



Sunday of HOPE

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life is a celebration of **HOPE**, giving communities the opportunity to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and fight back together for lifesaving change. At a Relay For Life event, no one faces cancer alone. Relay For Life is more than a fundraising walk around a track. It is a global movement that brings passionate supporters together. It is a free, family friendly event. There are children's activities, games, food, raffles, fun walking lap themes and plenty of ways to honor, remember and celebrate those impacted by cancer.

An important part of Relay For Life is the opportunity to remember those touched by cancer. The night is brightened by the glow of illuminated bags called luminaria, each bearing the name of someone who has been impacted by cancer. Some celebrate cancer survivors, while others help us honor and remember those gone too soon. All represent someone special who has been profoundly affected by cancer and the family and friends who continue to fight back in their honor.

If you are interested in holding a Sunday of Hope at your church or have questions about the program, please contact American Cancer Society Staff Partner, Nancy Mathis at 603.518.6263 or Nancy.Mathis@cancer.org.

What is a luminaria? Luminaria bags are decorated, lit with candles or glow sticks and each one bearing the name of a person touched by cancer; in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone lost to cancer.

The Basic Concept of Sunday of Hope:

- Church members are given the opportunity to provide a luminaria in memory or in honor of special individuals in exchange for a donation to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Greater Manchester. Suggested donation of \$10 per luminaria bag.
- The luminaria are used to decorate the church for the Sunday of Hope or can be displayed at your local event.
- Ideally, the theme of the service is HOPE.

Organization of the event:

- The Relay For Life Sunday of Hope is arranged and coordinated by a church member.
- This person is responsible for promoting the event through church bulletins or newsletters, collecting the "orders", creating the bags, and collecting the donations.
- On the morning of Sunday of Hope, the church is decorated with the luminaria.
- The service is planned with Hope as the theme, including scripture, prayer, music, with the luminaria as a reminder.
- A cancer educational message may be included in the church bulletin along with the names of the donor's and those represented through the luminaria.
- Relay For Life Sunday of Hope can be done at any time of the year.
- Luminaria bags are provided to you by the American Cancer Society.

Sample Newsletter or Bulletin Announcement:

On Sunday XX/XX/XXXX we will be celebrating a "Sunday of Hope" as part of the American Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life of Greater Manchester. Relay For Life is a celebration of HOPE in the fight against cancer. As part of our Sunday of Hope, we will be including lit luminaria bags, each one bearing the name of a person touched by cancer. We are giving you the opportunity to order a Luminaria "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" a loved one. These Luminaria will be used to decorate our sanctuary for this special service. Please fill out this form and return along with your donation (Checks made payable American Cancer Society) by Sunday, XX/XX/XXXX. Thank you.



Luminaria Order Form

Name : _____

I would like to order _____ Luminaria as part of our "Sunday of Hope" service.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00/bag

Please list names to be listed in program and check either In Honor or In Memory:

Name #1: _____ Honor Memory

Name #2: _____ Honor Memory

Name #3: _____ Honor Memory

Name #4: _____ Honor Memory

Please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society

“Sunday of Hope”

Some Helpful Suggestions

Appropriate Hymns: *My Hope Is Built*
Hymn of Promise
Hope of the World
We Shall Overcome
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Soon and Very Soon
Amazing Grace

Appropriate Scripture: *Romans 5:3-5*
Acts 2:25-27
Romans 15:12-13
2 Corinthians 1:7-10

Prayer for the Conquest of Cancer:

Almighty and Loving God, we remember that Your will for each of us is health and peace, fullness of each life and wholeness of each life. We know that illness of every sort challenges Your plan and, therefore, must challenge us.

We thank You for those in sickness who rise to the challenge by bravely fighting on, and who continue to live and grow and love and serve in spite of the pain and suffering.

We thank You for all who minister to cancer patients; for those who are instruments of Your healing grace – the doctors, nurses, technicians, those involved in research and experimentation, and rabbis, priests, pastors, family and friends who are there with those who suffer – all channels of Your healing love.

Finally, we thank You for institutions and organizations that provide care – whose purpose is to challenge all that “corrupts and destroys the creatures of God.”

We thank You for the great work of the American Cancer Society, and we ask Your special blessings, Dear God, on its healing work. Guide and empower our leaders, strengthen and give good success to its workers and volunteers, and grant that all may know that it is Your healing work that they do; and that one day You “will wipe away every tear from our eyes and that there will be no more pain, for the former things will have passed away.”

This prayer, O God, we ask in Your powerful name of Love.
Amen