

Last Chance to Make a Good Impression - Planning your Service  
March 27, 2011

**"When words are inadequate, have a ritual." *Anonymous***

**Rituals help us to**

- mark a point in time
- make meaning of an experience
- provide closure
- process emotions

**Funeral/Memorial Services help**

Face the truth of Death and pain of loss

Remember the life of the deceased

Search for meaning/value - life, death, relationship

Support those grieving

**Value in planning your own service**

say over funeral decisions

help you and loved ones face your death

avoid decision making during grief

emotional and/or financial resource to loved ones

avoid family disagreements/conflicts

**Worship considerations for services**

Lutheran theology - hope of salvation through Christ- not our merit

Pall - Baptismal Identity

Communion - fed and nourished - foretaste of feast to come

Scriptures that reflect life / faith of deceased

Songs that speak to the bereaved and witness the hope of faith

Sermon - not a eulogy... "our lives preach - our need for / our witness of Christ"

**Remember:**

*Obituaries notify of death - no need to eulogize in the paper ( obit on back of bulletin)*

*Services are to celebrate life and faith of deceased - "show your love" during their life, not after their death*

*Eulogies not necessary to "commend the deceased" - we are all "forgiven sinners"*

*Receptions are important for fellowship - consolation - not to "feed the masses"*