



The Christian Burial

Lutheran & Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula

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Dear friends,

The death of someone you love can be the most painful experience in life. Bewilderment, shock, anger, helplessness – many feelings accompany the knowledge that someone dear has disappeared from our lives. The community of the Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula wants to be supportive to those who have experienced the death of someone close.

Funeral in the Church or at the Funeral Home

Whether the deceased was faithful in church attendance or had wandered far from faith, the ministry of the church is available to the bereaved. It is encouraged and very appropriate that the funeral of active members take place in the church. It may be more appropriate for non members to gather at the funeral home.

Planning the Service

The pastor will meet with the family to plan the service. The Funeral Liturgy may be set within the service of Holy Communion, or may stand alone. When the Sacrament is celebrated, the service always takes place in the church.

Family and friends will have the opportunity to suggest lessons and hymns to accompany the service. The deceased may also have indicated their preference. It is most appropriate for families to discuss these matters so that the wishes of the deceased are honoured as much as possible.

There may be family members or friends who would like to serve as readers, or as an assisting minister, or as communion assistants at the funeral service. The contribution of family and friends in planning and conducting the worship service is welcomed and encouraged.

Soloists

Soloists, a singer or someone playing an instrument, add to a worship service. You may consider this for your service. Please speak with the pastor about your wishes as soon as possible.

Visitation at the funeral home

The pastor will be available to meet with the family at the funeral home during visitation. At the beginning, or the end of a day of visitation, scripture readings and prayers may be offered on behalf of the family and the person who has died.

The family need to remember that the visitation period can be an intense and an emotional time. It is recommended that you wear comfortable shoes, as you will be standing for most of the time, and that you exercise self care and take breaks from time to time. A two hour period of visitation may seem like a short time span, but during this emotional time it can become very draining.

The day of the Funeral (church funeral)

On the day of the funeral, the casket will be brought to the church no less than an hour before the service is to begin. The casket may be placed in the *Nave* of the church in order that mourners may pay their last respects. As the service is about to begin, the casket will be closed (if not previously closed) and the funeral director will seat the family.

Funeral Luncheon

If you wish to hold a funeral luncheon in the *Church Hall* following the funeral service, this ministry of hospitality is available to you through the work of our faith communities. At the time of the meeting with the pastor, you may indicate your wishes for a funeral luncheon, and the number of people you expect. The information will be passed on to the appropriate person. A donation to the ministry of the faith community is usually made for this ministry. Suggested donation rates for the lunch are available from the pastor.

Flowers

Flowers are often given to family and friends following the funeral service. Also consider the flowers arrangements may be left in place for Sunday worship. They will remind the congregation of the passing of a brother or sister in Christ. The family is remembered in our prayers during the Sunday worship service.

Memorial Donations

You may wish to consider the church when determining charities and ministries to donate to in lieu of flowers.

Each of the congregations of the Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula have memorial accounts. These communities use these memorial funds to benefit the ministry of the congregation. If there is a particular ministry you wish to direct any gifts to, we will honour your wishes. The pastor can be available for consultation to determine ministries for your consideration.

Outline of the Rite

An outline of the worship service (using the Evangelical Lutheran Worship and the Anglican Book of Alternative Services) is provided as an insert to this document.

Traditional Burial / Cremation?

It is quite helpful to have an open conversation with your loved ones about their wishes regarding burial and cremation customs. Both are appropriate in the Christian tradition. Whatever decision you and your loved ones make, know that it is a good decision for you and your family.

At this time Christ Church, Lions Head is developing a *Memorial Scattering Garden* as yet one more choice concerning interment. If this seems like an option you would like to explore, please speak with the pastor.

Organ Donation

If you have not already discussed it, it is appropriate to consider organ donation as an extension of a person's legacy. All things: our time, our talents and possessions are gifts from God. This includes our bodies. This is one more thing to think about.

Honoraria and Fees

The Pastor:

Funerals are part of the ministry of Word and Sacrament to which the pastor is called by the congregation. Therefore the pastor expects no monetary gift (honorarium) for conducting a funeral service for active members of the congregation.

The Organist:

The Lutheran and Anglican Ministries of the Bruce Peninsula are blessed with various music leaders. Our music leaders along with other musicians in the community might be available to offer the gift of music during the funeral service. Many hours go into the rehearsal and presentation of the music chosen for the funeral service. An honorarium is customary for the organist, suggested honorariums are available from the pastor/funeral director.

When the funeral is over

When the funeral is over, the church community will continue to support you as you learn to live in a new way. Every worship service declares the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope that we have for eternal life. The ministry that those who gather around the cross offer to one another will comfort you as you learn to live again.

Funeral Questionnaire

This sheet is meant to be a helpful guide when considering either your funeral or that of a loved one.

Cremation/Burial?

Holy Communion/Eucharist?

Yes No

Scripture Lessons to be read ...

Hymns/Songs to be sung or played ...

Pall Bearers to be asked ...

Special instructions for a Lunch ...

Flowers and/or Memorial Donations?

It would be helpful to give a copy of the completed funeral questionnaire to your family, your pastor and your funeral director



**The Funeral Liturgy – Form II
(Anglican Book of Alternative Services)**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Greeting & Opening Verses, pg. 589 ff
Hymn
Opening Prayer, pg. 591

WORD

Eulogy

(if an eulogy is to be used it goes here. The Word of God is always the last to be heard, hence the obituary goes before the readings and **always** before the Gospel)

First Reading / Psalm / Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation or Hymn
Gospel
Homily
Hymn
Apostles' Creed, pg. 592
Prayers, pg. 593

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sharing the Peace
Presentation of the Gifts
Prayer over the Gifts
Great Thanksgiving
Lord's Prayer
Communion
Communion Hymn(s)
Prayer after Communion

COMMENDATION

Commendation, pg. 595
Procession from Church with Hymn
(no postlude since the service continues at the place of interment)

COMMITTAL

Procession to the place of interment
(movement from hearse to grave)
Scripture Reading, pg. 596
Interment (ashes to ashes), pg. 596
Lord's Prayer (can be omitted if used in church)
Benediction & Dismissal, pg. 597

**Life Passages – Funeral
(using Evangelical Lutheran Worship)**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

Greeting, pg. 279
Thanksgiving for Baptism, pg. 280
Procession with Hymn
Prayer of the Day, pg. 281

WORD

Eulogy

(if an eulogy is to be used it goes here. The Word of God is always the last to be heard, hence the obituary goes before the readings and **always** before the Gospel)

First Reading / Psalm / Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation or Hymn
Gospel
Homily
Hymn of the Day
Creed, pg. 282
Prayers, pg. 282

MEAL

Sharing the Peace
Presentation of the Gifts
Great Thanksgiving
Lord's Prayer
Communion
Communion Hymn(s)
Blessing
Post Communion Prayer

SENDING

Commendation, pg. 283
Procession from Church with Hymn
(no postlude since the service continues at the place of interment)

COMMITTAL

Procession to the place of interment
(movement from hearse to grave)
Prayer, pg. 284
Scripture Reading
Interment (ashes to ashes)
Lord's Prayer (can be omitted if used in church)
Benediction & Dismissal, pg. 285