

Christian Funeral Guide:

*A Service of Witness
to the Resurrection*



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On behalf of Glen Lake Church, we want to express our Christian sympathy to you and your family. We are reminded of the Psalmist who gives us words of comfort in Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd..." We hope that as you prepare to celebrate the life of your loved one you will be reminded of God's presence, experience the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and feel the peace that comes from the Holy Spirit.

When you go through the loss of a loved one, it is often hard to think as clearly as you might want to, so we created this guide to help you navigate the planning process for the funeral. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

May God's Seeking Comfort Find You

Frequently Asked Questions:

Should I work with a funeral home? We strongly recommend that you plan with a funeral home, and if possible preplan your funeral. While there is cost involved, they are the experts in this area and can help guide you through the process.

When should the funeral and visitation take place? We recommend that you try to have the visitation and funeral as soon as possible after the death. This is an important part of the grieving process for not only you but other loved ones. If your loved one dies in the winter, and many of their friends are out of town, we suggest you still do the funeral in the winter and consider having an informal gathering with friends in the summer to share stories and look at pictures. From our experience, if you wait to do the funeral several weeks or months after the death of your loved one, it slows down and hinders the grief process. Please contact the church office to see what days are available.

What is the difference between a funeral and a memorial service? While historically there is a difference in whether the body is present or not, our culture often calls the service whichever wording they are comfortable with. In our church liturgy we call it, “A Service of Witness to the Resurrection.”

Can Christians be cremated? For some Christians this is a difficult subject. At its essence is a question of when Jesus comes back, will we be brought to life in the bodies we had when we died? As a Pastor and from my theological studies, I believe that God has the power to restore our bodies if this is the case. When bodies lay underground, they will naturally decay over time. If God wanted to use our physical bodies as they were when we died, God would have to restore the decayed body, so God most certainly can restore a cremated body.

When will we plan the actual service? You will need to find a time to meet with a pastor to plan the service. During this time, the pastor will present an outline to you where you can plug in things like favorite worship songs, favorite scripture passage, and eulogies from loved ones. If you have any ideas for the service, it will be helpful to bring them to this meeting.

Can we do the funeral service and the visitation at the church? Yes, you can. Some people choose to have a visitation in our “Living Room” right outside the “Worship Center” for an hour before the funeral service. Others, especially if they are expecting a really large turn out, will do a visitation on one day and the funeral service the next day. Please be sure to ask the office about available dates, as other activities may be going on in the church building.

What about food? We have a group of volunteers at church who can help with food. The options and prices are listed later in this guide. Our volunteers can often be busy, especially in the summer, so we ask for your flexibility. Some families, instead of eating at the church, will go out to a favorite family restaurant.

Funeral Checklist

- Have you been in contact with the Funeral Home?
- Have you set an appointment to go to meet with the Funeral Home to make plans with them?
- Have you chosen a date yet for the visitation and funeral and confirmed with the church office?
- Are you going to have a time of visitation?
- Where are events going to be held?
 - Church
 - Funeral Home
 - Another location
- Have you contacted Pastor Dan, Pastor Jan or another Pastor to ask them to lead the service?
- Have you met with the Pastor whom you have chosen to lead the service?
- Do you want any food after the service? Have you communicated this to the church office? (Details later in guide)
- Are you going to do a graveside committal service? When will it be and who will be invited to it?
- Are you going to display any pictures or create a slideshow (powerpoint, video, etc)?
- Do you want any music played or sung at the funeral?

Honorariums and Expenses

Below are the recommended honorariums and expenses for a funeral at Glen Lake Church:

Building Use Expense	\$50
Custodian Honorarium	\$100
Minister Honorarium	\$150
Musician Honorarium	\$75
Sound/ Projection Tech Honorarium	\$75

Food

We recognize that sharing stories and fellowship are key to celebrating and grieving the loss of the loved one and this is often done more comfortably over food. A team of volunteers work hard to try and make this happen. Below is a list of options that our team can try to provide. Please note, that since volunteers put this together, they may not be able to do exactly what you want, due to their own personal schedules. They will try their best to work with you. Some families also choose to go out together to one of their loved one's favorite restaurants in the area. This can be very meaningful, especially with a smaller group.

Dessert donated by congregation and Drinks Only	\$50
Lunch with meat and cheese trays provided by family, salad and dessert donated by congregation	\$50
Lunch with meat and cheese trays, arranged by church, salad and dessert donated by congregation- Under 70 people	\$300
Lunch with meat and cheese trays, arranged by church, salad and dessert donated by congregation- 70-125 people	\$425

Please do not let cost prohibit you from honoring your loved one. If you need financial support for the funeral, please talk with the Pastor.

Checks for Honorariums should be written directly to the person for their service. Other costs, including building use and food, should be written directly to Glen Lake Church. All checks can be turned into the church office who will distribute them for you.

Funeral Information

When you first call the church to set up the funeral our Office Administrator or Pastor will ask you these questions:

Name of Your Loved One: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Phone: _____

Date, time, and location of the Funeral: _____

Date, time, and location of the Visitation: _____

Have you contacted a Pastor to officiate the service? Yes No

If yes, who: _____

If not, whom do you plan to contact? _____

Do you want to have a food reception after the funeral service at the church? Yes No

If yes, which food option from the previous page do you request?

For how many people should we prepare food? _____

Will you want:

Microphones for speaking, sharing stories, or musicians? Yes No

A slideshow or powerpoint to run on the projector screens? Yes No

A slideshow on our TV monitors? Yes No

To display pictures and memories in the Living Room? Yes No

The Pastor will help you plan the details of the actual service when you meet with him/her.

Admin Only	Y	N	N/A
Custodian			
Pastor			
Food			
Tech			