

# 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

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**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 Morning Cry*

*On Eagle's Wings (You Who Dwell)*

# FEE SUMMARY

|  | <b>RECOMMENDED<br/>HONORARIUMS</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>SEXTON</b>  | \$200 - \$250                      |
| <b>ORGANIST</b>  | \$250                              |
| <b>STREAMING</b>   | None                               |
| <b>OFFICE MANGAER</b>  | None                               |
| <p><i>** There is no fee for clergy who agree to officiate or assist;<br/>an honorarium of \$150 may be given.</i></p> |                                    |