**Helpful Funeral Questions and Answers**

What do we do when a doctor or nurse tells us our family member is near death?

When death draws near, contact the pastor so that he/she may offer the ministry of the church. (210-651-9090).

What do we do when our family member dies?

When death comes, contact the church immediately. We are able to assist you in this difficult time. If possible, please contact the church before any arrangements are made with a funeral home.

Who do we have to talk to in order to set a funeral date?

The church will schedule the funeral in consultation with the family’s and pastor’s calendars. Speak with the church before confirming a time or date with a funeral director.

What is our pastor’s recommendations regarding funeral locations?

Holding the funeral or memorial service within the church’s Sanctuary is desirable and is always encouraged.

Should the body or ashes be present at the funeral?

The presence of the body or cremated remains is the decision of the family. The church honors the body that was the temple of the Holy Spirit and insists that the body be treated with reverence. The church honors the flesh in which Christ came and was active.

What about Holy Communion?

Celebration of Holy Communion is always encouraged at funerals and memorial services. Communion is the celebration meal of life that Christ gives us. Communion is a way to gather with the deceased around the heavenly banquet table.

How can family members participate in the service?

Family members or friends may serve as liturgy participants. Reading, being a pall bearer, usher, and sharing remembrances are all ways to participate and honor the deceased.

What is the white cloth that covers the coffin?

The white cloth is a funeral pall and is a baptismal garment. The use of a funeral pall to cover a coffin during the liturgy is always encouraged. We are clothed in the new white robe of Christ and all equal in the sight of God.

What about a reception or luncheon?

A luncheon or reception can be held following the service, and is part of the ministry of hospitality from TLC. By gathering around the table for mutual conversation and consolation, we hold one another up in faith.

Memorials

In the planning process, some families choose to designate preferences for memorial gifts, including the family’s desires regarding gifts of flowers. Gifts can be designated to the church, and can be used to support the ministry of the church.

Funeral planning meeting

The church will schedule a funeral planning consultation with you and the pastor. This can occur before or after a death.

What to bring to the planning meeting

Favorite hymns, Bible verses, poems, full baptismal name of deceased, baptismal date if known, calendar, brief biography, a symbol of faith – for example, a family Bible or other things you wish to share with the pastor.