

FUNERAL POLICY FOR LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The most important role of Lord of Life Lutheran Church and its pastor is to give comfort and support to the bereaved. We do this by proclaiming the "sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to life everlasting to those who believe." This can be done during the funeral liturgy through speaking and preaching the Word, but also with our informal conversations with the bereaved.

Ideally, the pastor has already provided pastoral care and that would merely continue as funeral preparations are made. However, if a pastor is unavailable, a lay leader needs to be consulted about funeral arrangements. The pastor would encourage any Christian funeral to take place in the church sanctuary where the community of faith can give comfort and support alongside the pastor. The funeral liturgy generally will follow that of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal with specific details determined using the separate funeral planning worksheet. If the bereaved decide to include the Eucharist in the liturgy, "all baptized and communing Christians should be invited to receive the Lord's life-giving body and blood." No other ceremony, ritual, or tribute is appropriate during the liturgy in the sanctuary. The pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church serves as presiding minister and preacher. Any other arrangements must be discussed with the pastor or lay leader of Lord of Life.

During the worship in the sanctuary, the casket or cremains urn will be covered with a funeral pall. An open casket is not appropriate since the Good News is that of Resurrection, not a lifeless body, and the white pall signifies Resurrection. The lighted Paschal Candle, placed at the head of the casket in the sanctuary, symbolizes life with Christ at our baptisms and symbolizes life eternal with Christ now. Other symbols such as the American Flag may be used outside the sanctuary. The ritual of folding the American flag and presenting it to the bereaved and playing taps is appropriate at the burial of veterans.

FLOWERS

The altar is the central focus of worship at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, and it is important that any decorations compliment the central focus of the altar and chancel while enhancing the beauty of God's House. Floral arrangements must be of live flowers and plant material. There may be no arrangements placed on the altar or casket, and there may be a maximum of two arrangements placed in the sanctuary near the altar as well as one arrangement on the flower sconce. Other floral arrangements may be displayed in the narthex, the church library and the fellowship hall.

The color of the altar paraments, whenever possible, will be white, the symbol of Easter and Resurrection. Nothing in the sanctuary may be moved without permission of the Worship and Music Work/Study Group.

MUSIC

Music for the funeral should reflect the spirit of Christian confidence, trust and hope in the Resurrection. Any hymns used should be selected from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal emphasizing the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Communion Of Saints, and the Hope of Eternal Life while serving as comfort to the bereaved. They should be selected in consultation with pastor, and/or the Minister of Music. Choices for special music should be cleared with the pastor in consultation with the Minister of Music.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Picture taking IS NOT PERMITTED during any worship, including a funeral. The pastor will make this clear as plans are made for the funeral. A video camera may be set up in a prescribed STATIONARY position as approved by the pastor. Any movement of a camera man or woman would detract from the worship. Photo displays are not permitted in the sanctuary, video presentations are not appropriate during the worship. However, photo displays or video presentations are appropriate in the narthex, church library and fellowship hall both before and after the funeral liturgy.

FEES

The pastor will discuss any fees with the bereaved prior to the funeral. There are fees for non-members for custodial care in the sanctuary in the amount of \$100 and for the fellowship hall in the amount of \$150. An honorarium for the minister of music is a minimum of \$150.

LOVE GARDEN

Cremaains only may be interred in the Lord of Life Love Garden. Plots are \$250 and may be purchased in consultation with the Love Garden caretaker.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, all arrangements regarding funerals at Lord of Life will be accomplished with the Good News of Jesus Christ Shining Through.

PLANNING THE FUNERAL WORSHIP

Necessary Details

Funeral Home _____

Casket burial Cremains burial* Body Donation Green Burial

Other _____

*Love Garden _____ Stone _____

Specify _____

Place of funeral _____

Pastor, if other than pastor of the church selected _____

Logistics in the church:

Pallbearers _____

Flowers: How many, where _____

Visitation _____

Receiving line: when/where _____

Memorial gifts _____

Funeral Worship: Bulletin Yes No

Opening Hymn: _____

Gathering: Welcome or blessing

Scripture Readings (usually 2 or 3) _____

Other appropriate readings _____

Additional Speaker/s _____

Hymn of the Day _____

Closing Hymn: _____