

Celebration of Life

Funeral and Memorial Services at St Luke's United Church

At St Luke's United Church, we believe that every human life God has created is sacred. When a life here on earth has come to an end, we are committed to offering celebrations of life that remember and honour those who have died, and that provide spiritual support to those who are grieving.

These services are an important part of St. Luke's ministry and they are freely available to all members of the community. An individual need not be a member of St. Luke's United Church, be affiliated with the United Church of Canada or have any other church connection for a funeral or memorial service to be held at St. Luke's. There is no charge to use the sanctuary for a Celebration of Life.

Because St. Luke's understands a Christian funeral or memorial service as the completion of a life of faith, we encourage that these services be held within our Sanctuary. Our Minister will be the Officiant except in unusual circumstances, and they will assist you in the preparation of the service. If you wish to have another member of the clergy assist with the service, please consult with our Minister. If you wish to have our Minister officiate at a service at a Funeral Home Chapel or another appropriate location, please contact them as soon as possible.

Music is an important part of the service. Congregational hymns, solo performances, and recorded music can all be appropriate and meaningful on these occasions. Our Music Director will play piano for the service when available, in a wide repertoire of musical styles. Special musical requests can often be accommodated, and our Minister and Music Director will work with you to select your music.

Following the service, you are invited to stay for a reception to continue the celebration. St. Luke's United Church has space for receptions of many sizes. Catering is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. Please make the arrangements as soon as possible, we have many bookings at the church and in case of a change need to give our renters as much notice as possible.

More About the Service

- The Minister will meet with you, usually a few days before the service. Special requests should be made at that time, to ensure that volunteers and equipment are in place in advance.
- A visitation time in the sanctuary can be arranged before the service.
- The church can produce paper bulletins for the service, besides our usual practice of projecting words for singing during the service.
- The church can project a PowerPoint presentation, and also broadcast music or other audio clips, by prior arrangement. We recommend the presentation be on a computer stick, or a laptop that can be plugged into our system, and a time should be arranged for an audio check before the service.
- Friends and family of the deceased can be invited to share personal remembrances, or read scripture or other readings from the pulpit. Speakers are to coordinate their remarks with the Officiant.
- Usually one to three scripture texts are read at the service. Secular readings can be shared when appropriate.
- It is usual for the Funeral Home to make arrangements for the transportation of the remains and all permits for burial. If no Funeral Home is involved, the family must make the arrangements, and deliver the church's copy of the burial permit before the start of the service.

Some Suggested Scripture Readings

Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalms 121	My help comes from the Lord
Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24	You knit me together in my mother's womb
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	For everything there is a season
Isaiah 66:10-13	As a mother comforts her child
Jeremiah 1:4-10	Before you were born I consecrated you
Jeremiah 31:15-17	Rachel is weeping for her children
Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14	Not one little one should be lost
Matthew 25:31-40	Anything you did for the least of these
Mark 9:33-37	Whoever welcomes a child
Mark 10:13-16	Jesus blesses the children
John 14:1-6, 27	In my Father's house are many rooms
1 Corinthians 13:1-8	If I don't have Love I have nothing
1 John 3:1-3	We are God's children

Some Suggested Hymns

VU #149 - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
VU #236 - Now Thank We All Our God
VU #238 - How Great Thou Art
VU #260 - God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness
VU #266 - Amazing Grace
VU #288 - Great Is Thy Faithfulness
VU #331 - The Church's One Foundation
VU #333 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
VU #334 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
VU #337 - Blessed Assurance
VU #382 - Breathe On Me, Breath of God
VU #436 - Abide with Me
VU #497 - Nearer, My God, to Thee
VU #586 - We Shall Go Out in Hope of Resurrection
VU #602 - Blest Be the Tie That Binds
VU #635 - All The Way My Saviour Leads Me
VU #644 - I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
VU #651 - Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
VU #652 - Be Still My Soul (VU #734, 854)
VU #657 - He Leadeth Me
VU #663 - My Faith Looks Up to Thee
VU #664 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus
VU #670 - Precious Lord Take My Hand
VU #675 - Will Your Anchor Hold
VU #686 - God of Grace and God of Glory
VU #703 - In The Bulb There Is a Flower
VU #705 - For All the Saints
VU #747 - The Lord's My Shepherd
VU #772 - Glorious Things of You Are Spoken
VU #806 - O God, Our Help in Ages Past
VU #808 - On Eagle's Wings
VU #842 - Unto the Hills
VU #959 - The Lord's Prayer
VU #221 - We Are Walking the Path of Peace

Honoraria and Fees

To assist the church in providing this ministry to you, an honorarium is customarily paid to the staff members providing your funeral or memorial service.

Minister: \$200
Mileage if service is offsite: +\$0.50 per km

Music Director: \$150
If extra rehearsal needed: +\$50

Custodian: \$50
Sound and Lights: \$50

Bulletin: \$50 for setup plus \$0.25 per page

Reception Hall: Contact the Church Office for rental costs.

Catering is the responsibility of the family.

If there is a wake at another time than the service, hall rental costs will apply. Please contact the office

Sanctuary for the Service: By donation. A tax receipt is offered for the amount given above the honoraria and fees listed above.

Honoraria are to be delivered by the day of the service.

Phone: 902-826-2523
Email: office@stlukesunited.ca

The policy of St Luke's United is that no person shall be refused funeral or memorial services due to financial restrictions. If there is a financial limitation, please discuss with the Minister.