

**"I am the resurrection and the life." – Jesus**  
(John 11:25b)



## **Funerals and Memorial Services at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Albuquerque**

A Christian funeral is many ways like an Easter liturgy. It finds all of its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

Nevertheless, the death of a loved one is a difficult time in our lives. No one is ever really prepared. Even when death is expected, we can have trouble thinking clearly and remembering details. This basic information has been prepared to assist you and your family in planning the funeral or memorial service for your loved one.

### **Planning the Service:**

One of our pastors will spend time with you to help plan the worship service. You will want to consider the following aspects of the service:

- **Music:** Are there particular hymns or special music you would like to include?
- **Readings:** Are there scripture passages or quotations from other sources that are meaningful to you?
- **Participants:** Is there someone you would like to ask to participate by doing one of the readings, singing, or playing a musical instrument?
- Would you like to designate certain friends or family members to share thoughts and memories about the one who has died? Would you like to include an open invitation for sharing to those attending?
- Will the funeral home assist with the service in any way, if so, which one? Will you have the casket or the urn with cremains present at the church? Have pallbearers been chosen?
- We will provide church bulletins for the service. How many people might you expect?

### **Music:**

- The pastor will confer with the church music staff to arrange for the organist or keyboardist. Additional arrangements for soloists or other musicians may be made upon request.

### **Flowers:**

- The family usually provides a floral arrangement for the altar area; friends may send flowers as a gesture of condolence. However, too many flowers may be overwhelming. We suggest that, in addition to or instead of flowers, you and your family consider designating lasting memorial gifts to a charitable cause that was meaningful to your loved one.

*You may of course use whichever florist you prefer. St. Luke typically uses the following florist who is familiar with our worship space:*

- People's Flowers – 3520 Candlelaria Rd., NE, ABQ 87107 (505-884-1600)

**The Day of the Service:**

Family members should arrive at the church approximately 30 minutes before the service time. The library/lounge is available for you as you wait for people to gather. Shortly before the service, the pastor will join the family and will escort you to the reserved pews in the front.

Some of the following services may be temporarily unavailable due to Covid restrictions.

**Reception:**

The St. Luke Memorial Reception Ministry considers the reception to be an expression of Christian hospitality and is our congregation's gift of love to the family and friends of the person who has died. The Ministry Chair will contact you to make arrangements. The following information will help in the planning:

- Will the reception be immediately following the service?
- The type of food to be served, i.e. punch and cookies or sandwiches if the service is close to mealtime. Will the family be providing any of the food?
- How many people are expected to attend?
- Would you like tables set up for memorabilia and photos? A basket for cards? A guestbook?

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**Suggested Contribution:**

We suggest the following contributions if utilized:

- **Organist/Pianist:** \$150
- **Other Musicians (soloist, instrumentalist, etc.):** variable
- **Videographer:** variable
- **Reception:** A contribution to help cover the costs of refreshments is welcome, although not necessary. Our office manager can assist you with cost estimates.
- **Clergy:** St. Luke pastors consider it an important part of their called ministry to meet with families who are experiencing bereavement, and to preach and preside at all church-member funeral services. While there is no charge/cost for these pastoral services; you may choose to make a contribution of any amount to the pastor.
- **Memorial Fund:** If you would like to make a special contribution to St. Luke church in memory of your loved one, one of our pastors would be happy to assist you.