



Funeral Policy and Planning Guide



Funeral Policy and Planning Guide

Even for Christians, the death of a loved one is a difficult experience. We grieve the loss of one who has been close to us, but we do not sorrow as those who have no hope. It is our desire and privilege to minister to the families of our congregation in their time of need. It is through the Word of God that we have hope at the time of death of a loved one. This policy is provided to assist our families in planning and providing a Christian funeral.

Although funeral services may be held in funeral homes, the best place for conducting a funeral service is in the sanctuary of the church to which he or she belonged. By having the service at the church, all who attend will be reminded of our hope and assurance in Jesus Christ. Therefore, all are encouraged to use the church for funeral services.

Visitation and Prayer Service

It is common to have a Prayer Service at the funeral home the evening prior to the funeral service. The prayer service is typically short in length, but it is also where space is provided for family and friends to share memories and stories of their loved one. It is during the Prayer Service that any Eulogies may be shared.

Structure of the Service

A funeral service held in the church is a service of worship, celebrating the deceased's life and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. A funeral liturgy allows those who mourn to give voice to sorrow, thank God for their loved one, and entrust their companion into the hands of God. Consequently, all parts of the service are to be consistent with the worship practices of the church, and will follow a Lutheran liturgy. Eulogies or sharing of memories is not permitted during the funeral service. A time for such remembrance is provided as part of the Prayer Service the evening prior to the funeral service. The pastor will give a sermon, or homily, as part of the service.

Holy Communion is encouraged as part of the service as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us, and as a reminder that His body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine, just as Christ is present with us in our grief.

Music

Only music appropriate to a worship service shall be used. Sacred or Christian music would be appropriate. The use of congregational hymns is encouraged. Any soloists and guest musicians must be approved by the pastor and church Music Director. The use of recorded music or pre-recorded accompaniment is not permitted. Only live music will be used in the sanctuary of the church. If pre-recorded music is preferred, the pastors will be happy to officiate the service at the funeral home.

A video presentation of pictures and/or music may be shown in the sanctuary prior to the beginning of the service, as well as during the luncheon in the Lynne Center. No video will be shown during the funeral service, and no photographs will be permitted during the service.

Pall

The casket will be closed for the service and a pall will be placed on the closed casket. A "pall" is a large cloth covering for the casket. The pall is a symbol of the fact that in Christ we are "clothed" in God's love and grace. It is also a symbol of our baptism. In Christ, we put off the old self and put on a new creation in our baptism. A pall, in covering the casket, symbolically expresses the Christian's conviction that all persons are equal in the eyes of God. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will provide the pall during the service.

Deceased Information

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Funeral Service Location: _____

Date and Time: _____

Name(s) of next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements:

_____ Relationship: _____

_____ Relationship: _____

Spouse _____ Years married _____

Children _____

Grandchildren _____

Work History _____

Church Involvement _____

Following are suggestions for scripture readings, but feel free to choose other readings that are meaningful for you or the deceased. All four readings are not required; we do ask that a Gospel reading be chosen at a minimum, and up to three additional readings are welcome.

You may choose one Old Testament reading:

___ Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (For everything there is a season)

___ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)

___ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)

___ Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)

___ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

You may list a person whom you would like to read this lesson: _____

You may choose one Psalm (typically this is read responsively by the congregation):

___ Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)

___ Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation)

- ___ Psalm 42:1-7 (As a deer longs for flowing streams)
- ___ Psalm 46 (God is our refuge and strength)
- ___ Psalm 103 (Bless the Lord, O my soul)
- ___ Psalm 121 (I lift up my eyes to the hills)
- ___ Psalm 130 (Out of the depths I cry to you)
- ___ Psalm 139:1-14 (O Lord, you have searched me and known me)

You may choose one New Testament reading:

- ___ Romans 5:1-11 (We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ)
- ___ Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 (Who will separate us from the love of Christ?)
- ___ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- ___ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- ___ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- ___ Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- ___ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

You may list a person whom you would like to read this lesson: _____

You may choose one Gospel reading to be read by the pastor:

- ___ Matthew 11:25-30 (I will give you rest)
- ___ John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
- ___ John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)
- ___ John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
- ___ John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- ___ John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

You may choose up to three hymns:

- ___ A Mighty Fortress (ELW 504)
- ___ Abide with Me (ELW 272)
- ___ Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! (ELW 377)
- ___ Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)
- ___ Children of the Heavenly Father (ELW 781)
- ___ Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove (ELW 404)
- ___ Day by Day (ELW 790)
- ___ For All the Saints (ELW 422)

- ___ Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)
- ___ How Great Thou Art (ELW 856)
- ___ I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)
- ___ I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)
- ___ If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)
- ___ In Heaven Above (ELW 630)
- ___ Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)
- ___ Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)
- ___ Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)
- ___ My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW 759)
- ___ O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)
- ___ O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)
- ___ On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)
- ___ Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)
- ___ Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (ELW 623)
- ___ Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)
- ___ The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW 502)
- ___ The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)
- ___ This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)
- ___ Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)
- ___ We Know That Christ is Raised (ELW 449)
- ___ You Are the Way (ELW 758)
- ___ Other (as available in Lutheran hymnals): _____

Additional bible passages or meaningful biblical themes _____

Musician/Organist _____

If not the church music director, please provide the name, address and phone of the musician

Do you desire communion as part of the funeral? _____

How many tables will be needed to display pictures and other memorabilia? _____

Funeral Home & Visitation

Name of funeral home: _____ Location: _____

Visitation location (Check one): ____ At funeral home ____ At the church

Visiting hours _____

Final viewing location (Check one): ____ At funeral home ____ At the church

Cemetery & Interment

Interment (Check one): ____ in the earth ____ mausoleum ____ cremation

Name of Cemetery: _____ Location: _____

Funeral Luncheon

The church will provide drinks and bars for the luncheon. The funeral home will arrange catering of the lunch itself.

Will there be a luncheon? (Circle one): Yes / No

Will there be cold or hot food for the lunch? _____

How many people do you expect for the lunch? _____

Are there any additional comments you wish to make?

