

Funeral Guide
for
Christ Lutheran Church
Wyoming, Michigan



“ For all the saints who from their labors rest ...”
- from LBW #174

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Christ Lutheran Church

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By our very presence as an established community of believers; we, the community of Christ Lutheran Church (CLC), affirm our confidence in Christ's victory over death and the grave. It is our desire and our calling to minister to the loved ones of those who have entered into the life passage we call death, and whose baptismal promises are now complete.

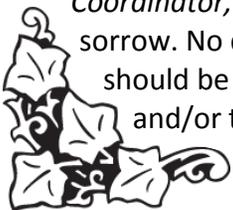
At the Time of Death or Near Death

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord; "he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" - John 11:26-26a

When a loved one is nearing death or has died, please call the Pastor. If death is imminent, the prayers of the 'Last Rite' may be offered. If the death has occurred, the pastor will offer prayers for the remaining loved ones, proclaiming and reminding all of Jesus' resurrection, and His subsequent power over death and the grave.

The Ministry of the Pastor

One of the ways our pastor is called to ministry at CLC is to lead the bereaved into and through the rites of the church where the voice of the Gospel can be heard with healing power and clarity. Our Pastor is assisted in this role by the *Funeral Service Coordinator*, both will work with the family during their time of sorrow. No decisions regarding the funeral or memorial service should be made without the consultation of either the pastor and/or the coordinator as they are specifically trained to direct the bereaved as the service is planned.



Building use fees and honorarium scale for the staff

| | Member | Non-Member |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| The Sanctuary | No Charge | \$175 |
| Organist | \$75 | \$75 |
| Sound Technician | \$50 | \$50 |
| Janitorial | \$50 | \$50 |
| Funeral Coordinator | \$100 | \$100 |
| Pastoral | No Charge | \$150 |

Note: Should a CLC Pastor be unable to officiate, it is recommended that the honorarium for a supply pastor be \$100 (\$150 for Non-Member).



Funeral Luncheon

For members of CLC the fellowship committee will provide a luncheon for the bereaved, upon request. A donation to cover the cost of meats would be appreciated. For non-members a donation to help defray the cost of the entire luncheon is asked. Food for the luncheon may be provided by the bereaved at their own discretion. If the church kitchen is used we ask that the kitchen be left in the same manner in which it was found. The pastor and/or the funeral coordinator may provide the bereaved with the name of a caterer whose services have been approved.

Memorial Gifts

Gifts of memorial in honor of the deceased may be given to CLC in accordance with the Memorial Policy. Checks should be made payable to CLC with the decedents name on the memo line.

In certain circumstances, the family might request memorial gifting to be directed to another charitable organization in lieu of flowers. Please clarify your wishes and direct that all checks be made payable to the other organization. CLC is unable to receive, manage, and/or distribute designated funds to outside organizations.

Building Use Agreement

CLC has a building use agreement that is required and must be completed prior to the funeral. It outlines how the building and grounds are to be used and respected.

The Service

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." -Acts 2:42

Funeral service terminology can sometimes be confusing. As Lutherans, we define the service in two basic ways:

- ↪ When the body of the deceased is present for the service, we refer this as a Funeral Service.
- ↪ If the body of the deceased is not present, or if the body has been cremated, we refer to the service as a Memorial Service. The cremains may or may not be present.

Regardless of the service offered, the premise is that we are gathering in community to give thanks to God for the good hope that we have in Jesus, and to offer our thanksgiving for a life lived out in God's grace.

Memorial Service

Sometimes families will schedule a memorial service on a date several days or weeks following the death of their loved one. This is usually done when a cremation has taken place. We strongly suggest that the families use the services of the funeral home for a memorial service. If funeral home services are not used, the family must provide a list of people who will be helping during the service. This list should be provided to our pastor and/or funeral service coordinator at least five (5) days prior to the memorial service.

The Liturgy

For all funerals at CLC we use the funeral liturgy (order of worship) that is printed in the Lutheran Book of Worship (page 206). This liturgy explains the form of the service and how the funeral service will be officiated.

The funeral service is a worship service. Lessons from the Old and New Testaments are read, and hymns reflective of our faith are sung as deemed appropriate by the pastor.

Music

Our organist has the right of first refusal to play for all funeral services that occur within our church building. The same holds true for our minister of music if a more contemporary Christian style of music is requested. Should our organist or minister of music be unavailable, we will find a suitable replacement.

The Casket

If a casket is present in the service it must be closed. Our tradition dictates that the casket is met at the entrance door of the church by the pastor and then is moved forward in procession to the front of the church. Once the casket reaches the front of the church it may be covered with the funeral pall. A pall is a visible reminder that we are covered by Christ in our Baptism. The pall also reminds us that at the foot of the cross we are all the same. However, please know that if there is a time of visitation prior to the service, the casket may be opened during the visitation in the entry hall (the narthex).

Cremation

The cremated remains are placed on a suitable table or stand at the place normally occupied by the casket.

The Eulogy

A eulogy may be offered by someone other than the pastor leading the funeral service. If more than one person would like to share a eulogy, it is suggested that those who would like to speak might work together and have just one person speak for all. Depending upon the presence of communion, the service is normally planned for no more than 45 to 60 minutes.

Service Bulletins

Printed bulletins will be provided by the church at no charge. The service bulletins will include the liturgy that is to be used and any invitation that might be needed for the funeral luncheon that will follow the service. The bereaved will be responsible for their own guest book and/or any memory cards that the family desires to have distributed. The memory cards are normally provided by the funeral home. A stand for your guest book is available.

Flowers

Flower arrangements may be used in the church during the service, however the number of arrangements may be limited by space. No flowers may be placed upon the Altar if Holy Communion is going to be celebrated. The pastor or the funeral coordinator must be consulted regarding the placement of any flowers in the narthex or sanctuary.

Pictures

Pictures and other personal memorabilia are better suited outside of the worship space. We encourage such items to be used in the narthex and/or the fellowship hall. They are not permitted inside the sanctuary. In a memorial service, a picture of the deceased may be placed with the urn (or where the urn would otherwise be placed).

Media Services

If the sound and/or projector system is used during the service, only the church sound technician is permitted to operate the audio and/or visual equipment.

The liturgy used for a funeral service does not provide for any kind of 'life story' presentation. Any media presentation that has been prepared may be used in the narthex prior to the service or during the time of fellowship following the service.