

**Saint Peter Lutheran Church**  
**130 Nittany Drive**  
**Mechanicsburg PA 17055**  
**717-766-2701**

## **Funeral Policy Guidelines**

*The death of a member of the congregation should be reported to the pastor as soon as possible. The pastor will comfort and support the family and, within time limitations, will plan for the service.*

### **1. Burial of the Dead – Funeral/Memorial Services**

The church is where we begin our life as a baptized people as it is also the place to celebrate the completion of our baptism with the Burial of the Dead.

The Order for the Burial of the Dead is a time for the congregation, family, and friends of the deceased to come together:

- A. to remember and give thanks for the life of one of God's own,
- B. to give thanks that the Christian life is one that is lived in community with other believers,
- C. to remember all that God does for us as we give thanks for the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

### **2. Scheduling the Service**

The date, time, and location of the service are determined through consultation with the family, pastor, and funeral director. The funeral director will normally coordinate with the cemetery and make arrangements for an obituary to be published.

### **3. Concerning the Service in General**

The service is intended for use in the church with the body or ashes of the deceased present. Modifications of the service are possible for use at other locations. The service may be adapted for use during a memorial service.

A memorial service is particularly appropriate when the body has been destroyed in an accident, a natural catastrophe, or has been offered and accepted for medical research.

### **4. Concerning the Order for the Burial of the Dead**

The coffin should remain closed throughout the service. A pall may be placed upon the casket by the family, before the procession begins.\* The pall denotes that we are clothed in Christ and covered with the garments of salvation.

Appropriate music for the service may be recommended by the pastor, organist, or music director. As the first hymn is sung, those following the processional cross are: presiding minister, assisting minister, pallbearers with the coffin, and the bereaved.

The coffin is positioned before the altar, at right angles to it. The head of the coffin is nearest the congregation.\*\* The paschal candle is placed at the head of the coffin. The candle is a symbol of the Easter promise of death and resurrection.

The Order of the Service used will be determined by the pastor and the family. The good news of the Gospel will be proclaimed in the pastor's sermon. Remarks by members of the congregation should be prepared in

advance and it is recommended that they be written in order to assist the speaker at a difficult time. These remarks will be offered prior to the sermon.

Holy Communion is an important part of the funeral service, but is left to the discretion of the pastor and family if it is to be included. The congregation is invited to participate, not limiting the sacrament only to the bereaved family.

Other specific details concerning the service at the church or other locations are found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship, Ministers Desk Edition*, pages 37-38; the *Lutheran Book of Worship, Manual on the Liturgy*, pages 355-365; and the *Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship, Life Passages, Funeral*, pages 279 – 285.

The Rite of Burial may be replaced with the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Service (Funeral). The Memorial Garden Policy shall be used as a reference for any family considering disposition of ashes in the Memorial Garden. Policy is available at the church office.

## **5. Reception Planning (optional)**

The family may request assistance from the *Evangelical Lutheran Church Women* in planning and serving at a reception following the funeral. This service on the part of the *ELCW* is subject to the availability of this organization and its members. The cost of the reception will be determined by the *ELCW*. The family may make other arrangements for reception support. Fees for the use of the kitchen and reception rooms will be made available by the church secretary upon request. Fees are subject to the: **Facilities Use Policy, Facilities Use Request Form and Agreement, Facilities Use Fee Schedule and the Use of Alcoholic Beverages Agreement.**

## **6. Minimum Fee Schedule & Telephone Directory**

Pastor – Alexander Martini Telephone: 717-766-2701 Email: pastor.stpeter@epix.net

Parish Administrative Assistant – Shirley Maxwell Telephone: 717-766-2701 Email: stpeter@epix.net

Organist – Susan Niedzwiecki Telephone: 717-432-8924 Fee: \$150 – (\$175 with soloist)

Sexton, if required - Fee: \$50/hour

Gymnasium with tables and chairs\*\*\* - \$100 for two hours then \$20 each additional hour

Fellowship Hall Fee\*\*\*: \$50 for two hours then \$20 each additional hour

Kitchen, full use Fee: \$100

Kitchen with limited use (no cooking, only coffee, non-alcoholic beverages, ice cream and/or snacks) – Fee: \$35

Sanctuary Fee\*\*\*: \$150

\* *In appropriate circumstances, a flag may be used.*

\*\* *The coffin for a member of the clergy is placed with the head of the coffin toward the altar.*

\*\*\* *Fee is waived for a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church. The Reception fee is negotiated with ELCW.*

## **BURIAL OF THE DEAD**

1. *This rite may be used as a memorial service by omitting those portions indicated by the red line in the left margin.*
2. *The ceremonies or tributes of social or fraternal societies have no place within the service of the Church. If requested and approved by the pastor, these rites must be concluded prior to the beginning of the Rite of Burial (Funeral).*

### ***At the Entrance to the Church***

3. *The ministers meet the coffin, the pallbearers, and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.*

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

4. *A pall may be placed upon the coffin by the pallbearers or other assisting ministers, and the following may be said.*

P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### ***Procession***

#### ***Stand***

5. *The procession forms and enters the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.*
6. *A psalm, hymn, or appropriate verse may be sung as the procession goes to the front of the church.*

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

7. *One of the following prayers is said.*

P O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our *brother/sister*, [name]. We thank you for giving *him/her* to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (279)

C **Amen**  
OR

P Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (280)

C **Amen**  
OR

P Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (281)

C **Amen**  
OR

P O God, your days are without end and your mercies cannot be counted. Make us aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, so that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in peace with all humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (282)

C **Amen**  
OR, AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

P O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust [name] to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (283)

C **Amen**

*Sit*

8. *One or two LESSONS are read. A psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung between the first and second readings.*

9. *The appropriate VERSE may be sung:*

C **Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

*OR, LENT*

C **If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.**

*Stand*

10. *The GOSPEL is read.*

*Sit*

11. *The SERMON follows the reading of the Gospel.*

*Stand*

12. *A HYMN is sung.*

13. *The CREED may be said.*

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.\*  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

14. *The PRAYERS are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.*

A Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

A Grant us grace to entrust [name] to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in this life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him/her* according to the favor you bear for your people.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

15. *The minister concludes the intercessions with one of the following prayers.*

A God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has

opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (284)

**C Amen**

*OR*

**A** God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you. . . . Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. (285)

**C Amen**

16. *When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace. The Commendation then follows the post-communion canticle ("Lord, now you let your servant . . . ") and prayer.*

17. *When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

**C Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

*OR*

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

Form Name: Funeral Policy Guidelines Approved: August 2010; January 2016; September 18, 2016

Revised: September 18, 2016

**Sit  
Commendation**

18. *The ministers take their places at the coffin.*

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, [name]. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. (286)

C **Amen**

P Let us go forth in peace.

C **In the name of Christ. Amen**

**Stand**

19. *The procession forms and leaves the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.*

20. *As the procession leaves the church, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung. The canticle, "Lord, now you let your servant . . .," may be sung if it has not been sung in the Holy Communion (39).*

**Committal**

21. *The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During the procession, one or more of these verses may be sung or said.*

A I called to the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered by setting me free.

It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.

I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help.

There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter." (Ps. 118:5, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 19-20)

A For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26)

A None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die,

we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. (Rom. 14:7-8)

A "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord; "he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26a)

22. *When all have arrived at the place of burial, the following prayer may be said.*

P Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep our *brother/sister*, whose *body* we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise *him/her* up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (287)

C **Amen**

23. *One of the following lessons may be read.*

And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:23-26)

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in a victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:51-57)

But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil. 3:20-21)

24. *The coffin is lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place. Earth may be cast on the coffin as the minister says:*

P In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister*, [name], and we commit *his/her* body to the *ground/the deep/the elements/its resting place*; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*. The Lord makes his face shine on *him/her* and be gracious to *him/her*. The Lord look upon *him/her* with favor and give *him/her* + peace.

C **Amen**

OR

P Since almighty God has called our *brother/sister*, [name], from this life to himself, we commit *his/her*

body to *the earth from which it was made/the deep/the elements/its resting place*. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like his in glory. We commend our *brother/sister* to the Lord: May the Lord receive *him/her* into his peace and raise *him/her* up on the last day.

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

*OR*

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

P Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever. (288)

C **Amen**

25. *Then may be said:*

P Rest eternal grant *him/her*, O Lord;  
A and let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

26. *The minister blesses the people.*

P The God of peace--who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant--make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C **Amen**

P Let us go in peace.