

*Funeral Services at Minnetonka Lutheran Church*



16023 Minnetonka Boulevard  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Phone: 952-935-3419  
Fax: 952-931-9341  
[www.mtkalutheran.org](http://www.mtkalutheran.org)



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## ***INTRODUCTION***

When a loved one dies, the family must make some very difficult decisions while under tremendous stress and grief. We hope this information will assist you as you plan a final farewell for your loved one at Minnetonka Lutheran Church.

If, for any reason, you need more information than is contained in this booklet, please do not hesitate to contact your Pastor or the Church Office at 952-935-3419.

Pastor: Bob Ruser, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Paul Clark, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

Funeral Coordinators:

Joann Gilbertson, 952-474-6182  
Nancy Sorebo, 952-938-7853  
Beth Brusius, 952-475-3996  
Barb Klein, 763-478-3126

Organist: Jim Waldo, 952-935-3419

## **Prayers**

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those of us who mourn, that, casting all our sorrow on you, we may know the consolation of your love; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Eternal God, you gave our loved one a new birth in Baptism and entrusted *him/her* to us for a time that seems too short. As we thank you for the life we shared, help us now to release *him/her* to your mighty keeping. Bring us all to that day when we shall stand in your presence with all your saints in light eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

With reverence and affection we remember before you, O everlasting God, all our departed friends and relatives. Keep us in union with them here through faith and love toward you, that hereafter we may enter into your presence and be numbered with those who serve you and look upon your face in glory everlasting, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Merciful Creator, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us even when we do not know how to pray. Send your Spirit now to comfort us in these days of need and loss, and help us to commend (name) to your merciful care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Grief Support Group**

The West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief and loss to join their group. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship. A list of the meeting time and more information may be obtained by calling the church office at 952-935-341, or Darcy Rodman, the coalition co-coordinator at 763-546-4404

## ABOUT OUR FACILITIES

Our main sanctuary seats approximately 400 people. If we have overflow, we will seat people in the narthex on folding chairs or in the choir balcony if it is available.

The Fellowship Hall seats approximately 250 people.

All areas of our church are handicap accessible. The elevator to all floors is located just behind the Information Desk in the main corridor. Signs will help you locate other areas of the church.

## RELATED FEES

There are no fees for the use of the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall or custodial duties.

An honorarium may be provided to the Pastor (\$100-\$250).

The customary fee for an organist is \$100—\$150, a soloist is usually \$80—\$100. More information may be provided by our Pastor.

Custodian fee is \$30-\$50.

FROM PASTOR RUSERT

*"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope for...we believe that Jesus died and rose again..." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14a*

There is grief at the death of a loved one for all people, including people of faith. It is natural and helpful to allow our feelings and emotions around the death to be adequately expressed and attended to.

Though there is grief at death there is not hopelessness. There is hope that is ours through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The apostles of Jesus Christ and their followers announced to the world that there was hope. Death had been conquered. Jesus Christ had risen and he was the first fruits of resurrection. We believe that the one who has died will live again and that God has promised eternal life for those who put their trust in him. This is the message that we gather to proclaim at the funeral.

The pastors, staff, and the congregation are here to share this hope and to support individuals and families in the grief process. The funeral is an important part of this process and we will plan the funeral / memorial service and fellowship gathering with you as we give thanks for the person remembered and share the hope of the Gospel.

## Arranging a Funeral/Memorial Service at MLC

This booklet has probably been given to you by our Pastor as you begin to plan a funeral/memorial service for a loved one. By now you probably know when the service is to be held and at what time it will begin. You should also know what part the funeral home will play in preparation for the service (I.e. Will representatives of the funeral home be present before, during and after the service.).

There are a number of decisions you will consider as you plan a service of remembrance with the Pastor. They will include:

- \* Special remembrances of your loved one
- \* Favorite scripture passages
- \* Favorite hymns
- \* What other participants you might have in the service
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
- \* What music or soloist(s) might be used  
Whether you choose to use musicians from our church or others you might know, your decisions regarding the music portion of your service should be discussed with a staff member of Minnetonka Lutheran Church.
- \* If you intend to display pictures or other memorabilia  
Please let us know how many and what types of tables stands you might require.
- or
- \* If you would like the church to prepare the funeral bulletin  
How many people do you expect for the service? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* What you prefer for memorials
- \* Will there be a lunch or coffee time to allow friends and relatives to gather following the service.

## Food and Fellowship

When you decide to have a funeral/memorial service at Minnetonka Lutheran, arrangements are made to hold our Fellowship Hall should you decide to have a coffee/cake gathering or luncheon for relatives and friends following the service. No charge for use of the Fellowship Hall.

Funeral coordinators at Minnetonka Lutheran who help plan food service for funeral/memorial services. If you choose to have a gathering following the funeral/memorial service, you should contact the Funeral Coordinator directly. Name and phone number will be found on the first page of this booklet. In terms of what food service is available, there are two options you might wish to consider:

- Option 1: Noon Luncheon (typical menu)
- Punch
  - Meat and Cheese Sandwiches
  - Assorted Buns
  - Two types of salad
  - Condiments
  - Assorted Bars or cake
  - Coffee & Tea or Ice Water
  - Other beverages as requested

- Option 2: Mid-Afternoon Refreshments (typical Menu)
- Punch
  - Coffee & Tea
  - Mints
  - Nuts
  - Dessert bars

Catering Optional: Arrange in cooperation with funeral coordinator.

Dessert bars are furnished by women of the church at no cost to the family. Purchased cake will be paid for by the family.

Food service: Family will be asked to pay for purchased food and other groceries, paper products, and a bud vase of fresh flowers for the tables.

Meat and cheese trays: Assembled by church volunteers for a cost savings. Volunteers will serve during the luncheon and clean up after without charge.

Specific requests for a luncheon or afternoon menu may be discussed with the funeral coordinator assigned to your family.