

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Number 3.30
Subject Funeral Guidelines
Effective Date 10/8/02
(edited 11/15, 7/17, 9/17)
Committee Personnel

Pastoral Acts/Funeral Guidelines

Funerals and Memorial services are a part of the worship life of this congregation. Funerals for non-members will be conducted at the discretion of the pastors of St. James.

1. The death of a member of the church should be reported as soon as possible to the pastor, who will assist in all arrangements for the funeral.
2. The pastor of the church will normally officiate at all funerals and memorial services.
3. Visitation will normally be held at the funeral home or in St. James Gathering Area. The funeral service (with the casket present and closed) may be held at the funeral home or at St. James. Since the church is the place where significant events of our earthly pilgrimage take place (baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, marriage) it is desirable that the funeral service for a church member also be held in the church.
4. A committal service (grave-side service) may be held prior to or following the worship service, according to the family's preference.
5. A memorial service is held at St. James when the committal has preceded the service, or in the case of cremation or donation of the body for medical research.
6. The service is designed to give witness to the Christian Gospel, which is our hope and comfort, and also to give thanks for the life of the deceased. Hymns and scripture readings that convey confidence and hope are selected for the service by the pastor in consultation with the family. A brief statement of remembrance by a close friend or member of the family may be incorporated into the church service at the pastor's discretion.
7. No casket spray of flowers is necessary for the funeral service since the church provides a pall for covering the casket as it enters the church.
8. The Minister of Music will provide music for the service, playing for about fifteen minutes prior to the service. Music will be selected which conveys confidence, trust and hope in the resurrection. If Minister of Music is unavailable, he will assist in finding an organist
9. St. James Caregivers will serve a reception or luncheon at the church following services for a member of St. James when requested by the family. This is provided at no charge, although memorial gifts may be given to St. James Caregivers.
10. Fees: There are no fees for funeral, burial, or memorial services.
11. The Building Supervisor will be paid by the church for funerals or memorial services held on a weekend. The amount paid will be the same as that paid for a wedding.

When the pastor of St. James Lutheran Church has agreed with a visiting pastor that he/she shall officiate at a funeral on behalf of the pastoral office of St. James, the above guidelines will be followed.