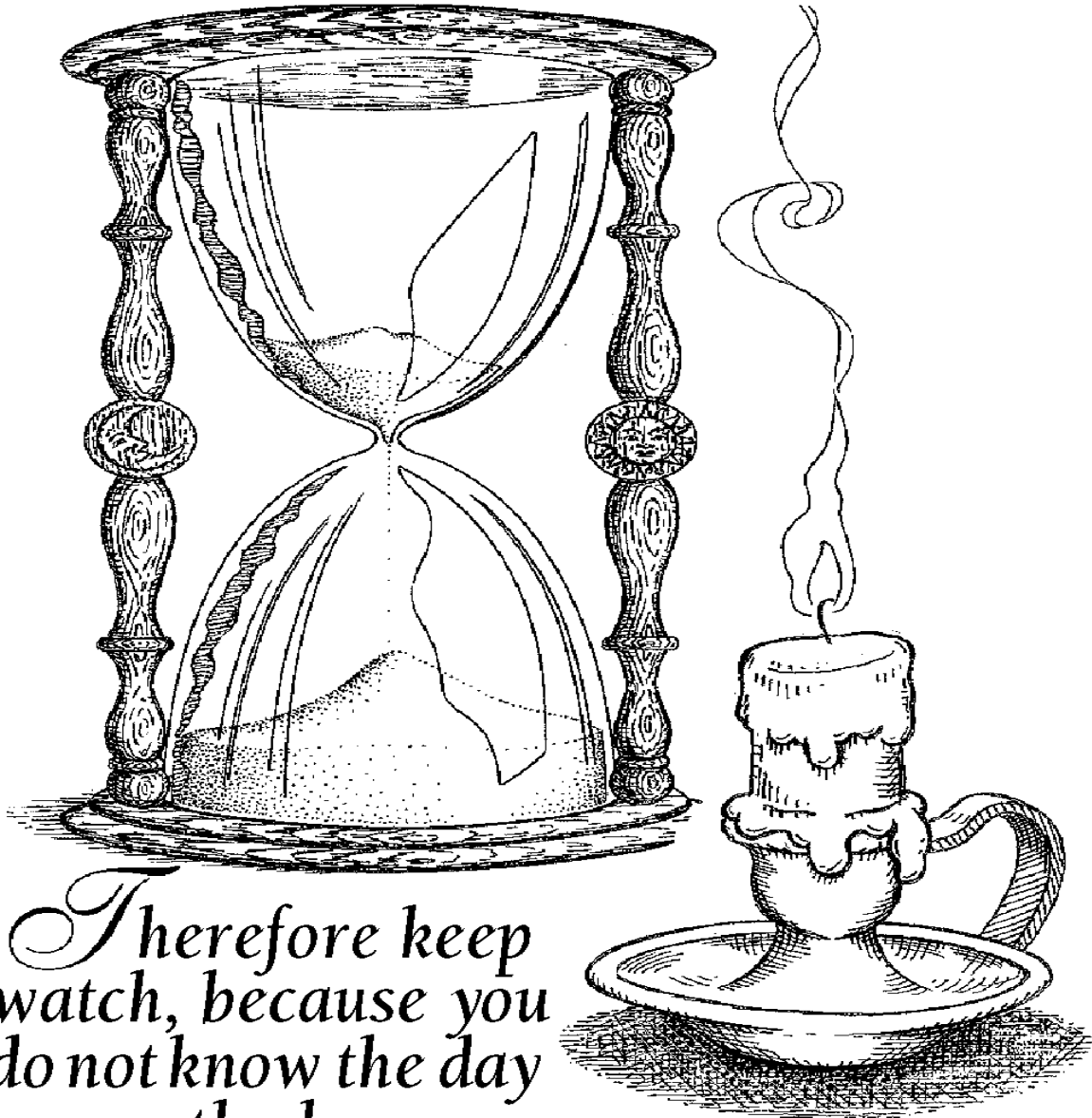


A HELP AND GUIDANCE IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH



*Therefore keep
watch, because you
do not know the day
or the hour.*

Matthew 25:13

Why Pre-Plan your Funeral?

1. It brings the subject out into the open and provides the family with an opportunity to share openly their thoughts and feelings about death and dying which might otherwise never be discussed or aired.
2. It shows love and concern for one's survivors.
3. It allows a person to make his/her wishes clearly known.
4. It eases the burden often placed upon survivors of making major decision at an extremely emotional time.
5. It reduces disagreement between survivors regarding what should be done.
6. It assures that you have "set your house in order" and that you will receive the type of disposition you desire.
7. It diminishes the feeling of regret and guilt that so often surrounds death.
8. It promotes wise unemotional financial decisions.
9. It avoids costly and inappropriate expenses (emotional overspending).

What's Important for my survivors to Know?

1. Information about desired funeral arrangements – clergy to preside, the kind of service, manner of burial or cremation, kind of casket, kind of memorial or monument.
2. Location of cemetery plot (title deed).
3. Whether deposit or prepayment has been made for any part of funeral.
4. Names of family members, friends, business associates, members of civic organizations who should be notified of your death.
5. Information and details for published obituary, names of newspapers and other publication to which it should be sent.
6. Institutions or charities that are to receive memorial contributions.
7. Location of insurance policies and clear information about the kind of policy, amount, settlement options available, and status of any loans against policy.

8. Location of will and other important documents, bank accounts, passbooks, checkbooks, stock certificates, etc.
9. Information about Social Security, veterans benefits, pensions payable to survivors.

What Should be Done at the Time of Death?

1. If death:
 - A. Is expected and occurs at home with hospice, notify the hospice nurse and they will come to the home to assist.
 - B. Occurs in a public place or while traveling, call local law enforcement who will notify a coroner. If you are traveling in the United States, a local funeral director should be contacted and given the name of the funeral director you will be using in your hometown. The two directors will then make arrangements for transporting the body.
 - C. Occurs outside the United States, contact should be made with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. A consular officer has the responsibility to inform the closest relative or legal representative. Disposition, preparation and shipment of the remains must be accomplished in accordance with the laws and customs of the host country. A funeral director in the U.S. will assist through coordination with the Department of State.
2. Notify the person's pastor immediately.
 - A. For Spiritual comfort.
 - B. For Funeral service arrangements.
3. Notify funeral director.
4. Advise relatives, friends, and neighbors of the death.
5. Arrange for special household needs – answering callers, taking phone messages, caring for children, taking care of food and housework.
6. Meet with the funeral director to complete final funeral arrangements.
7. Inform business associates, place of employment, and distant relatives.
8. Arrange for the collection of all death benefits, payment of bills, reading of the will, probate, etc.

9. Notify the deceased's lawyer and the executor of his/her will.
10. Acknowledge all memorials, floral tributes, and sympathy letters.

Organ Donations

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod encourages the donation of organs. At its 1981 National Convention the synod passed a resolution encouraging its members to become living organ donors. This donation is seen as an opportunity to help others out of love for Christ, through the donation of organs.

Guidelines:

1. Any person 18 years of age or older may donate all or part of his/her body after death for transplantation, research, or placement in a tissue bank.
2. If a donor has not acted in his/her lifetime to specify a wish to donate, his/her survivors may do so in a specified order of priority (spouse, adult child, either parent, etc.).
3. Hospital staff will inform the family of all specifics regarding organ transplantation at the hospital.
4. The donor has the right to revoke the gift, and those for whom it is intended may also reject it. The donor arrangement has time limitations and must be reviewed periodically.

Methods of Making an Organ Donation:

1. Place the organ donation preference on your Drivers license.
2. Complete a uniform Donors Card.

When Is an Autopsy Performed?

1. Law sometimes requires an autopsy when death occurs without the presence of an attending physician or under questionable circumstances.
2. Autopsies are also requested at times to determine the nature of a person's illness or to aid medical science.
3. Autopsies do not eliminate the option of an open casket, viewing and visitation.

How are bodies Prepared for Burial?

1. Embalming – replacing of the body fluids with a preserving solution.
2. Cremation – reducing of the body to ashes.
 - A. Practiced in Old Testament Times. (Joshua 7:25, 1 Samuel 31:12)
 - B. Not sinful or forbidden in God’s Word (as long as it is not done as a denial of the resurrection).

What are the Common Methods of Burial?

1. Internment or burial – disposition of the casketed body in the earth in a cemetery or memorial park.
2. Entombment – the placing of the casketed body in a specially constructed mausoleum above the ground.
3. Remains from the cremation process may be buried, scattered or placed in an urn according to the wishes of the deceased or family. There also are special above ground interment places that have a niche for the urns.

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