

Funeral Arrangements at Lakeland Lutheran Church

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In this time of mourning, we ask God to surround you with love as we share these words of promise with you from the Apostle Paul:

“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 since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died” -1Thess. 4.

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we are here to support you in your time of grief. We hope this information will help you in your decisions concerning the funeral, or memorial service.

Securing a Pastor:

You may request a pastor by phone or email contact. Our office phone number is 780-639-4673 and our email is lakelandlutheran@telus.net. Our Office Administrator will forward your request to the Pastor, who will then be in touch with you as soon as possible. The pastor will work with you to coordinate a meeting with the family for prayer and pastoral support and to discuss the overall plan for the service and for the use of the church facility.

The liturgy for the service is based on the current Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELCIC) resource. The pastor will provide you a copy of the service and discuss which parts are open to your preference. Things you may wish to consider are:

Readings and Hymns: Are there particular hymns or particular scripture texts or stories that were meaningful to the deceased or to the family? Or would you prefer that the pastor select readings and hymns?

Eulogy: The eulogy (Greek meaning “good words”) is an important part of remembering your loved one. It is a story of the life of the deceased composed by the family, and when possible, presented by one of the family or friends (though the family may ask for the pastor to read the eulogy).

Pictures: You may choose to place pictures of the deceased or memorabilia at the front of the church.

Music for the Service: A pianist is normally needed for the service. You may request one of the musicians from our church, but their services depend upon availability. You may have family or friends you might wish to ask. You may also decide to add musical selections from vocalists, instrumentalists.

Interment: Interment, as described in the order of service, immediately precedes or follows the service. (Other options for interment times may be discussed with the pastor.) The scattering of ashes, as per Alberta government legislation, must be in an area designated by the province as a cemetery.

Bulletin: For services conducted at Lakeland Lutheran Church, a bulletin may be provided for the funeral service at your request.

Planning the Funeral Luncheon

Lakeland Lutheran Church does not provide a luncheon for funeral services at this time. Our fellowship hall is, however, open to your arrangements. The facility coordinator can best advise you on our usage policy and expectations. Things you may wish to consider for the luncheon:

Do you desire a head table (and for how many people)?

Do any of your family have severe food allergies?

How many people do you estimate will attend the luncheon?

Handling financial matters

Please note: You will never be “billed” for any of the suggested donations for the use of the facility or honoraria for the pastor or the musician. We at the church, find that people in their time of grief are faced with many exhausting decisions to make. We provide these suggested amounts to simplify your decision about, “what is the usual expectation for the pastor, or for the musician, etc.” We offer these suggestions as a guide should you wish to make a gift of gratitude:

Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall: **\$400**

Pastor: **\$300** *Pianist:* **\$150**

If it is your decision to provide a building usage donation, please make the cheque payable to Lakeland Lutheran Church and bring it to the office, or mail it to

Lakeland Lutheran Church Box 456, Cold Lake, Alberta T9M 1P1.

A tax receipt will be issued for the donation.

Please enclose separate cheques for honoraria payable to the pastor and/ or the pianist.

Please note: Lakeland Lutheran Church does not permit the consumption of alcohol or smoking on the premises.

At Lakeland Lutheran Church our main concern is to serve you during this time of transition and grieving. If you have any questions or concerns with anything in connection to the preceding information about the service, interment and building usage (or about anything not covered in this letter) please discuss this with the pastor. Above all, we want this to be a healing time for you. Our prayers and support are with you.

In Christ,

The Pastor, Council, and Congregation of Lakeland Lutheran Church.