Bereavement Ministry



Christ Lutheran Church
GATHER. GROW. GO.

2314 E Main St
Bexley OH, 43209

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Pastor Leslie Fox Lott
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John 16:22

"So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

Celebrating Life and Grieving Loss at

Christ Lutheran Church

The family of God at Christ Lutheran Church stands beside you at this tender time of loss. We're honored to walk with you as you remember your loved one

Bereavement is one of life's most difficult challenges. With our minds and emotions working hard to process a loss, you may experience low energy, changes in sleep patterns, and appetite. Emotionally, it's common to have dramatic swings between feelings of numbness and strong anxiety, sadness, anger, and guilt. Mentally, people often have trouble concentrating, coping with forgetfulness, and slowed thinking. For these reasons, those who are grieving are advised to delay making life-changing decisions for at least a year following a loss.

As your experience of grief unfolds, we seek to accompany you with presence and prayer. Christ Lutheran offers inspiring worship and meaningful connections – and we welcome you, now and in the months and years to come. We wish you God's grace and comfort as you cope with your loss and step into a hope-filled future.

Grief lasts as long as love lasts - forever

What to Do Next

1. Determine date and time of service with church and funeral director

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2. Send a copy of the death announcement to the church office at klayman@christbexley.org.

3. Review the purpose and order of worship on the next page. Let the pastor know your worship preferences.

4. If you are having a casket, decide if you would like an open or closed casket. Select up to 8 pallbearers. A closed casket will be covered with our funeral pall. Cremains will be displayed in your urn.

5. Let us know if you have a video or photo slides you would like to include after the service. Send these files to klayman@christbexley.org.

6. Decide what refreshments you would like to include as part of your ceremony. These can range from coffee and cookies in the Narthex to a prepared lunch in the Gathering Space. Let the Bereavement Coordinator know your preference.

Funeral Worship Order

a. Casket is covered with pall. If the casket is covered with the American flag, it will be removed prior to entrance to worship space and replaced at conclusion of service.

b. Choice of prayers, songs, and readings you would like to include with the pastor.

c. Decide if you would like to celebrate the Eucharist during worship.

d. The purpose of the worship is to celebrate the promises we receive by the Word of God and claim the joy of life. If a eulogy is presented, the pastor will speak last. We wish to always end with the hope that is ours in Christ.

Possible Worship Texts

Job 19:23–27
Psalm 23, 27, 30, 34, 46, 48, 56, 116
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Song of Songs 8
Isaiah 41:10, 43:1-7
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33
Matthew 5:4, 11:28-30, 23:23
Romans 8:35, 37-39, 14:7-8
1 Corinthians 13, 15
2 Corinthians 1:3-5
Philippians 1:21-26
1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
2 Timothy 2:11-12
John 3:16, 11:25-26, 14:1-3, 27
Revelation 21:10, 21:1-7

Our Funeral Guidelines

1. The death of a loved one is an occasion for reflection, grief, as well as an occasion to proclaim our thanksgiving for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At Christ Lutheran Church, we're honored to come alongside you during this sacred time. It's our prayer that you might find comfort in the rituals of our faith as together we remember your loved one.

2. Ministry at the time of death includes times and occasions before and after the actual funeral service. The pastor can be available to travel to local hospitals and communities.

3. Ceremonies in our sanctuary are presided by a pastor of Christ Lutheran Church and managed by a Bereavement Coordinator. Church members will assist with coffee and cookies, lunch, and sound tech before, during, and after the service.

4. All ceremonies in this church are open opportunities for worship by people of any ethnicity or creed. No person, under any circumstances, shall be barred from worship at Christ Lutheran Church.

5. Up to one floral display will be placed in the worship space. Others may be put in the Gathering Place.

6. Celebration of the Eucharist is encouraged during the funeral ceremony, but not required.

7. Caskets will be covered with a funeral pall. Other coverings, such as flags, are not permitted.

8. Organists and/or accompanists have a separate fee of $150. There is a suggested donation of $200 that goes toward the pastor.

Facilities

Sanctuary: The sanctuary, which seats 200, is the congregation's place of worship and is central to its life as the Body of Christ in this place. Funerals come to be celebrated within the context of the community and its life and seasons. Thus, furnishings may not be moved for any reason. They are not to be considered as intrusions to the funeral. The paraments (altar cloths) may not be removed or changed.

For liability and health reasons, please note that alcoholic beverages and smoking are not permitted in the church building or on church property.

Prayground: The area known as the "Prayground" provides a space for quiet play in our sanctuary for children aged 6 years and under who are being cared for by parents or older siblings.

Hospitality

Hosting a reception or meal: Your family is invited to use the Gathering Space and Lounge to serve guests.

The church will provide set-up of tables, chairs, serving area, utensils, napkins, coffee, tea and cold water.

Families will need to provide refreshments, or have catered items delivered. Our Bereavement Coordinator with set up the dinging space, assist with serving and clean up.

The following lists a few local catering options:

City Barbeque – citybbq.com

The Berwick Manor & Catering – (614) 235.7100, https://the-berwick.com

Market District Express, Giant Eagle – (614) 591.6635

Cherbourg Bakery – besweetcherbourg.com, info@cherbourgbakery.com, (614)835.6133

FUNERAL WORK SHEET

Deceased Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Lead Pastor: _____ No. bulletins to print: _____

Service: (Time, Date, Place) _____

Organist: _____ (confirmed) (Contacted by) _____ Paid _____
Fee: $150 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

Will you need (Yes or No):

_____ Soloist: _____ (confirmed) (Contacted by) _____ Paid _____
Fee: $150 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

_____ Livestream Attendant: _____(Confirmed) (Contacted by) _____ Paid ____
Fee: $50 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

_____ Bereavement Coordinator: _____(Confirmed)(Contacted by)____Paid ____
Fee: $50 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

Lead Pastor: Suggested Donation $200 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

Associate Pastor: Suggested Donation $50 (Check made payable to Christ Lutheran)

Fees total due: _____ Pymt rec'd (date) _____ Check ☐ Chk # _____ Cash ☐

TYPE OF SERVICE

☐ Commendation (with casket)

☐ Commendation (with ashes)

☐ Memorial (no ashes)

Pall Arrangements: _____

Internment:
_____

Funeral Home: (contact person) _____

Funeral Home: (Time, Place) _____

RECEPTION

Reception Arrangements (family contact) _____

Anticipated Serving Time _____

Number Guests Anticipated _____

Who Will Be Catering the Luncheon:_____

Caterer's phone number: _____

NOTES: _____

For Office Use: FORWARDING ADDRESS TO BE USED:

Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Reception Coordinator: _____

Assisting: _____

FUNERAL CHECK SHEET

Days Ahead

_____ Calendar was checked for worship space conflicts

_____ Calendar was checked for luncheon space conflicts

_____ Let the Altar Guild know the date of the funeral, so oil in the candles can be checked

_____ Let the Altar Guild know if there will be communion

_____ Check coffee and water supply.

_____ Make sure table cloths are clean and have been returned to the church.

_____ Appropriate groups notified

Day Before

_____ Open Casket, Change the light above the face to pink.

_____ If calling hours, pull the curtain and set up chairs.

_____ If there is a video setup TV and Chairs.

_____ Bring down the Plant stands and Easel from the attic if needed.

_____ Set up tables for Pictures if needed.

_____ Set up table and chairs for reception.

_____ Make arrangements with the caterer or people providing the food.

_____ Move the podium to the Gathering Place to be used for the registration stand.

_____ Place tissues in the front pews.

_____ Rope of the first two or three pews on the pulpit side for the family.

_____ Place Bulletins @ the entrances to the Sanctuary

_____ Place Reader Texts at the lectern.

_____ Put the pastors' Leaders copies in their boxes

Day Of

_____ Add water to the font

_____ Check batteries in the mic(s)

_____ Check on the Sanctuary and Gathering Place for appropriate heat settings

_____ Unlock doors and turn on lights

_____ Turn on the Sound System

_____ Sweep/Blow-off/shovel all sidewalks

_____ Check bathrooms

_____ Custodian to Ring Bell to Begin Service at Organist Cue

Once the procession has left the church

_____ Extinguish the Candles

_____ Empty the water in the font.

_____ Lock the front doors

_____ Help Family Carry items to the car

_____ Turn out all lights

_____ Break down Tables & Chairs after reception

_____ Sweep

_____ Straighten & Sweep Sanctuary

_____ Check Bathrooms

_____ Take out trash

_____ Put white light back in the Gathering Place (remove pink light)

Record Keeping

_____ Church Windows _____ Directory _____ Envelope System