

Worthy Chaplains:

To those of you who served your Grange last year as Chaplain I would like to say, "Welcome back" and to those newly elected, "welcome to the fold". Here is a new Memorial Service for your use. Last year's is included as well. In this new normal of social distancing you will need to be creative in planning your service. I hope these help in some small way.

The enclosed services are a **suggestion only** and you may want to use only part of them or do something else entirely. That is fine. I just ask you to have a memorial service, in the spring, to remember those brothers and sisters who have passed on in the preceding twelve months.

It is always nice to invite family members to your service so they may participate in the tribute your Grange pays to their loved one. If your Grange doesn't drape the Charter for each member, you could drape it for all as part of your service. You might also add a flower for the men and women in the armed forces, at home and abroad, and for the first responders who work day and night keeping us safe.

I would also like to remind you, if you have any members that were Deputies, State Officers, District Directors, or their spouses who have passed on to send me the obituary and any other information as soon as possible. I would like as much time as possible to write a special tribute for these members for the annual memorial service at the State convention. Any who pass on after June 1 will be eulogized next year.

I pray the Lord blesses each of you during the time you are honored to serve as your Grange Chaplain. If you have any questions, comments, or a report to make, you may email me at mathewstwin@hotmail.com. Please put "Grange" in the subject line. You may also phone me at 360-352-7043. May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Fraternally,

Pam

Pam Mathews, Chaplain
Washington State Grange

Memorial Service 2022

Please join me in prayer. Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time to come together to celebrate the lives of our friends who have laid down their implements and now rest from their labor. We know they have entered that paradise not made with hands, eternal in the heavens and have received that welcome plaudit, “well done good and faithful servant”. We thank you Lord for these brothers and sisters who shared their lives with us and whom we have been blessed to know. Remind us Lord we should always “do good and share with others for by such sacrifices You are pleased.” We ask all this in your holy name, Amen.

God commanded us to love one another as He loves us. One of the simplest ways to do as He commands is by helping others when we perceive a need, whether by giving money or goods or by giving of our time and energy. Kahlil Gibran wrote in *The Profit*, “You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.” When we have the opportunity to help someone we should make the time to help. In another year of social distancing it is important to reach out to those people who are alone or do not have family living nearby or whose friends are not allowed to visit. One of the greatest things each of us has that we can give away is our time; time to phone, time to visit, time to lend a helping hand, time to just be a friend. No act of kindness is ever wasted. “Cast thy bread upon the waters and you will find it after many days.” Remember the parable of the mustard seed.

Read memorial names and place flowers.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. (9:6-8)

“Remember that whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, thank you for these friends gathered here to remember our brothers and sisters. We pray that you keep us from looking not only to our own interests but to the welfare of others, for you have told us to not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in our power to prevent it and that all generous people will prosper. We ask you Lord to keep us safe and guard us in all that we do. May our efforts bring peace to those around us and draw us closer to you. We pray that you will always be by our sides and in our hearts. We ask all this in your holy name. Amen.