



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, meaningful, and comforting 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
Opening Hymn or Song
Welcome & Prayers
Scripture Reading(s)
Special Music (occasionally)
Reflections by Family Members
Reflections by the Pastor
Prayers
The Lord's Prayer
Holy Communion (occasionally)
Closing Hymn and Song
Blessing and Dismissal

Sometimes the burial or interment follows the memorial service at a 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 is officiated by a Pastor and includes the following:

- Welcome*
- Words of Assurance*
- Scripture Reading(s)*
- Reflections by Family Members*
- Reflections by the Pastor*
- Prayers*
- The Lord's Prayer*
- Blessing & Dismissal*

Sometimes the burial or interment follows the memorial service at a nearby cemetery. This graveside gathering is a brief 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:

Two to three scripture readings are recommended. There are many passages of scripture that can be comforting at a time of loss. Among them are the following:

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9	He will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 61:1-3	To comfort those who mourn
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33	The Lord is good to those who wait for him; the Lord does not willingly grieve or afflict anyone
Job 19: 21-27a	I know that my redeemer lives

Psalms

Psalm 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalm 27	The Lord is my light and salvation
Psalm 42:1-7	As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you

Psalm 46	God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble
Psalm 106:1-5	God's steadfast love endures forever
Psalm 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 130	My soul waits for the Lord
Psalm 139:1-12	O Lord, you have searched me and known me

New Testament

Romans 5:1-5	"Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope..."
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	"Who shall separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus?"
Romans 14:7-8	"...whether we live or die we are the Lord's"
1 Corinthians 13	The meaning of love
1 Corinthians 15:20-27, 54-58	The last enemy to be destroyed is death; God gives us the victory through Christ
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9	Things that are unseen are eternal
Philippians 3:20-21	Our citizenship is in heaven
Colossians 3:1-4	Your life is hidden with Christ in God
1 John 3:1-2	We are children of God and we shall be like Him
Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away every tear
Revelation 21:1-7	Behold, I make all things new

Gospel

John 5:24-27	He who believes has everlasting life
John 6:37-40	All that the Father gives me will come to me
John 10:11-16	I am the good shepherd
John 11:21-27	I am the resurrection and the life
John 12:23-26	"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains alone.."
John 14:1-7	In my Father's house are many rooms; no one comes to the Father except through me

Particularly appropriate at the death of a child

Isaiah 40:11	God will gather lambs
Hosea 11:1-4	When Israel was a child (Divine compassion)
Matthew 19:13-15	Let the little children come
Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away every tear
Revelation 21:3b-4, 7	I will be their God and they will be my children

Hymns and songs that may be considered include:

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

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 and beverages. This is based on the number of people in attendance. We suggest a donation of \$100 to \$250. Checks should be made out to St. Andrew Lutheran Church and marked Fellowship in the memo area. You may pay the caterer directly.

Honoraria and Donations:

It is appropriate that you consider an 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 to \$250
Church Musician \$150 to \$250
Pastor \$150 to \$250
Fellowship \$100 to \$250, depending on number of persons served

Memorial Gifts:

It is common for families to designate charities to which friends and families may make

financial gifts in memory of the deceased. Increasingly, we have noticed that people like to offer ways for family and friends to honor the deceased by making a gift to an organization such as Hospice or other associations in lieu of flowers. We welcome these requests and 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 Florists:

Charlestown

Rustic Rose 401-212-6144

Wakefield

Kenyon Florist 401-789-9381

Westerly

Pleasant Acres 401-596-1785