

Grave Side Committal:

The Grave Side committal is often brief. It is also almost always a very intimate group...many times only family and the pastor. Generally the pastor performs the entirety of this service. However, if any of the family members would like to speak, read scripture, offer prayers, that is always appropriate. Those can be coordinated with the pastor ahead of time. Generally the committal is structured like this:

Order of Service:

After the family gathers and is seated....

- Opening Prayer
- Scripture Reading
- Committal of the body
- Prayer/Lord's Prayer
- Final Blessing

Post Funeral Meal:

Alive In Christ considers it a privilege to serve a meal for the family. In order to accommodate this desire, a team of volunteers and a process have been put into place so that should the family desire for us to provide this service the family knows what to expect and how much it will cost. Appendix A in this guide has a price list and menu for you to consider.

Honorariums:

Generally no honorariums are expected for pastor or staff members who are serving the members of Alive In Christ by performing a funeral. Honorariums for those who are not staff members is a way to show them you appreciate their support of the family during this difficult time. How much and what kind of honorariums are up to you but should be appropriate to the task involved and you are free to recognize those who support you in any way you choose. The following is a list of people who will be involved in making a typical funeral service happen:
Sound/Technician, Musician(s), Servers/Caring and Fellowship Board members, Office Staff.



Appendix A

Funeral Luncheon/Dessert Reception Guide

In our experience Funeral meals are best when kept simple and affordable. The idea behind the meal is to provide an opportunity for family and friends to come together over a light meal to fellowship, support, grieve and spend time together. While you are not obligated to use our services, you will find that it is often easier and more affordable to allow us to provide this service for you rather than having a catered meal brought in. Feel free to ask questions about this service during your meeting with Pastor.

Our price guide includes:

Ham, buns, cheese, chips, carrots, dips, condiments, a variety of salads, desserts, coffee, lemonade and water. The meal is served buffet style.

Luncheon for 50: \$160

Luncheon for 75: \$200

Luncheon for 100: \$250

For meals of over 100, please contact us for specific pricing.

For a Dessert Reception our price includes a variety of cakes, cookies, sweet breads or other pastries, coffee, Hot Tea, Lemonade and Water. It is served buffet style.

Dessert for 50: \$100

Dessert for 75: \$150

Dessert for 100: \$200

For Dessert Receptions for over 100, please contact us for specific pricing.

- An additional fee of \$75 is also required for set up, preparation, cleaning and tear down after the meal.
- Any leftover food/desserts will be given to the family after the reception.
- All fees can be paid by check to: Alive In Christ. In the memo line please indicate:
"Funeral Luncheon for (name of deceased)"



201 Southampton Dr.
Columbia, MO 65203
573.499.0443



*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life... whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25*

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."
- Psalm 116:15*

For Those Who Are Grieving...

We want you to know that you are not alone and that we are here to help you in your time of need. When dealing with the loss of a loved one, everything can be more difficult. So this guide is intended to give you the information you need to make key decisions and to hopefully make the days immediately after the death easier.

Generally when a loved one dies and you desire Alive In Christ to be involved in the services, a meeting should be set up with the pastor. Because funerals are times for the loved ones to remember, celebrate, grieve together and focus on God's grace and love for their loved one, it is always more effective if those who are performing the service have a relationship with the deceased and/or the family. This is why we encourage the family to choose a church or pastor that had a relationship with the deceased or family. While this isn't always possible, it is preferable. At that meeting, if there was no relationship with Alive In Christ, the pastor and family will talk about whether or not Alive In Christ can or should perform this service. Should the pastor decide to perform the service, several things will then happen.

First, prayer and support for the grieving. Secondly, a time to talk about the life of the loved one. This helps pastor as he prepares for the service. Third, some logistical planning (times of services, grave-side committal, service structure, meal plans, etc.).

The following guide will help you as you think about this important service. It can be filled out ahead of time and brought to the meeting with the pastor. It will help you and Alive In Christ prepare for the service and in our experience, having these plans set will make the entire process more focused and much more meaningful for the family and friends.

Should you have any questions about any of this, please bring those questions to the meeting with the pastor and our commitment to you is that will do our best to make this event special for you and one that glorifies God.



"Jesus wept" - John 11:35 - at the tomb of his friend Lazarus

Funeral Planning Guide:

Name of Deceased _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Place & Date of Baptism: _____

Please describe their Career/Work Life:

Please talk about their faith in Jesus:

What are some special memories that you might like to share with those at the funeral:

Were there any special causes, hobbies, etc. that were special to them?

What hymns, music was special to them that we might be able to use during the service?

Anything else you'd like to share?

Funeral Service Time: _____

Often planned in conjunction with the funeral home and the pastor and the family.

Grave Side Service:

Place _____ Time: _____

(If unsure, leave it blank, we will fill it in as details become available)

NOTE: If the grave side service is out of town or out of state, it might not be possible for pastor to attend. The funeral home will help you with arrangements in that case.

Photos/Slide Shows/Collages, Flowers:

Many families like to have a photo slide show running during the pre-service or even during the service. If you would like to have this feature, you will need to coordinate this with pastor and our A.V. Ministry.

NOTE: We will need a good quality photo for the service bulletin. This can be emailed or brought into the office prior to the funeral. We have the ability to scan photos if no electronic version is available. Generally funeral bulletins are printed either the day of or late on the day before the funeral. We will coordinate with the office staff so that this is ready to go and approved by the family prior to the service. Often photos of the deceased, collages, meaningful objects such as artwork or other items special to the deceased will be displayed. The family is responsible for the arrangement and the removal of these prior to and after the service. The funeral home often can help with easels, etc. Alive In Christ has tables available for you to use at no charge. The family is responsible for any table coverings and for the arrangement of these items. We will talk about this during the meeting.

Memorial Offerings:

Many times people will donate funds for a memorial. Sometimes these go to causes that were special to the deceased or family. Sometimes the family would like them to go to Alive In Christ. If that is the case, we would like some guidance on how to use those funds to memorialize the deceased. While this does not have to be decided before time, please be thinking about your wishes. Any monies given to Alive In Christ will go into a restricted accounted titled:

_____(name)_____ Memorial Fund. Memorial funds in the past have been used for altar paraments, communion ware, scholarships, the building fund, etc... Generally if no such designation is given, the funds will remain in the fund until a possible need arises. The leadership will often consult the family (if possible) about using the memorial funds in a particular way. Our goal is to use those funds in a way that blesses God and His people and remembers the one we memorialize.

alive in christ
In Loving Memory
of _____
 To be used according to the needs or wishes of the family
 Other _____
With the Deepest Sympathy of: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____

The Funeral Service:

The Following is a "typical" order of service. Please review and think about if there is anything you would like to add or eliminate. Bring your questions, thoughts or ideas to the meeting with the pastor.

- Pre-service music/slide show
- Welcome (if no procession into the sanctuary)
- Scripture Reading: (often Psalm 23)
- Song/Hymn: (Can either be sung by the congregation or as a special by the musician.)
- Scripture Reading:
- Remembering the Life of the Deceased: (Often done by family members)
- Song/Hymn:
- Sermon:
- Prayers:
- Scripture Reading:
- Song:
- Blessing
- Recession

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