

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Guidelines for Funerals & Memorial Services

Purpose

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith. The Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

Pastor

It is expected that primary arrangements will be made with one of Christ the King Lutheran's pastors. Typically one pastor will officiate at the service. Requests for the participation of a —guest pastor to assist in the service must be made to the officiating pastor; who, if it is appropriate, will extend an invitation.

Service at Church

Church members are encouraged to use the church for funeral/memorial services. Just as we are baptized by God in church and have been nourished by God through the church, so it is wholly appropriate that thanksgiving to God for our lives should be offered in church.

A Time of Worship

In the Lutheran tradition a funeral/memorial service is considered a service of worship, and will be approached with the dignity and joyful celebration accorded worship. A typical order of worship will include: prelude and postlude of sacred music; hymns and songs of praise and faith; scripture lessons from the Old and New Testaments; a message – which expresses thanksgiving to God for the life of the deceased, and reminds all of Christ's resurrection and promise of eternal life; prayers of intercession and thanksgiving; a benediction. In consultation with the pastor, other elements, such as remarks from family members and friends, may be included in the service. The officiating pastor shall make the final determination on the elements of worship.

Type of Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church enjoys both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. While it is anticipated that most funeral/memorial services will reflect a traditional approach to worship and take place in the sanctuary, a contemporary service format is also possible. While every effort will be made to accommodate a desire for the funeral/memorial service to be contemporary in style, this option ultimately depends on the availability of volunteer musicians and sound board operators; and may require the use of recorded music.

Casket/Cremaains

The casket/cremaains of the deceased may be present for the service, and shall arrive at the church at least 45 minutes prior to the announced start time. In order that worship may focus on God, and upon the gift of resurrection, rather than upon the earthly remains of the deceased, the casket will be closed during the service. A viewing of the deceased may be arranged. A typical viewing is held prior to the beginning of the service. See "Visitation".

Cremation

Cremation is an appropriate alternative for Christians. Orders of worship and committal remain the same in cases of cremation, with the exception that the committal may take place on a different date from the service in the church.

Flowers

The use of flowers and other forms of decoration are not required, and should be limited in order that they do not distract from the purpose of worship. Simple floral arrangements adequately symbolize God's gift of new life.

Visitation

There may be occasions when it is desirable for visitation with the family to take place at the church rather than the funeral home. In such cases a reception area adjacent to the sanctuary is available.

Committal Service

The pastor is available to lead a brief committal service at the site (locally) where the casket/cremains are to be interred. This service typically includes: scripture; prayers; words of committal; a benediction.

Military/Masonic Honors

Such honors are not considered part of Christian worship, and are therefore more appropriately carried out at the funeral home or cemetery. If a veteran's funeral is held, the American flag will be removed prior to the casket's entrance into the sanctuary. The American flag is then placed on the casket once the service is over.

Fees

When the deceased was a member:

- a. Pianist: \$150.00
- b. Pastor: no fee, although an honorarium is acceptable
- c. Facility Fees:
 - 1) Sanctuary: no fee
 - 2) Social Hall: no fee
 - 3) Kitchen: no fee
- d. Custodial Fees: \$50.00

When the deceased was a non-member:

- a. Pianist: \$150.00
- b. Pastor: \$150.00
- c. Facility Fees:
 - 1) Sanctuary: \$350.00
 - 2) Social Hall: \$300.00
 - 3) Kitchen: \$150.00
- d. Custodial Fees: \$50.00

Fees for other musicians should be in accordance with their normal pay scale.

Services taking place on a Saturday or Sunday will require a reasonable custodial fee based upon hours worked and custodian availability. If applicable, the pastor will discuss this fee with you.

Memorials

Gifts given in memory of a loved one are appropriate and welcomed. Christ the King Lutheran Church, or a charitable organization of the donor's choice are potential recipients of such gifts. Guidelines for directing such gifts to the church are outlined in Christ the King Lutheran's Memorials & Endowment Fund Policy.