

Planning a Funeral / Memorial

TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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FUNERAL / MEMORIAL GUIDELINES

DEFINITIONS

A Christian funeral is a service of worship, thanksgiving, and commendation where the remains – casket or cremains – are present. A Christian memorial is the same service without a casket or cremains present.

WHO MAY HAVE A FUNERAL AT TRINITY?

All members of the congregation are eligible to have their funeral or memorial at Trinity. At the discretion of the pastors and/or Congregation Council, nonmembers may also use the church. There is no fee for members or nonmembers; nonmembers who are able are encouraged to make a contribution of \$200 for use of the space.

OFFICIATING CLERGY

One of Trinity's pastors must officiate at any funeral or memorial held on site. Visiting clergy are welcome to assist. There is no fee for clergy who agree to officiate or assist; an honorarium of \$150 may be given.

MUSIC

Trinity's Director of Music may be hired to play for a funeral or memorial, or may make suggestions for other church musicians to play. The fee for hiring one of Trinity's musicians is \$250.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOTAPING

A funeral or memorial can be livestreamed and recorded using the church's cameras, but these may only be operated by the church's camera technician.

RECEPTION

A reception may be held in the social hall. There is no fee to use this space. For nonmembers, a contribution of \$150 is suggested. Arrangements should be made in conversation with one of the pastors. Trinity's service committee often is available to help with decorating, preparing refreshments, and distributing catered food.

PLANNING THE SERVICE

The purpose of the service is to give thanks to God for the life of one of his children, to comfort one another in grief, and to claim the hope of resurrection in Christ Jesus. There is some flexibility in the service details and order of worship. Family or friends may offer words of eulogy, read selected scriptural passages, or offer the gift of song. A general outline follows:

- ◆ Placing a pall on the coffin
- ◆ Thanksgiving for Baptism
- ◆ Procession of the coffin during opening hymn
- ◆ Opening prayer
- ◆ Scripture readings
- ◆ Eulogy/Words of Remembrance
- ◆ Special Music
- ◆ Homily
- ◆ Hymn or Solo
- ◆ Apostles' Creed
- ◆ Prayers of Intercession
- ◆ Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Holy Communion
- ◆ Commendation/Blessing
- ◆ Recession and Hymn

A brief service of committal may follow the funeral or memorial service, at the final resting place. In some cases, families may choose to have a private committal at the cemetery just before the memorial service at the church. If the burial is a considerable distance away, the committal may take place after a fellowship time at the church or even another day; in such a situation, the pastor can assist in locating a clergy person to officiate at the graveside if the pastor cannot attend.

POSSIBLE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, our help in trouble

Psalm 90

Lord, you are our dwelling place

Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Lord

Psalm 118

The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever

Psalm 121

Lift up my eyes to the hills, strength from the Lord

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord

Psalm 143

Hear my prayer and answer me, O Lord

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a

I know that my Redeemer lives

Isaiah 25:6-9

The Lord will remove death and tears

Isaiah 40:28-31

They who wait for the Lord renew their strength

Isaiah 61:1-3

Good news from the Lord for those who mourn

Jeremiah 31:10-13

The Lord will comfort, turn mourning into joy

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

A time for every matter

New Testament

Romans 5:1-11

Christ died to give us life

Romans 8:14-19

Present suffering nothing compared to future glory

Romans 8:31-39

Nothing separates us from God's Love in Christ

Romans 14:7-9

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

1 Cor. 15:51-57

Listen! I tell you a mystery

11 Cor. 4:16-5:1

We do not lose heart; glory yet to come

Philip. 3:7-11, 4:1

All things loss compared to knowing Christ

1 Thess. 4:13-18

We grieve, but with hope

11 Tim. 4:6-8

Fought the good fight, finished the race

Rev. 7:9-17

The saints in white before the throne of God

Rev. 21:2-7

Holy city, water of life, God wipes tears away

Matt. 11:25-30

Come to me, and I will give you rest

John 3:12-17

God sent the Son into the world to save it

John 6:37-40

I will raise them up on the last day

Continues on next page.

John 10:11-16

I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own

John 11:21-17

I am the resurrection and the life

John 14:1-6

In my Father's house there are many rooms

John 14:25-29

Peace I leave with you, not like the world gives

POSSIBLE HYMN SELECTIONS:

The Strife Is O'er The Battle Done

For All The Saints

A Mighty Fortress

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

O God Our Help In Ages Past

Beautiful Savior

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Lift High The Cross

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

This Is My Father's World

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

How Great Thou Art

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Amazing Grace

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is

Lord Of All Hopefulness

Children Of The Heavenly Father

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry

On Eagle's Wings (You Who Dwell)

FEE SUMMARY

	RECOMMENDED HONORARIUMS
SEXTON	\$200 - \$250
ORGANIST	\$250
STREAMING	None
OFFICE MANGAER	None

*** There is no fee for clergy who agree to officiate or assist;
an honorarium of \$150 may be given.*