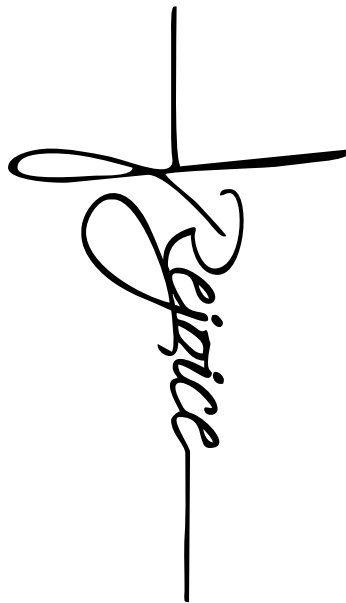


# Funeral Policy

## Rejoice Lutheran Church



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## Funeral Policy

<p><b>The purpose of a funeral</b></p>	<p>At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing. (From the <i>Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal</i>.)</p> <p>Rejoice Lutheran Church uses the Evangelical Lutheran Worship format for a funeral service. The funeral service is fundamentally a "worship service", and so elements of the service are to be worthy of being worship.</p>
<p><b>Who is eligible to hold a funeral at Rejoice?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Active Members:</b> Active members, as defined by our constitution, can expect to hold their funeral service at Rejoice Lutheran Church. Active members may choose to have their funeral in another location but are encouraged to hold the service in their home church, where the witness of Christ crucified and risen is most readily proclaimed.</li> <li>• <b>Inactive Members:</b> Those who once belonged to Rejoice may consider themselves members of Rejoice, but officially have been inactive or removed from the membership roll, are warmly welcomed to have their funeral service at Rejoice. Approval will be at the discretion of the pastor or Congregation Council. The pastor will be available for off-site funerals, as well, at his/her discretion. Non-member fees will apply.</li> <li>• <b>Non-members:</b> Each person deserves dignity in death. Rejoice and its pastor will make every attempt to welcome funeral services for everyone, including non-members. Jesus spoke of having sheep in other folds, of refraining from judgment, and Jesus' assurance to the thief on the cross that he would be with Jesus in paradise. Approval will be at the discretion of the pastor or Congregation Council. Non-member fees will apply.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What ministry is available around the time of death?</b></p>	<p>The pastor desires to be actively involved with the person dying and her/his family, walking with them through what is surely a sacred time. Membership is not a prerequisite for such pastoral acts. A <i>Commendation of the Dying</i> pastoral service can be done as one of the steps along this sacred journey. Prayers around the time of death may be requested. Please call the church office when you are ready for pastoral care to begin.</p>

<b>Funeral pre-planning</b>	A separate document is available for pre-planning one's own funeral service and another for planning a funeral after the time of death. Pre-planning your funeral brings great comfort to loved ones who will end up being responsible for the funeral planning, should you not provide your wishes. You will find suggested readings, hymns, and solos. The pastor will be happy to guide in the planning process. Please contact the pastor for this assistance.
<b>Health Care Directives</b>	It is wise to have a legal health care directive to assist your family in making decisions around healthcare and dying. To learn more, go to <a href="https://mn.gov/board-on-aging/connect-to-services/legal/advanced-care-planning/advance-directives/">https://mn.gov/board-on-aging/connect-to-services/legal/advanced-care-planning/advance-directives/</a>
<b>Funeral directors</b>	<p>Funeral services held in Rejoice will require the professional services of a funeral director. Though such costs vary from funeral home to funeral home, those costs are the responsibility of the family of the deceased loved one. Independent cremation services are now a common practice. Such services do not provide for the detailed work needed for carrying out the planning, arrangements, and leading of a funeral service. Rejoice Lutheran does not possess the human resources to implement this type of service to a family. Alternative plans may be discussed with the pastor and carried out at the pastor's discretion.</p> <p>Typically, the family will meet with a funeral director to plan much of the funeral, including embalming (if done), choosing a casket or urn, location of burial, obituary, flowers, memorial pamphlets, designating memorial gifts, coordinating schedules with church and pastor, visitation, procession to cemetery, luncheon plans, and many other details. Most funeral directors make these arrangements on behalf of the family.</p>
<b>Lutheran Church (ELCA) cremation guidelines</b>	<p>For a number of reasons, cremation (burning the body and reducing it to ashes) is becoming more prevalent. Lutheran theology and tradition do not favor any particular form of burial. God's ability to give resurrected bodies to those who bear the name of Christ cannot be stymied by any human action, including organ donation or cremation.</p> <p>Bodies may be buried in the traditional manner or cremated, according to the preferences of the deceased and the deceased's family. The concern of the church is that after death, baptized Christians be commended to God in hope of the resurrection.</p> <p>Cremated remains, often called "cremains" or ashes, should be accorded the same dignity given to a body. When cremated remains instead of the body are present for the funeral service, they should be treated in the same manner as a body.</p> <p>In the absence of the body, some families choose to provide a photograph of the deceased that may be placed beside the urn during the burial rite. This may provide comfort for those who may want some symbol of presence in addition to the cremation urn.</p>

<b>Pastors from different congregations</b>	Requests for the participation of a guest pastor to assist in the service must be made to the Rejoice pastor, who, if it is appropriate, will extend an invitation. The Rejoice pastor will still meet with the family and plan the service and will coordinate the details with the guest pastor. The Rejoice pastor will preside at the service. A guest pastor should be provided an honorarium and reimbursement for travel expenses. If the Rejoice pastor is unavailable, an area ELCA Lutheran pastor will be contacted to conduct the funeral service. If the family chooses to have another pastor conduct the service, that pastor must be approved by the Rejoice pastor or Congregational Council.
<b>Funerals for members of different congregations</b>	The responsibility and authority for pastoral acts or services rest with the pastor of the congregation where the deceased held membership. The pastor who is asked to provide pastoral services for members of other congregations shall contact the pastor of the church in which the person held membership before providing the service. The Pastor who performs a service for a member of another congregation is obligated to provide information regarding that pastoral act or service performed to the pastor of the congregation in which the person held membership.
<b>Visitation process</b>	<p>If there is a visitation the day before the funeral, typically it is held at the funeral home. A growing trend is to have the visitation the day before the funeral at the church. That is acceptable at Rejoice, assuming other scheduled activities can be adjusted to create space and time for the visitation.</p> <p>The pastor is available to lead a brief prayer service before the visitation held the day prior to the funeral service. This service typically includes: prayers, scripture readings, blessing and sharing of memories by friends and family of the deceased. This is usually scheduled by the family, funeral director, and pastor.</p>
<b>The funeral worship service at Rejoice</b>	<p>Typically, there is a one-hour visitation at the church before the service. The family arrives early to acclimate and cover last minute adjustments. Approximately ten minutes before the worship is to begin, the family is given the opportunity to pay any last respects. Following that, the family gathers with the pastor for last second questions and concerns, and a prayer to center hearts and minds for the upcoming worship.</p> <p>It is very appropriate for family members and friends to be involved and assist in the service as pallbearers, lectors or musicians.</p>
<b>The funeral pall &amp; its use</b>	The funeral pall is a white cloth draped over the casket or cremains representing being clothed in Christ in baptism. Galatians 3:27 says, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Like a white baptismal gown, the funeral pall places the emphasis on Christ. Christ's love and promise of salvation are the final words spoken at our deaths as consolation, hope, and life that carries on into eternity. A funeral pall will be placed over the casket or cremains before the worship begins.

<b>Funeral music</b>	<p>Every effort will be made to schedule one of Rejoice’s musicians for the funeral music. The family may request an outside musician of the family’s choice be allowed. The pastor retains the authority to decide if that is acceptable. An honorarium is expected for the musician. Soloists can be arranged with the pastor and musician.</p> <p>Since a funeral service is fundamentally a worship service, music selected will be appropriate for worship. Typically, there are 2-3 hymns and up to 2 solos for the service. Copyrights may limit which songs can be used or printed. Selections are made in consultation with the pastor and musician. A list of suggestions is below.</p> <p>Sometimes the family requests to have a recording of a song played during the service. The pastor has the authority to decide if the selection is appropriate for a funeral service. If approved, a member of the tech team will be required for such this service, with the appropriate honorarium.</p>
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<b>Suggested Music</b>		
<b>Congregational hymns ↓</b>		<b>Music for a soloist ↓</b>
Abide with Me (629)	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (597)	Abide with Me (629)
Amazing Grace (779)	Now Thank We All Our God (840)	Amazing Grace (779)
A Mighty Fortress (504)	O, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing (886)	Be Thou My Vision (793)
Beautiful Savior (838)	O God, Our Help in Ages Past (632)	Borning Cry (732)
Blessed Assurance (638)	On Eagle’s Wings (787)	Children of the Heavenly Father (781)
Borning Cry (732)	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (858)	Give Me Jesus (770)
Children of the Heavenly Father (781)	Precious Lord, Take My Hand (773)	Great Is Thy Faithfulness (733)
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (756)	Rock of Ages (623)	How Great Thou Art (856)
Give to Our God, Immortal Praise (848)	Shall We Gather at the River (423)	In the Garden
Hallelujah! Jesus Lives (380)	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (608)	Just A Closer Walk With Thee (697)
How Great Thou Art (856)	The Church’s One Foundation (654)	On Eagle’s Wings (787)
I Know that My Redeemer Lives (619)	The King of Love My Shepherd Is (502)	Rock of Ages (623)
Jerusalem, My Happy Home (628)	The Lord’s My Shepherd (778)	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (608)
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (365)	The Strife Is O’er (366)	The Old Rugged Cross
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (836)	Thine Is The Glory (376)	Thy Holy Wings (613)
Just As I Am (592)	Thy Holy Wings (613)	
Lead On O King Eternal (805)	What A Friend We Have in Jesus (742)	
Lift High the Cross (660)	When Peace Like A River (785)	
Lord, Divine, All Loves Excelling (631)	Who Is This Host Arrayed in White (425)	
My Faith Looks Up to Thee (759)		



<b>Available media</b>	Rejoice has a projector system in the sanctuary which can be used before or during the service. Sometimes families put music and pictures together and run it during the visitation. Sometimes families want to show something during the funeral service. If the use of media presentation is part of the visitation-worship service, Rejoice will attempt to find a member of our tech team to come in to run the computer system. A gratuity for the tech operator will be included in the funeral honorariums. Arrangements for media must be discussed with a Rejoice staff member at least two days before the funeral service.
<b>Readings</b>	Typically, Bible readings are selected in consultation with the pastor. It is appropriate to use a confirmation verse or another significant Bible passage that is meaningful to the family or deceased. If the deceased has not made known any passages they would like, another place to find passages is underlined passages in her/his Bible. A list of suggested Bible passages is included below.  Sometimes, the family requests poems to be read in the service. The pastor will have the authority to decide if it is appropriate for a funeral service.

<b>Suggested Bible Readings</b>			
<b>Psalms ↓</b>	<b>Old Testament ↓</b>	<b>New Testament/Gospels ↓</b>	<b>Easter story ↓</b>
Psalm 23	Job 19:25-26	Mark 10:13-17	Mark 16:1-8
Psalm 27	Proverbs 3:5-6	Matthew 11:28-30	Matthew 28:1-10
Psalm 46	Ecclesiastics 3:1-8 (9-15)	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 24:1-12
Psalm 90	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 2:25-32	John 20:18:1-8
Psalm 91	Isaiah 40:28-31	Luke 8:1-8 (9-25)	
Psalm 98	Isaiah 43:1-3	Luke 18:1-8	
Psalm 100	Jeremiah 29:11-14	John 5:24-29	
Psalm 103	Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33	John 6:35-40	
Psalm 116		John 11:21-27	
Psalm 121		John 11:25-26a	
Psalm 130		John 12: 23-26	
Psalm 148		John 14:1-6	
		John 14:25-27	

<b>Sharing memories</b>	During the worship time is allotted for sharing memories. Reading of the obituary is traditional but it is more personal if a family member or friend delivers a eulogy. An appropriate amount of length of time for the eulogy is 10 minutes maximum. Care should be taken to stay under 10 minutes to stay on schedule for the planned trip to the cemetery, luncheon, honor guard's time and the time of others involved. Someone may write a eulogy to have the pastor read it.
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Holy Communion may be requested by members to be included in the funeral service. This option is not available to non-members.
<b>Memorial gifts</b>	Memorial gifts given in memory of a loved one are appropriate and welcomed. Rejoice Lutheran Church, the Rejoice Endowment Fund, or a charitable organization of the donor's choice, are potential recipients of such gifts. Items donated to the church should be approved according to Rejoice's gift acceptance policy. Name plates are not allowed on any donated item.
<b>Funeral lunch</b>	<p>It is often another important step in the grieving process to have a luncheon following a funeral. A funeral lunch is an available option provided by Rejoice Lutheran Church. The menu is standard for all luncheons.</p> <p>The luncheon can be offered directly following the funeral service, or can be served following the return from the burial site.</p> <p>Having a meal catered in is an option for the family, though the caterer will need to provide all the supplies to serve and eat. The caterer will be responsible for cleaning up the kitchen and tables.</p> <p>Some families choose to have the luncheon at a restaurant, which is a valid option.</p>

<b>Honorariums &amp; Fees</b>			
<b>Rejoice member</b> ↓		<b>Non-member</b> ↓	
Use of church	no charge	Use of church	\$200
Pastor	\$150-\$225	Pastor	\$300
Soloist	\$75-100	Soloist	\$100-\$125
Media tech	\$75	Media tech	\$100
Custodian	\$75	Custodian	\$75
Luncheon donation suggested	\$2/plate	Luncheon	\$4/plate
Musician (an extra \$25 if a rehearsal with soloist is needed)	\$125	Musician (an extra \$50 if a rehearsal with soloist is needed)	\$175