

## **Zion Lutheran Church, Warroad, MN - Funeral Policies**

1. A funeral is a worship service, the main focus of which is God's victory in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's victory is for all people, and the funeral service gives particular attention to the life and death of the deceased and that person's share in God's victory. In keeping with worship, the music, participation, and conduct will serve the purpose of worship and proclamation of the gospel.
2. The pastor of Zion Lutheran Church will preside at the prayer service, funeral service and graveside service.
3. If a family would like another pastor to be part of the day's observances, they are asked to speak with the host pastor first. The host pastor can then understand what the family requests and the family can understand the pastor's and church's perspective on this important aspect of mission and ministry. If a guest pastor is to participate, the host pastor will be responsible for contacting the guest pastor so that they may confer about the particulars of the day.
4. If a family would like another organization to be involved, the appropriate times would be at the funeral home or the graveside. This would apply to fraternal organizations which may have their ceremonies at the funeral home, the temple, or after the graveside.
5. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW and VFW Auxiliary are welcome to be present at the prayer service, funeral and graveside service. Military honors will be at the end of the funeral service in Zion's outside entry or at the graveside. If there is inclement weather or other concerns, it may take place in Zion's gathering space.
6. If another Christian congregation wants to use Zion's facility for a funeral, the family or funeral home will contact the church office to learn whether the church is available. A building usage form will be completed and permission granted by the pastor. The pastor of Zion (or another congregational leader) will be present at the funeral as host and welcome those gathered on behalf of Zion Lutheran Church.

**Approved by Worship/Music Committee, July 11, 2019**

**Approved by Zion Lutheran Church Council, August 20, 2019**