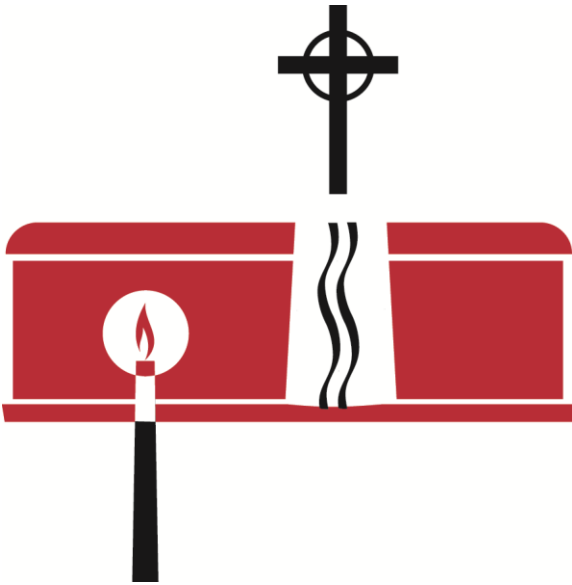


FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICE PREPARATION



Remembering Our Loved Ones. The sadness of death should give way in our liturgy to the promise of resurrected life. Our celebration of a person's life should reflect our conviction that in Jesus Christ we have life beyond life. The purpose of a Christian funeral is to accompany the family through a time of loss.

Zion Lutheran Church faith community gathers along that journey to share words of hope, songs of comfort, the water of baptismal promise, the meal of strength and the presence of Christ. A Funeral worship service is a time when the means of grace and consolation are shared for family and friends. This time of worship, for a funeral or memorial, are most properly celebrated in the church of the deceased, in the presence of their faith community, and around the word and meal. All remains are treated with honor; and the Church takes very seriously its responsibility to walk with people through this time of loss.

Funerals held at Zion Lutheran Church for non-members is left to the Pastor's discretion. Funerals are normally held any day except Sunday at times depending on clergy and church availability. A visitation can be held the night before or just prior to the service; at the church or at the funeral home. A "funeral" service is conducted with the body present or an urn, and is usually planned within days of death. A "memorial" (with or without an urn) service can be delayed as the family chooses to meet the convenience of the family. Some hold memorials at the one year anniversary. Please call us at Zion to make arrangements.

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Rev. Dr. Michael E. Thomas
Revised: March 12, 2024



Preparations

Remembering - A funeral or memorial service are times to remember that you are not alone. We remember that the journey of life is not easy and death is a painful reminder and natural reality of living. We gather to remember God is faithful and loves us in the times of loss. There are various parts of a service that remind us that the gathering is a worship service where we hear the good news of God's love.

Music - Music is discussed with Pastor for the visitation and the funeral. There are many songs that have sentimental value, but may not be appropriate for a worship.

Flowers - Flowers may be delivered to the church on the day of and up to one hour before the service. There are two flower tables next to the altar available for flowers.

Recording the Service - Zion may record the funeral service. When available, we can burn a CD for the family after the service is completed. We can also have the service on Facebook Live on the Zion Facebook page. We then post it to the Zion Youtube channel so those who couldn't attend could participate.

Funeral Home/Cemetery - As you make preparations for a funeral service, please contact Pastor to make sure of the availability of the worship space for a funeral/memorial.

Visitation - The funeral visitation is held in the atrium on the side of the worship space. When it is time for the service, the casket is closed and the start of the worship will start.

Bulletins - If a bulletin is desired, the church office can help arrange this with the guidance of the pastor.

Participating in the Service - The Pastor will lead funerals or memorials at Zion. As for others who participate in the service, this should be a request communicated in the planning process with the Zion Pastor.

Memorial Gifts - When gifts are received at Zion in the name of the one who has died, the immediate family is notified afterwards.

Funeral Lunch - In case of financial hardship, please speak openly and honestly with the Pastor during the initial planning meeting. The meal needs to be catered but a group of Zion volunteers may be able to host and serve, as well as provide coffee. Zion can provide tablecloths, silverware, plates, cups, packets of sugar and creamer. A gift to Zion WELCA for serving the meal is encouraged.

Funeral Service Fees	Member	Non-Member
Large Worship Space Fee	NA	\$200.00
Chapel (holds 70)	NA	\$100.00
Sound Technician - worship	NA	\$25.00
Video Projection - visitation	\$25.00	\$25.00
Organist	\$125.00	\$125.00
Soloist	\$50.00	\$50.00
Fellowship Hall	NA	\$100.00

Order of Service

Music for Funeral

3

Preservice music
Congregational Song
Invocation
Prayer
Words of Remembrance/Eulogy
Bible Lessons (up to three, please refer to page)
Sermon
Congregational Song or Special Music
Prayer
Lord's Prayer
Communion (optional)
Post Communion Blessing and Prayer
Commendation
Benediction
Congregational Song

Hymns and songs for Funerals:

- Amazing Grace
- A Mighty Fortress is our God
- Beautiful Savior
- Be Thou My Vision
- Children of the Heavenly Father
- For All the Saints
- How great thou art
- I am the bread of life
- I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry
- Just as I Am
- On eagle's wings
- O God our help in ages past
- Precious Lord
- Savior like A Shepherd Lead Us
- The Old Rugged Cross
- You Are Mine

Scripture for Funeral

Scripture Readings for Funerals

- Psalm 23, 46, 90, 118, 121, or 130
- Isaiah 40:28-31
- Isaiah 61:1-3
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-11
- Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33
- Isaiah 25:6-9
- Matthew 11:25-30
- Matthew 5:1-12
- Matthew 6:25-34
- Luke 2:25-32
- John 1:1-5; 9-14
- John 5: 24-29
- John 6: 37-40
- John 6:67-69
- John 11: 21-27
- John 14:1-6
- Romans 5:1-11
- Romans 8:31-35; 37-39
- Romans 14: 7-9
- 2 Corinthians 15:12-26
- Philippians 2: 5-11
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- Revelation 7:9-12
- Revelation 21:1-7
- Other:

Funeral Preparation Form

Preparation Form for _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Date & Place of Birth _____

Baptism/Date _____ Confirmed/Date _____

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Next of Kin/Contact Person/Phone _____

Funeral Home Preference? _____

Cemetery? _____

Visitation Viewing Yes _____ No _____

Graveside Only? Yes _____ No _____

Cremation? Yes _____ No _____

Funeral at Church? Yes _____ No _____

Communion? Yes _____ No _____

Facebook live Service? Yes _____ No _____

People to speak at service _____

Scripture Readings Preference _____

People reading lessons _____

Music & Hymns Preference _____

People to sing _____

Here are some basic funeral plans you can discuss and decide ahead of time:

- Location of Funeral or Memorial Service
- Funeral Home you can make pre-arrangements with ahead of time
- Person who will be making the decisions regarding funeral arrangements
- Casket/body or Urn/cremation arrangement
- Photo display and/or photo video for the screens during the visitation at Zion/Easels for photos
- People who may read the lessons or share some memories during the service...
- Meal after service? Caterer? Where?
- Memorials designated for?