the “old” cemetery no raised monuments or coping will be allowed in the new portions of the cemetery.

The following are frequently used local monument companies (but not all of them).

Carolina Granite & Marble

359-2100 Linda Smith
408 Meetze Ave., Lexington

Memorial Design of Lexington

785-3075 Sallie Shealy Clamp
120 North Church St., Lexington

Snelgrove Memorials

892-2580 Tony Snelgrove
2533 Hwy 378, Gilbert

The Veterans Administration will provide a headstone, marker or medallion for a veteran buried in a private cemetery. Your next of kin will need to submit VA Form 40-1330 and a copy of your DD Form 214 to apply (see http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/order_instructions.asp).



Memorials

How do I establish a memorial to St. David's Lutheran Church for a cause I care about?

Memorials can be designated for the General Endowment Fund, the Cemetery or Columbarium Fund, or Debt Retirement. Council can designate other uses for memorials.



St. David Lutheran Church

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