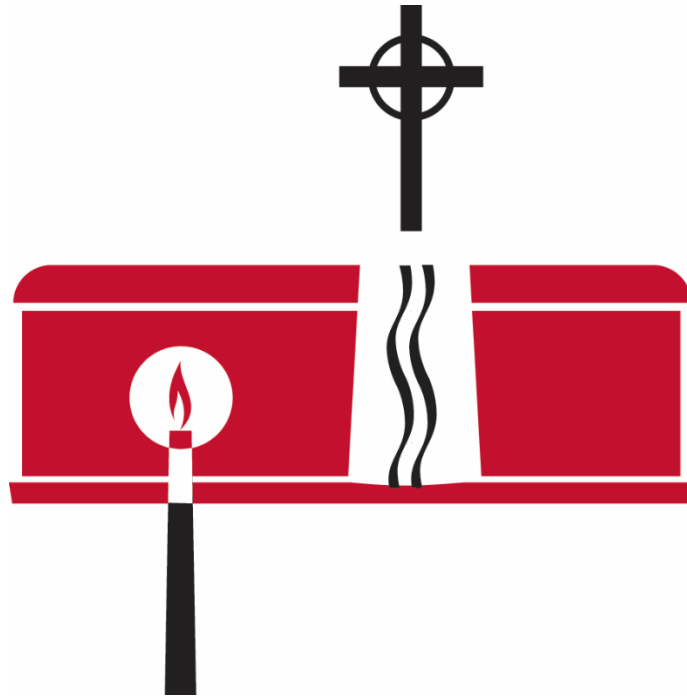


## **Funeral Guidelines**

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3670 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania  
www.reformationlutheran.org  
mail@reformationlutheran.org  
610-779-0534



. . . I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
- Romans 8

### **The Funeral**

The funeral service of the deceased should be representative of their life. If their life included active participation in church, then it is most appropriate for a funeral or memorial service to be held in the church. If the deceased did not actively participate in the life of the church, then a funeral or memorial service is best held at the funeral home. We trust that God's love is present wherever the service is held.

### **Participation**

The family is encouraged to meet with the pastor and take an active role in the selection of readings and music for the service. Family members are welcome and invited to take on active roles in the service. Possibilities include lighting candles, reading lessons, assisting in distributing communion, singing, or playing an instrument.

## **Shared Experiences and Communion**

The family and friends may share thoughts or memories of the deceased at the start of the funeral; this can be of great value for the healing process but is certainly not required (and not everyone wants to or is able to do this).

It is also very appropriate, though not required, to have the community gather around the bread and the wine of communion at a funeral; it is a tangible way to be reminded of Christ's promise and presence with us.

## **Music**

Appropriate hymns and music for the funeral can be chosen with the pastor during the planning meeting, in conjunction with the Director of Music.

## **Bulletin**

We can print a bulletin for the service which will enable worshippers to follow along; this is not necessary and the service is also easily followed without a bulletin. If you do wish to have a bulletin, we will email you a copy before it goes to print.

## **Meal after the Service**

Some families decide to provide a meal to friends and relatives following the service. The meal may be held at a restaurant or in the parish hall at Reformation. If you would like to arrange for this, please call the church office. We can provide a list of caterers, or you may choose one of your own. The family is responsible for making catering arrangements and the cost of the main part of the meal. Members of Reformation will provide beverages and desserts, prepare the room, serve, and clean up.

## **Fees**

If the service is held at the church building, all fees should be paid by the time of the funeral. Funeral homes often assist with disbursing the separate payments; it's wise to discuss this with your funeral director.

The total cost for nonmembers is \$500, which covers compensation for the organist, pastor, printing of bulletins, and use of the facility; the cost for members is \$250 which covers the organist and printing. A donation to the congregation and honorarium to the pastor is appreciated but not required for members.

If the service is held at the funeral home, the cost is \$200 for nonmembers (paid directly to the pastor), and at no cost to members.

All are welcome to make a gift to Reformation's Memorial Fund in honor and memory of their loved one if they so desire, or to request that others make memorial donations.

## **Prayers and Visitation**

Please know that we will include your family on our congregation's prayer list for a time after the funeral. In addition, we will remember your loved one on All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November, and we invite you to be a part of that service. If you would like the pastor to visit as you are grieving the loss of a loved one, even in the days and months after the funeral, please feel free to call the pastor or the church office, or simply stop by the church building during our office hours.

God's peace be upon you in this time of grief.