

Zion Funeral Services

We hope the church's hospitality can be a blessing to you during this time. In order to help you best plan the day of the service, here are a few things of which to be aware.

- We can serve you best during normal office hours at Zion, typically from 8:30-4:30 on weekdays. The staff is all present if we need additional setup or bulletins for guests. For this reason, we encourage late morning or early afternoon services and visitation.
- Zion is a hub of community activity. What this means for you is that most evenings and weekends there will be a considerable amount of other groups using the building as well. From weddings/rehearsals to youth activities and standing meetings, these are scheduled months in advance.
- Over the past few years, we have seen people most frequently plan for an 11am weekday service preceded by visitation of one or two hours. Lunch will typically follow the service, either before or after the interment at the cemetery.

Visitation: Visitation is typically the one to two hours preceding the service. The family is present to greet and talk with those paying their respects. Occasionally, a prayer service is held the evening prior to the Funeral Service. It is brief, containing Scripture reading, prayer, and some comments. Sometimes it needs to be scheduled near the beginning or end of the visitation time because of the pastors' commitments.

Obituary: In most cases, we will get the obituary from the funeral home. If the funeral home is not involved, we will need a copy of the obituary the day before if it is to be read at the service.

The following examples are the general outline for a service. Some variations to these outlines can be made.

Funeral Service at the Chapel

Invocation and welcome

Scripture

Music _____

Sermon

Music

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Commendation at the casket

Funeral Service at Zion

Invocation and welcome

Scripture

Solo or Congregational Hymn

Sermon

Solo or Congregational Hymn

Prayers with congregation joining
responsively

Commendation at the casket

(Option: In extremely inclement weather, or when special considerations call for it, the committal service can be inserted at this point at either the chapel or Zion

Benediction

Benediction

Funeral Lunch for _____

The Women of Zion are prepared to serve a light lunch consisting of ham on buns, potato chips, pickles, cake and coffee. Buns and ham are purchased at the grocery store and Zion members donate cake. If the family is able, they will be asked to pay the cost of the sandwiches and chips.

Honorariums and Memorials

Presiding and preaching at funerals is part of the call of a pastor. Zion's pastors plan a full week of work and typically have full daily schedules. This means that services such as funerals are in addition to an already full week of church activities, so people often choose to give the pastor a gift. The funeral home is aware of the customary amount.

However, gifts to the organist, sound technician and soloist are necessary as this is something extra for them. If the service takes place outside of the normal operating hours of the church, a custodial fee is required. The funeral director has suggestions for these costs. Arrangements can be made through the funeral director or personally.

Memorial Gifts

We have two ways that memorial gifts can be given to Zion:

- 1) Our Memorial Fund through which you may contribute toward specific items we currently have, or allow the Memorial Committee to use their discretion for future needs. Please ask for a copy of our Memorial Fund brochure as it contains some meaningful ways to remember your loved one.
- 2) Our Zion Foundation in which the gifts are invested and only the proceeds of the investment are used each year. In this way, a gift "keeps on giving" year after year after year.

Burial

Zion Cemetery _____

Other _____

- 1) Ask us for a separate list of regulations regarding placement of headstone, flowers, etc.
- 2) The cemetery sexton will be contacted by the funeral home to arrange the details.



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