



*Christian Funerals  
at  
Trinity Lutheran Church*

*Trinity Lutheran Church  
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*Dear Friend in Christ,*

*The death of a loved one is a most difficult time in the life of any Christian. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself wept when His friend Lazarus died. However, Jesus knew that the death of His friend Lazarus was not permanent. Neither is the death of any Christian. Death is one of the consequences of sin entering the world through our original parents Adam and Eve. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to atone for this and all sins. The same Jesus who assures us that our sins have been taken away by His shed blood on the cross also promises us that even though our physical bodies die, one day He will return and raise them to new life.*

*The promise of the forgiveness of sins and resurrection from the dead to eternal life through Jesus Christ is the focus of the Christian funeral service. During this time of worship, we gather to receive God's comfort for our deep, heartfelt pain at the loss of someone special to us. We seek God's reassurance through His Word that death is not the end for us and those we care about. To help the grieving to focus on this wonderful promise of God, the Church has developed various rites and rituals which turn our attention away from simple remembrances of the past to the glorious future in store for all of God's children in Christ on the day that He returns to this earth.*

*Please know that you have our deepest condolences on your loss. At Trinity we desire to do everything possible to comfort you with the Gospel of Jesus Christ during this difficult time in your life. This booklet is offered to you in the hope that it will aid you in the funeral planning process. It lists some of the services that Trinity, through her Board of Social Concerns can offer to you and your family.*

*Please feel free to contact me anytime if I may be of pastoral support to you and your family.*

*In the Name of Him who is the resurrection and the life,*

*Pastor Damian Snyder  
Senior Pastor  
Trinity Lutheran Church*

# *The Visitation*

*The visitation period is a time for the family to greet those who would like to come and pay their final respects. The family may choose to have the visitation at the church or the funeral home.*

## *At the church:*

*Visitations that are held at Trinity are arranged with the Pastor of the congregation who is officiating the entire funeral service. Generally, the family may choose to hold the visitation the night preceding the funeral service or the day of the funeral. Usually, visitations that are scheduled for the night before the funeral last 2 hours. Visitations which immediately precede the funeral service generally occur one hour before the start of the funeral. The casket may be placed in the Narthex or the Nave during the visitation. Flowers, pictures and personal items may also be displayed during the visitation. Trinity has tables and easels available upon request. Trinity also has equipment available to project a video or computer presentation during the visitation. We are not, however, able to produce the presentation for the family.*

*Ice Water, glasses, and tissues are provided for the family during visitation. If other special needs exist, please discuss these with the pastor who is caring for your family.*

## *At the funeral home:*

*All visitations that are held at the funeral home are scheduled through the funeral director or that establishment. If the family chooses to have the visitation at the funeral home, they should be sure to discuss the details with the pastor so that he may be present at some time during the visitation to offer his care and condolences.*

# *The Funeral Service*

*Funerals at Trinity typically last about 20-30 minutes. All funeral services conducted at Trinity are arranged through one of Trinity's pastors. He will guide the family through the selection of appropriate music, scripture readings and any other decisions relating to the funeral service itself. You will find a document entitled "My Funeral Suggestions" included with this booklet. It can serve as a resource to help the family consider ahead of time what preferences they may have regarding the funeral service.*

# *The Committal*

*During the committal, the remains of the deceased are committed to the ground or placed in a mausoleum or columbarium. As this occurs, the pastor offers prayers and blessings through a brief grave-side service. This immediately follows the funeral service.*

# *The Funeral Meal*

*Often families desire to have a time and place to gather after the committal so that they can fellowship with one another and share memories of their loved one. Trinity offers the family and all of their guests the opportunity to return to the church after the committal and to enjoy some food and fellowship. There is no cost to the family or guests for the meal. Free-will donations are accepted and help to defray the costs of future meals.*

*Families have a choice of three entrées: fried chicken, baked ham, or deli trays. Various side dishes and desserts will also be served as will several different beverages. Families are also asked to provide an estimate of how many people will be attending the meal. The pastor will provide the name and phone number to the family of the person overseeing the meal. If other meal-related questions arise, the family may contact this person directly. The pastor will also introduce a member of the family to the person overseeing the meal on the day of the meal so that any needs at that time can be addressed.*