



When a loved one has died or is dying
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
In effect January 1, 2015

You are going through a difficult time - our heartfelt sympathies. As a Christian community, we share joys and sorrows, and so we are here to support you at this time as well.

Death and eternal life

As Christians, we believe that death is a door from this life to eternal life with God. It is the last step in the life of a believer this side of heaven. As a community, we walk with our brothers or sisters who are about to take this step, and together we mourn and remember each brother and sister once they have passed, and commend them into God's loving hands.

Care and support

Our pastors are available through the process of dying, mourning, and remembering. They will listen, comfort you, pray with you, and explain the Christian hope of life after death. Please contact them as soon as possible when a loved one is close to death. They are experienced bedside counselors, and they have seen all manners and causes of death and will be able to walk with you.

We will also pray for you as Trinity congregation, and your personal friends at Trinity will support you in their own way.

Funeral arrangements and service

Funerals at Trinity are normally performed by one of our pastors. As soon as possible arrange a meeting with one of them to discuss the date of the funeral and funeral arrangements.

Our pastors have experience with all funeral homes in the Edmonton area. If needed, they can assist you in finding a funeral home. They will work closely with you and the funeral home you have chosen in planning the funeral ceremony.

Funeral ceremonies at Trinity are Christian services, and follow the Lutheran rite. Our pastors are bilingual and can design an English or German or combined service. A funeral service at Trinity typically takes 45-60 minutes.

The church office will be able to assist you in referrals to florists and caterers. Inquire about a funeral reception in our parish hall, possibly catered by a group from Trinity.

Active members have the option to be buried in Trinity's cemetery in Ellerslie. To ask about a plot, also contact the church office (but note that no reservations are possible). There is also an area reserved for members of Trinity at South Haven Cemetery, 5004 Meridian Street (between Edmonton and Sherwood Park). Reservations there can be made through the City of Edmonton, 780-442-0974.

Photography

The funeral service is sacred. It should not be disrupted in any way, especially through picture taking. For this reason, no flash pictures are permitted during the funeral service. Please inform your guests of this requirement. Pictures may be taken without flash during the service, provided there is no excessive noise

or movement. A video recording may be made of the service provided there is no excessive noise or movement in the chancel area or sanctuary and provided no additional lighting is used.

Bulletins

If bulletins are desired, the funeral party is responsible for securing these and having them printed, in accordance with the service plans made with the pastor.

Memorial donations

If Trinity was an important part of your loved one's life, you may want to consider encouraging funeral guests to designate Trinity for "in memory of" donations.

Questions

Questions about the funeral ceremony itself should be directed to the pastor. Questions about the facility (decorations, sound system, and so on) or fees should be directed to the church office.

Policies for facility use

- Smoking on the church premises is not permitted at any time.
- Belongings are left unattended at your own risk.
- Facilities will be provided "as is", i.e. the way they are arranged for congregational life at the time of facility use. This may including special decorations (e.g., banners, plants) in the sanctuary or elsewhere.
- The funeral party is responsible for any damage done to the building, grounds, furnishings, or equipment.
- No candles are allowed on the pillars of the church due to fire concerns. The only candles that may be lit are the altar candles, baptismal candle, and/or candelabra at the altar.

Financial obligations (non-members)

The fee assessed for holding a funeral service at Trinity is **\$500.00**. This includes the use of the sanctuary and atrium, opening and closing, setup and cleanup. Please make a cheque payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*. In addition, there is a **\$350.00** honorarium for the presiding minister (made payable to the minister directly) and a **\$150.00** fee for the organist (made payable to the organist directly).

If you would like to have a reception in the church hall, we can put you in touch with our ladies' group for possible catering. If you are using an outside catering service, the fee for using the hall plus kitchen is **\$100.00** (please make cheque payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*). In that case, a facility use agreement between you and Trinity is also required.

