

# Blessed with Hope Declaration of Death

Visit nursing homes and advocate for church members and loved ones.

Create care packages for families that are dealing with a loved one dying.

Provide pastoral or diaconal counsel for those who are struggling with death.

Gather stories and pictures to share with the loved ones of someone who is dying.

Pray for families that are struggling with a loved one dying.

Create a list of trusted advisors (pastors, lawyers, medical personnel) to share with your community.

Bring in a speaker to discuss the ethical issues associated with organ donation.

Hold a seminar on medical power of attorneys, living wills, and do not resuscitate orders.

Train a team of individuals at your church to help families through the death and dying process.

Define the Biblical versus the medical definition of death and recognize the difference.

Develop printed prayer vigils that members can use with families struggling with a loved one dying.

Explore which organs can be donated after death and which organ donations can cause death.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ. - Philippians 4:6-7



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## End of Life

Assist a loved one in planning a funeral and help make preparations.

Hold a Bible study on what heaven looks like and what to anticipate after we die.

Continue to support, pray for, and encourage those who have lost loved ones.

Bring in a speaker to talk about the goodness of the body and the body as a gift.

Set calendar reminders of important dates and check in with surviving family members.

Check in frequently with those who have lost loved ones during the first year after loss.

Hold an All Saints service to honor those who have died in the last year and invite loved ones to attend.

Develop a grieving group where those who have lost loved ones can meet to work through the loss.

Equip people with information about cremation versus natural burial-what the Bible has to say, what the cultural significance is.

Tour a funeral home to understand what the process looks like and ask your pastor to be present.

Do a study on the Lutheran liturgy using the funeral and committal services that affirms the joy of the resurrection of the body.

Put together a memory book for families where people can add memories or pictures of the person.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. - Revelation 21:4



# Blessed with Hope Physician-Assisted Suicide

Uphold and support the life of the caregiver.

Be active and present in the end-of-life care for others.

Invite a speaker or pastor to speak about end-of-life issues.

Pray for those with terminal diagnoses.

Be aware of and advocate for life-affirming legislation.

Volunteer for hospice or visit those homebound or in the hospital.

Provide ways to keep the dying connected to church.

Confess the truth that worth and identity are not based on ability.

Acknowledge and communicate the Lord's presence and His purpose in suffering.

Provide information about the negative aspects of physician-assisted suicide.

Recognize and affirm the vocation being served at the end of life.

Recognize symptoms and seek medical help for issues of depression.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. -  
Romans 8:18



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## Prolonging Life vs. Extending Death

Provide others with Lutherans For Life resources on prolonging life versus extending death.

Affirm that life is a gift of God and that God gives and God takes.

Provide access to LCMS documents on end of life.

Check in on and visit those who suffer from long-term illnesses.

Meet with your pastor to discuss appropriate responses to illness.

Hold a Bible study about not fearing death and recognizing that it has been defeated.

Recognize that treatments can be beneficial, even if they don't fully heal.

Support families that are caring for loved ones and having to make difficult decisions.

Invite a panel of pastors to talk about prolonging life versus extending death with families.

Encourage the person struggling with long-term illness to record a testimony of his or her faith.

Share information about proper use of medical support and reasons we might prolong and celebrate life.

Define the difference between prolonging life and extending death.

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. - Psalm 119:50

