

Funeral Policy

Purpose: A funeral is the solemn rite through which the Church remembers and honours those who die, and commends them into the arms of God's mercy. In the celebration of this service both the comfort of God's promises and the sure and certain hope of the resurrection are brought to those who mourn. The policies of the congregation, regarding the conduct of funerals, reflect its understanding that while, for the Christian, death is a time of sorrow; it also marks the point of entrance in the new life God has promised. The directions which follow are intended to provide assistance to families as they honour their loved ones and lay them to their final rest.

Responsibility: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council in consultation with the Pastor is responsible for the administration of this Policy.

Policy:

1. **Supervision:** All funerals conducted from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) are to be approved by the Pastor.
2. **Arrangements:** Arrangements for the content and order of the service are made through consultation among the bereaved, the Pastor and the Funeral Director.
3. **Rites:** In keeping with the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, GSLC does not enter into corporate worship with any organization which practices forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ, the eternal and incarnated Son of God, as our only Saviour. Therefore, organizations which wish to conduct a ritual in connection with the funeral service, may do so outside of the funeral liturgy and outside the Church building. In general, the appropriate places and times for such rites would be at the Funeral Home before the funeral.
4. **Organist:** The Funeral Director is responsible for arranging and compensating a GSLC organist according to the Funeral Fee Schedule shown below.
5. **Reception:** The Funeral Director, in consultation with the bereaved family, will make all necessary arrangements for the provision and supervision of a funeral reception held at GSLC.
 - a. The Funeral Director, at their discretion, may arrange for volunteers from Good Shepherd to participate in the provision of a funeral reception at GSLC.
 - b. A representative of the Funeral Home will be present at all times to assist guests.
 - c. The basement hall will normally be used in order that services in other parts of the building may proceed without interruption.
 - d. All provisions of the GSLC - Use of Church Facility Policy will apply.
6. **Fees:** The Funeral Director is best aware of the needs and abilities of the bereaved and in consultation with the service providers listed below in the Funeral Fee Schedule, may adjust fees at their discretion.

All fees are to be collected by the Funeral Director and paid to the respective service providers.

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Selkirk MB

Funeral Fee Schedule

Clergy	This fee is set by the Pastor.
Organist	\$100 (if family has any special requirements, additional cost will need to be negotiated with the organist)
Sound Technician	\$50
Audio & Visual Technician	\$100
Custodian	\$60 per level (e.g. main floor – \$60, additional \$60 if basement is also used)
Lunch	Sandwiches, dainties, and beverages – call for pricing. Only available if GSLC has sufficient volunteers available to prepare lunch (contact GSLC to inquire on availability)
Administration	We reserve the right to charge an administration fee of \$100 (minimum), up to a maximum of \$250.
Rental	For funerals that are part of Good Shepherd's ministry, that is, Good Shepherd's Pastor or their designate officiates at the funeral and provides pastoral support to the family, there is no fee. An honorarium for the use of the facility will be greatly appreciated. For funerals that are not part of Good Shepherd's ministry, the following rental fees will be charged: Sanctuary - \$200 Basement - \$150 (for overflow seating or a reception following the service)

All fees are subject to change.

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Selkirk MB

Revision History:

Original: Funeral Expenses, March 2003.

Revision 1: Funeral Fee Schedule. Revised language and fees. Approved June 22, 2009.

Revision 2: Revised language and fees. Approved October 19, 2009.

Revision 3: Revised fees. Approved October 15, 2012.

Revision 4: Revised fees. Approved January 14, 2013.

Revision 5: Standardized format with revised language and fees. Approved October 11, 2016.

Revision 6: Revised fees. Approved February 12, 2019.

Revision 7: Revised language and fees. Approved June 11, 2019.

Revision 8: Revised fees. Approved October 8, 2019.

Revision 9: Revised fees. Approved March 9, 2021.

Revision 10: Revised fees. Approved October 11, 2023.