



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
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Quick Start Check List *for planning a Funeral or Memorial*

As Christians we face the reality of death and experience grief, while celebrating the gift of life we share on earth and the hope of eternal life in God's heavenly presence.

1. If possible, contact the church to inform the pastor to help prepare for death beforehand, offer support to family and friends, and give the congregation an opportunity to offer its prayers.
2. Notify the church when death has occurred and check with the pastor about availability for a service. Contact a funeral home to make arrangements for care of the body. Then set a date and time for visitation and service.
3. Meet with the pastor to plan a funeral or memorial celebration of your loved one's life together. Share memories of your loved one, and gratitude for love and grace. You may also assist in choosing readings and hymns, and decide about a eulogy, and communion for making the service meaningful.
4. Consider whether to share a luncheon or desert reception for fellowship at the church. Women of Grace (WELCA) provide set-up, preparation and serving for nominal cost of food and a donation to their ministry organization. Arrangements are made with the church secretary.
5. Coordinate preparation of church visitation, service and reception with the pastor, secretary and funeral coordinator. A volunteer coordinator will assist your family and guests on the day of the service.
6. Seek out support from your community of faith. The pastor, a Stephen Minister, others in the church, or a support group can accompany you through your grief.

Things to Prepare and Remember

[] Possible Scripture Readings: _____

[] Favorite Hymn Suggestions: _____

[] Organist \$125, and Coordinator \$40 (cash, or get names for checks from church)

[] Luncheon: Donation to WELCA and Reimbursement of food cost (cash or check)

The peace of Christ our crucified and risen Lord be with you and sustain you, to give you comfort and strength through faith and the community of believers.