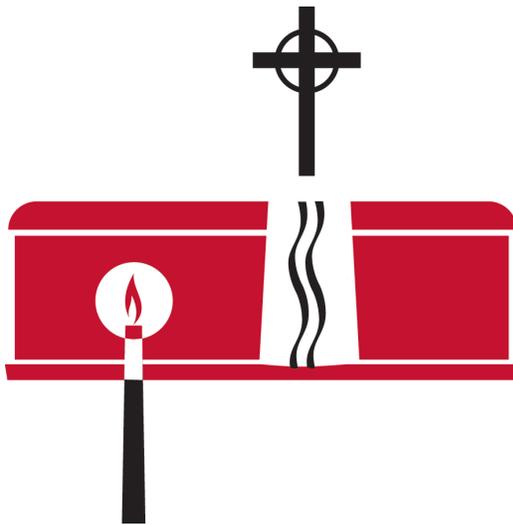


*The Funeral Worship*

*Service*

*as celebrated at*

# *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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the Rev. Brad Mittleholtz

### ***Dear Friends,***

We at Zion Lutheran Church would like to offer our condolences to you and your family for the loss of your loved one. Whether you did have time to prepare or everything happened just suddenly and unexpectedly, death is always a difficult matter to encounter. Therefore we wish to offer our support to you at this time of grieving and sorrow. Local funeral homes are prepared to help you with all your funeral arrangements, but we also have listed a few items that might be helpful for you as you make plans for the funeral.

### ***Will the Funeral take place in the Church or at the Funeral Home?***

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. An outline of the Funeral is included in this document. If so desired, Holy Communion may be included in the service. When the sacrament is celebrated, the services 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 wishes of the deceased are honoured as much as possible.

There may be family member or friends who would like to serve as readers, 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***

We have a wonderful music ministry at Zion who have variety talents and gifts. Please speak with the pastor how they might contribute to the funeral of your loved one.

### ***Visitation***

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 about one hour before the service is to begin. The open casket is placed in the narthex or fireside room of the church in order that mourners may pay their last respects. As the service is about to begin, the casket will be closed, covered with a white cloth (funeral pall) and the funeral director will either seat the family or organise the family for the procession.

### ***Funeral Luncheon***

If you wish to hold a funeral luncheon in our fellowship hall following the funeral service, this ministry of hospitality is available to you through the work of the Zion Lutheran Church Women (LCW). At the time of 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 onto the appropriate person.

### ***Flowers***

Flowers on the altar, and/or flower arrangements are usually 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 Sunday worship services.

### ***Memorial Donations***

You may wish to consider the church when determining charities and ministries to donate to in lieu of flowers. ***Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Fund*** uses funds to benefit the ministry of the congregation. If there is a particular ministry you wish to direct any gifts to, Zion will honour your wishes. The pastor can be available for consultation to determine ministries for your consideration.

### ***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 Musician:***

Our congregation is blessed with a quality music programme. At the same time it needs to be recognized that our congregation's musicians' involvement in the funeral worship service is in addition to their normal responsibilities for Zion. Many hours go into the rehearsal and presentation of the music chosen for the funeral service. You may speak with the pastor about an appropriate honoraria for the musician.

#### ***When the Funeral is over***

When the funeral is over, the church community will still be available 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.

# *ELW Funeral with Communion*

## **GATHERING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The ministers may meet the casket and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the casket by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers.*

### **GREETING**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **READINGS**

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **PEACE**

### **MEAL**

*God gives us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Lord's Prayer*

*Communion*

*Communion Song*

### **SONG AFTER COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## **COMMENDATION**

*The ministers take their places at the casket. The presiding minister leads the commendation.*

## **COMMITTAL**

*The ministers precede the casket to the place of interment.*

# *ELW Funeral without Communion*

## **GATHERING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The ministers may meet the casket and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the casket by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers.*

### **GREETING**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

### **READINGS**

### **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **COMMENDATION**

*The ministers take their places at the casket. The presiding minister leads the commendation.*

**COMMITTAL**

*The ministers precede the casket to the place of interment.*