



A Guide for Planning Funerals & Memorial Services



Trindle Spring Lutheran Church

717-766-7091 - www.trindlespringlutheran.org

14 State Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Trindle Spring Families,

One of the most significant events in the life of an individual and a family is the death of a loved one. We want to be able to provide care for you before, during, and after that loss. The information included in this booklet is to help you through the process of planning a service that will honor and celebrate your loved one.

We consider it an honor and a privilege to walk alongside your family as you grieve the loss of your loved one. We see this as a time of remembering and healing: plans are made, stories are told, memories are shared, tears are shed, and even laughter is heard. It is a time to celebrate the life of the person who has died and begin the grieving process.

Our belief in Jesus Christ allows us to see death and a funeral service not as an ending, but as a day to celebrate Jesus' victory over death for us. The promises of Baptism point us to new life, forgiveness, and the hope of the resurrection. We want to share this message of hope with you as you go through the grief and pain of losing a loved one.

For questions about funeral or memorial service planning, please contact the church office at 717-766-7091 and we will be glad to help with any questions or arrangements.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Aaron M. Erdley

Lead Pastor



PLANNING A SERVICE

Pre-Planning a Service

The Pastors are available to sit with you to pre-plan a service. Once a plan is completed you should keep a copy to share with your family and we will keep a copy on file in the church office. Pre-planning your service is a wonderful gift you can give your family as they grieve and make decisions.

At the Time of Death

When a loved one's death draws close, the pastor would be honored to come to visit and pray with the family. Contact the church office (717-766-7091) in order to get in touch with one of the pastors. If it is after hours, listen to the message for the best way to contact the pastoral staff.

Scheduling a Service

In order to schedule a time and date for a service please contact one of the pastors. A pastor will check the church calendar to make sure there are no conflicts before the service is scheduled. Services may be conducted in the sanctuary at TSLC or in a funeral home.

Types of Services

There are a few types of services to consider:

1. Traditional funeral (the casket is present) with interment immediately following
2. Traditional funeral with interment at a later date
3. Memorial Service (no casket is present)
4. Graveside service only

In addition to visitation at the funeral home, time for visitation may be scheduled before the service at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church.

Fees

There are no fees for the funeral service. Honorariums may be made if the family desires.



Service Planning

One of the pastors will meet with the family, either at the church or in your home, to discuss arrangements. This is a time to pick hymns and scripture readings, hear stories, and decide on any other preparations that may need to be made. The church staff works behind the scenes to coordinate arrangements for soloists, musicians, and custodial services. One thing the family should think about is an estimate of the number of people attending the service.

Reception/Luncheon

Following the service many families like to have time to share stories and a meal with those in attendance. Volunteers from the church will serve sandwiches, salads, desserts, and drinks for the reception. Honorariums are accepted, however this is a ministry of the congregation and therefore any payments are considered a donation toward this ministry of care and hospitality.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Planning a Service

This is the general order for funerals and memorial services at Trindle Spring Lutheran

- Musical Prelude
- Words of Thanksgiving
- Processional Hymn
- Greeting and Prayer
- Scripture Readings
- Homily
- Hymn
- Apostle's Creed
- Prayers
- Holy Communion (optional)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Prayer of Commendation
- Closing Hymn
- Postlude

Scripture Readings

We are rooted in scripture. It is where we hear God's promises of life and resurrection. A loved one's favorite passage can be used, or others that you find particularly comforting. Below are a few passages to consider if you need some help.

- Psalm 23
The Lord is my shepherd...
- Psalm 46:1-10
God is our refuge and strength...
- Psalm 121
Lift up my eyes to the hills...
- Psalm 139
O Lord, you have searched me and known me...
- Isaiah 43:1-7
I have called you by name and you are mine...
- Job 19:23-27a
I know that my redeemer lives...
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
To everything there is a season...
- Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
Nothing can separate us from the love of God...
- Romans 14:7-9
We are the Lord's...
- 2 Timothy 4:6-7
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race...
- I Peter 1:3-9
He has given us a new birth into a living hope...
- Hebrews 12:1-2
We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...
- Revelation 21:1-7
I saw a new heaven and a new earth...
- John 3:1-21
God so loved the world...
- John 11:21-17
I am the resurrection and the life...
- John 14:1-14
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places...



MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Music is an important part of worship at Trindle Spring Lutheran. Often music can convey things that we may not be able to express in words. Choose hymns that were your loved one's favorites, and ones that are meaningful to you. During the service secular music is not used. If you need help, the Pastors or our Organist can assist you, below are some suggestions:

- Abide With Me #629
- Amazing Grace #779
- Battle Hymn of the Republic #890
- Be Thou My Vision #793
- Beautiful Savior #838
- Blessed Assurance #638
- Children of the Heavenly Father #781
- Eternal Father Strong to Save (Navy Hymn) #756
- For All the Saints #422
- Go My Children With My Blessing #543
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness #733
- How Great Thou Art #856
- I Am the Bread of Life #485
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives #619
- I Love to Tell the Story #661
- In the Garden
- Jesus Loves Me #595
- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #836
- Lift High the Cross #660
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #631
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee #759
- My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less #597
- My Life Flows On in Endless Song #763
- On Eagle's Wings #787
- Precious Lord Take My Hand #773
- Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling #608
- Take My Life That I May Be #685
- Thine Is the Glory #376
- This Is My Father's World #824
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus #742
- When Peace Like a River (It is Well With My Soul) #785
- You are Mine #581



Soloists and Musicians

Typically our organist plays for all services. If he is unavailable, he will find a substitute. Having a soloist is also an option during the service, our staff can help make those arrangements if needed.

Sharing Memories in Worship

During worship you may have an individual or two share a few remarks. If this is something that you desire, we ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes. Other memories can be shared during the lunch reception

Symbols and their Meaning

Funeral Pall

At Trindle Spring is it our tradition to use a pall. A pall is a white cloth that is draped over the casket or urn. It is white, which symbolizes two things. First, white is the color for Easter and the resurrection. Second, it reminds us of the baptismal garment placed upon us as a symbol of cleansing and new life.

Paschal Candle—Christ Candle

Jesus is the light of the world. This flame was lit and passed to us when we were baptized. It reminds us that we are children of God and inheritors of eternal life in Christ.

OTHER INFORMATION

Ushers

The funeral home staff generally serves as ushers for the funeral service. If there is Holy Communion at the service Trindle Spring Lutheran will provide additional ushers to assist.

Bulletins

Trindle Spring Lutheran will provide the bulletins for the worship service. Please let the staff know how many you anticipate at the service.

Memory Table

A table can be set up in the narthex for pictures and other personal items. This is where the family will greet people as they come for the service. Please let us know if you would like a table set up.

Slideshow or Video

Families may choose to create a video or slideshow. Many funeral homes provide this service. A projector and screen are available for use during the lunch reception following the service.

Flowers

Many flowers will come to the church from friends and family. We will choose a few of them to be up front in the sanctuary. The rest of them will go out by the memory table and in the Fellowship Hall for the reception. Flowers should be taken home by the family unless other arrangements have been made.

Memorial Gifts

Many people desire to give thanks to God for the life of the person who has died, by giving a gift in their memory. These gifts can be designated to many different places and charities. If a family chooses to designate Trindle Spring Lutheran as a recipient of Memorial Gifts, the family can work with the church staff to determine an appropriate use for those gifts.

Children at Funerals

Although children may not fully understand what is going on, it is important for them to be a part of this process. A death is a significant event in the life of a family and in the lives of children, too. Explain the reason for the service to them, that it is a time to remember the person who has died, give thanks for the memories they left with you, and support one another in faith and in the hope of eternal life. Trindle Spring Lutheran has children's bags available outside the sanctuary for children to use when they are in worship.

Grief Support

Grief is a long process, and everyone experiences it differently. Sometimes people need some help walking through this process. The Pastors are here to talk with you as you walk through this process. Referrals for group or individual counseling can also be made.



NOTES

SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR _____ UPDATED ON _____

Type of Service:

- Funeral (casket present)
- Memorial Service
- Graveside
- Burial another day

Lord's Prayer:

- Traditional
- Contemporary

Special Music:

Location:

- TSLC Sanctuary
- Funeral Home _____

Reception:

- Yes No

Holy Communion:

- Yes No

Bulletins:

How many? _____

Hymns:

- Procession _____
- Sermon _____
- Communion _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Sending _____

Will the family be a part of the procession?

- Yes No

Pall Bearers

Scripture Readings:

Memorial Gifts should be given to:

Eulogist:

Service Date: _____

Readers:

Service Time: _____

If you have funeral arrangements on file with a funeral home, which one?
