

## **FUNERAL POLICY**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 13, 1995**

Church funerals are corporate worship services. Everything about them should proclaim the joy and victory of Christ's resurrection. Accordingly, the following policy has been established:

1. Pastors presiding at the funeral will be on the roster of the ELCA. The pastor of Zion Lutheran Church will preside at any member's funeral held in the Sanctuary. Other clergy may assist.
2. The Order of Worship for funerals will be authorized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America as printed in the Lutheran Book of Worship or in the Occasional Service Book.
3. The Music Director of Zion Lutheran Church will be used for all funerals. If the Music Director is absent a list of alternate organists is available. The fee for the organist is \$75. Please settle this issue with the funeral director prior to the funeral.
4. Soloists should be approved by the Pastor and Music Director. The fee for soloists ranges from \$35 - \$70. Please settle this with the Funeral Director prior to the funeral.
5. Music is to be sacred in nature and selected from the hymnal or music of the church. Music for the funeral shall be approved by the Pastor and Music Director. Only live voice and instrumental music will be permitted.
6. The coffin is always closed prior to the service and remains closed throughout the service.
7. The paraments will be in the color of the day or season.
8. All altar candles will be used as they are in the candelabras.
9. Flowers for the service, if used, must be fresh cut flowers.
10. The white Funeral Pall shall be used to cover the coffin while it is in the nave. For a member of the armed forces, the United States flag may replace the pall. The Funeral Pall or the United States flag will be placed on the coffin in the Narthex.
11. If the bereaved family wishes, the body may lie in state at the church prior to the service. The coffin may be placed in the Atrium where the family may gather and also receive visitors. Otherwise, the coffin shall lie in state at the mortuary in accordance with the guidelines suggested by the Funeral Director.
12. The Pastor will hold a short devotional for the family at the mortuary prior to the service at the church.
13. The Pastor will meet the procession in front of the church and walk them into the Sanctuary. The family shall be seated prior to the coffin being brought into the church.
14. The Pastor will lead the coffin into the Sanctuary. The coffin shall be placed at the foot of the Chancel perpendicular to the Altar.
15. After the dismissal, the Pastor will lead the coffin out of the Sanctuary. The family may follow the bier.
16. If the family desires, the Care Committee will provide a light meal before or after the service in the Fellowship Hall or in the home. There is no charge for members. Cost for non-members is \$100.