

Life at the End:

The Church's role in caring for the dying and those who love them.

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Terms:

Ars Morenidi – the art of dying.

Thanatology – the study of death, especially the social and emotional aspects of dying.

Palliative Care – Palliative care provides medical, social, emotional and practical support to someone with a serious or life limiting illness even as medical care to treat or cure the illness continues. The team is made of palliative care specialist doctors and nurses, and includes others such as social workers, nutritionists, and chaplains.

Hospice Care – Like palliative care, hospice provides comprehensive comfort care as well as support for the family, but, in hospice, attempts to cure the person's illness are stopped. Hospice is provided for a person with a terminal illness whose doctor believes he or she has 6 months or less to live if the illness runs its natural course.

Resources:

The Bible

The Hymnal

The Catechism

LCMS Life Ministry

- lcms.org/Life
- Life Library <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry/library/death> -

Concordia Theology: A service of Concordia Theological Seminary providing “Commentary, Conversation, and Resources for Life and Ministry.

- Resources on natural burial - <https://concordiatheology.org/?s=%22natural+burial%22>
- On Death, Dying and Everything After - <https://concordiatheology.org/2019/02/word-and-work-on-death-dying-and-everything-after/>

Mercy at Life's End, A Guide for Laity and Their Pastors ©2013 by John T. Pless. Published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Available from Concordia Publishing House.

The Final Victory

<https://www.cph.org/p-2266-Final-Victory-Contemplating-the-Death-and-Funeral-of-a-Christian-Milestones.aspx> by Bryan Wolfmueller. Published by Concordia Publishing House

On the bodily process of dying:

Being Mortal Medicine and What Matters in the End ©2014 by Atul Gawande. Published by Picador
picadorusa.com