

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Will any of the family or friends be permitted to speak at the funeral service?***

Public speaking is a challenging task even in normal situations. Public speaking at a funeral is even more challenging. The emotions of the day will feel even more powerful than they do now. For this reason, we discourage Eulogies during the Funeral Service. Instead, we suggest that these Eulogies be shared at the reception, as it is a more appropriate time and setting for the free sharing of memories.

As an option, reading scripture during the service is a meaningful way for family or friends to participate in the service.

### ***Can we include our loved one's favorite songs?***

The function of the songs selected is to remind us of biblical truths. Those songs that do not meet this standard, and yet are important to the family for sentimental reasons, are encouraged to be used at the reception, or during a memorial video that may be played during the reception.

If there are hymns or praise songs that were particularly meaningful to your loved one, or those which are meaningful to your family, can be shared during your Pastoral Appointment. The Pastor can help to guide you with the selection, use, and placement of these songs.

### ***What is the difference between a funeral service and a memorial service?***

A funeral service always includes the presence of the deceased's body. A graveside typically follows for the burial. A memorial service remembers a life while not having the body of the deceased present. Memorial services typically follow a graveside or private family burial.

### ***Can we place a picture of our loved one up front and/or near the entrance during the Funeral/Memorial?***

Yes. Trinity can help provide an easel(s) when you indicate that you will be using a picture(s) in the service. In selecting your picture(s), please remember the points listed above.

### ***Can we show a memorial video in the Funeral/Memorial Service?***

Memorial videos can be very special to the family and are encouraged at the reception. Special permission from the pastor must be granted for any memorial video to be shown in the public Funeral/Memorial service.

### ***What other things should we plan for and consider?***

**Memorials** – If you would like to have attendees give financial gifts to a charity or other organization in the name of your loved one, please indicate that information in your Pastoral Appointment. It will be included in the bulletin.

**Flowers** – All flowers delivered to the church will be set in appropriate places for the Funeral/Memorial service. If there is a graveside to follow the service, the mortuary may assist in transporting flowers for the family. Other times, the family is asked to transport the flowers of their choosing. Your mortuary can advise you about this detail.

**Guest Book** – You are invited to purchase a guestbook which those attending the funeral may sign, indicating their presence. This book can be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary/chapel and picked up by the family before the graveside. In some cases when the signing of the guestbook is delaying the start of the service the greeters and/or funeral directors may close the book in order to seat everyone more quickly. When this occurs the family will be encouraged to reopen the guestbook at the reception or as people leave the service.

**Receptions** – Receptions are a wonderful part of the Funeral/Memorial day. It provides opportunity for friends and families to gather and share special memories of their loved one. It also allows for a strong communication of support for those in grief. The reception often happens in the home of a family member following the service and/or graveside.

Trinity often hosts the reception. If this is of interest to you, please discuss this with the pastor or make arrangements through Sheryl Albers in the church office. Trinity has a wonderful set of volunteers who help to provide the meal and we are blessed to care for your family in this way. Again, please make arrangements in advance indicating the number of expected guests so that food can be ordered.

**Thank-You's** – All gifts of memorials, flowers, and food should be acknowledged with a written thank you. Most families have someone who is willing to help with recording these throughout the funeral service day in order that thank you cards might be sent at a later date.

***How do we handle Honorariums?***

In some cases, the mortuary will collect the Honorarium fees from you and then distribute them for you at the Funeral/Memorial/Graveside. However, other times these Honorariums are paid directly by the family. Please check with your mortuary as to how this will be handled.

There are a number of funeral homes in the Klein area who do a wonderful job. At Trinity we work most often with Klein Funeral Homes and have a strong relationship with them. Since we work with them most often they know our pastors well and understand the details of arranging a funeral/memorial service at Trinity.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact our Serve Director, Jean Smith, at [smithj@trinityklein.org](mailto:smithj@trinityklein.org)