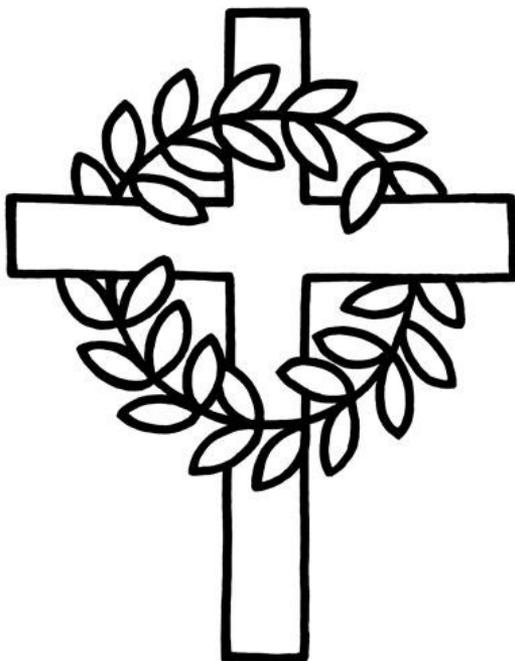


Celebrating Resurrection
Funeral Guide



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
23838 Kittridge Street
West Hills, CA 91307
818-348-8343

www.sovlc.org

In this booklet...

Caring for Loved Ones in Grief	p. 3
Planning Worship	p. 4
Memorial Gifts / Flowers	p. 5
Receptions	p. 6
Resources	p. 7
Fees and Honoraria	p. 7
Contact Us	Back Cover

During the COVID-19 pandemic, guidelines remain subject to change and options may be limited. Our church complies with current local, state, and federal regulations and recommendations and makes keeping a safe, healthy environment for everyone a priority. Your understanding and compliance are appreciated.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. - Romans 14:7-8

Caring for Loved Ones in Grief



The death of a loved one is a powerful and singular experience. Every death, like every life, is unique. Emotions are rich, multiple, and complex. There is no one right way to grieve, and different people in different circumstances will grieve very differently.

Please be gentle and kind with yourself and with others during this time of loss. Allow time to listen, laugh, cry, and process feelings and meanings. Do not force, rush or suppress grief. Do not judge or criticize unexpected reactions. Seek and offer support whenever needed, possible, and appropriate.

Please remember that Christ's church is here to accompany you and your loved ones on the grief journey. Do not hesitate to contact us. Reach out to the pastor for personal, confidential spiritual care and guidance when needed. Request a carefully trained Stephen Minister for long term listening and support. Attend worship and take comfort and nourishment from the service and community. Let us share God's love with you not only at the funeral or memorial service, but also throughout the difficult days ahead.

Planning Worship

As soon as you are ready to plan a funeral or memorial service for your loved one, ***please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting as well as the service date and time*** (818/348-8343 or bhiortdahl@sovls.org). We will make every reasonable effort to adjust schedules to fit your needs, but please understand that certain times might be unavailable due to prior commitments and holy days.

The meeting with the pastor has two purposes: to plan the specifics of the service, and to share memories and stories. This helps the pastor personalize the message and also gives you time to pause and reflect upon the life and legacy of your loved one. In planning the service, there are two guiding principles: it is Christian worship, and it honors the deceased.

A basic outline of the usual service order is as follows:

Welcome

Entrance Hymn

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Brief Remembrances (optional)

Scripture Readings

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Prayers

Holy Communion (optional)

Commendation and Blessing

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

Holy Communion is appropriate when all feel welcome to participate. If it will unite the room, it is encouraged. If it will divide the room because of a multiplicity of traditions, it is counter-productive and discouraged.

Scripture readings and hymns are selected by the family in consultation with the pastor. **Special music** may also be added. Brief **remembrances** and other readings may also be shared before the reading of Scripture.

Military honors and/or **video tributes** may precede the service. Please consult with the pastor about all of these possibilities at the meeting.

The placement of flowers, photo displays, and other sanctuary decorations is at the discretion of the pastor. Balloons and plastic flowers are not permitted. The color for the day is determined by the Christian calendar.

Memorial Gifts

Many people honor those who have died with monetary memorial gifts to a charity of the family's choice. Please notify the pastor or church office of one or more recipients for such gifts. A basket will be placed in the narthex (sanctuary lobby) with a sign inviting contributions.

Flowers

Please take and enjoy all flowers received. If appropriate, one small altar arrangement may be left to adorn the altar for the upcoming Sunday and a remembrance may be placed in that Sunday's worship bulletin. Please do not leave the rest of the flowers behind at the church. Thank you.

Receptions

Founders Hall is available for receptions following worship. Regrettably at this time, the church is unable to guarantee volunteers to provide hospitality. Table decorations, displays, and full meals are at the expense and discretion of the family. Fully catered meals must be provided by Bella Donna Catering. Please speak with the pastor or church office about your plans and wishes.

Children being supervised by at least two responsible adults are welcome to use the play area outside.

In all cases, please leave things as you found them.

Resources

While the following are not required (except Bella Donna Catering for fully catered receptions), Shepherd of the Valley recommends the following vendors:

Catering: Bella Donna Catering, 818/883-2115
belladonnacatering.com

Funeral Home: Gates, Kingsley & Gates Praiswater
818/348-3354, dignitymemorial.com

Florist: Lia's Flowers, 818/642-1308
liasflowers.com

Fees and Honoraria

In the event of financial hardship, please speak confidentially with the pastor. Funds may be available to help offset the following costs.

For ease in processing, please pay the following with separate checks.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Others</u>
Shepherd of the Valley <i>for use of Founders Hall, if desired</i>	\$150	\$400
Reception Coordinator <i>if available</i>	\$150	\$200
Organist <i>usually Mark Weiser</i>	\$150	\$200
Audio/Video (2 technicians) <i>if live streaming and/or recording service (2 techs required) (if video presentation only (1 tech) and cost is 1/2 of above)</i>	\$200	\$300
Soloist, if desired	varies by selection	

In addition, an honorarium to the pastor (*usually Rev. Brian Hiortdahl*) is customary and appreciated. \$200 is suggested.

Contact Us

Rev. Brian Hiortdahl, Pastor

818/348-8343
bhiortdahl@sovls.org

Mark Weiser, Organist/Pianist

818/636-3258
marklanzweiser@gmail.com

Church Office

818/348-8343
office@sovls.org

www.sovlc.org



*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff – they comfort me.*
Psalm 23:4

(Updated August 2021)