



St. Andrew  
A Community of Faith in Action

## Funeral/ Memorial Information

St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
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Planning a funeral can sometimes be a challenging experience. However, it is also an opportunity to create an appropriate and meaningful ceremony to honor and celebrate the life of a loved one and the promises of God. This guide will help you with some general information regarding the planning of a funeral or memorial service at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

### A Funeral or Memorial Service taking place at St. Andrew Lutheran Church:

We strongly encourage you to consider having the funeral or memorial service at St. Andrew. This is especially true for persons who have a connection to our congregation.

Typically a memorial service is officiated by a Pastor and includes the following.

**Gathering Music**  
**Open Hymn or Song**  
**Welcome & Prayers**  
**Scripture Reading or Readings**  
**Special Music (occasionally)**  
**Reflection by Family Members**  
**Reflections by Pastor**  
**Prayers**  
**Lord's Prayer**  
**Holy Communion (occasionally)**  
**Closing Hymn and Song**  
**Blessing and Dismissal**

Sometimes the burial or interment follows the memorial service at the nearby cemetery. This portion of the memorial is a brief (10 minute) gathering at the grave site.

In scheduling a funeral or memorial at St. Andrew please consult with a pastor. Remember that most of our musicians currently have week-day, full-time jobs. This means scheduling a service Monday to Friday after 5pm or Saturday mornings is best.

For a service taking place in a local funeral home:

Typically this memorial service officiated by a Pastor and includes the following:

***Welcome  
Prayers  
Scripture  
Reflections by Family  
Reflections by Pastor  
Lord's Prayer  
Blessing & Dismissal***

Sometimes the burial or interment follows the memorial service at a nearby cemetery. This graveside gathering is a simple 10-minute service. If you are scheduling a memorial service please consult with one of our pastors' regarding the date and time of day of the service before making arrangements.

Scripture and Hymns:

There are many passages of scripture that can be comforting at a time of loss. Among them are the following.

Psalms 23: "The Lord is my shepherd..."

1 Corinthians 13: the meaning of love

Romans 14:7-8: "...whether we live or die we are the Lord's"

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life..."

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus?"

John 11:21-27: "I am the resurrection..."

John 12:23-26: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone..."

Romans 5:1-5: "suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope..."

\*\*\*Often a psalm and/or an additional reading is recommended.  
Hymns and songs that may be considered includes:

***“Romans 8”***  
***“Down in the Valley”***  
***“Amazing Grace”***  
***“Beautiful Savior”***  
***“Down in the River to Pray”***  
***“On Eagles Wings’***  
***“Shall We Gather at the River”***  
***“Softly and Tenderly”***  
***“How Great Thou Art”***  
***“Precious Lord”***  
***“He Knows my Name”***  
***“Children of the Heavenly Father”***  
***“I’ll Fly Away”***  
***“Here with Me”***  
***“Amazing Grace”***

Holding a reception at St. Andrew following a Memorial Service:

It is common that a reception, also called a collation, be held immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. In most instances you make arrangements with a caterer to provide a light meal (sandwiches, fruit, and veggie salads). The St. Andrew Fellowship Team provides set-up, beverages and finger desserts. A team member will contact you for details if you decide to plan a reception at the church.

St. Andrew accepts donations to help cover costs, such as paper goods, beverages. This is based on the number of people. We suggest a donation of \$100.00 to \$250.00. Checks should be made out to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, marked Fellowship in the memo area. You may pay the caterers directly.

Honoraria and Donations:

It is appropriate that you consider honoraria for those who are assisting the planning and implementation of the funeral service. The following range may help you decide how much is right for you.

St. Andrew \$100.00 to \$250.00  
Church Musician \$150 to \$250.00  
Pastor \$150.00 to \$250.00  
Fellowship \$100.00 to \$250.00, depending on number of persons served

Memorial Gifts:

It is common for families designate charities to which friends and families make financial gifts in memory of the deceased. Increasingly we have noticed that people like to offer ways for family and friends of the deceased to be honored by making a gift to an organization such as Hospice or other associations in lieu of flowers. We welcome these requests; however, we ask that St. Andrew Lutheran Church be included as one of these options. You may choose to designate a specific ministry within the church, such as the Memorial Fund or the Endowment Fund, youth ministry, faith in action, etc.

Area Funeral Homes: (This is a partial list)

**Westerly**

*Gaffney Dolan Funeral Home*      401-596-2648

**Hope Valley**

*Avery Funeral Home*                      401-539-2271

**Wakefield**

*Avery-Storti Funeral Home*              401-783-7271

Area Florist:

**Charlestown,**

*Rustic Rose*                      401-212-6144

**Wakefield**

*Kenyon Florist*                      401-789-9381

**Westerly**

*Pleasant Acres*                      401-596-1785