

## Frequently Asked Questions

*What's the difference between a funeral and a memorial service?*

A funeral is a service where the body or cremated remains are present; a memorial service is where no body or remains are present.

*What do we do when a family member dies?*

First, call the church at 763.545.5659 and ask to notify a pastor. If after business hours, follow the directions at that number to reach the pastor on call.

*How is a funeral or memorial service date set?*

Arriving at a service date and time is made with the assistance of the pastor based on the loved one's wishes and family schedules, as well as worship and reception space availability and interment scheduling. Funerals or memorial services at Calvary are typically held on weekdays at 11 a.m. in either the Chapel (seating for up to 200) or the Sanctuary. In the unlikely event that worship space is unavailable, a Calvary pastor may preside at a service held at a local funeral home chapel. At minimum, three days are necessary to make all arrangements.

*How might we prepare for our meeting with the pastor when planning a service for our loved one?*

If a Planning Your Funeral or Memorial Service worksheet had not been completed, take some time to consider your loved one's favorite hymns or Bible verses. Often these are highlighted in a family hymnal or Bible, or even spelled out in a prepaid funeral plan. If there's a family member or friend you'd like to have participate in the service, connect with them in advance to confirm their availability and willingness. Possible participation might include sharing memories, reading Scripture, singing a solo, or serving as a pallbearer or crucifer (appointed to carry the cross during the procession).

*What is a funeral pall?*

A funeral pall is the white cloth that covers a coffin, representing the white robe of Christ all are clothed in when baptized.

*Is funeral home assistance needed if there is no body present?*

As a rule of thumb, assistance would be requested if the anticipated attendance is 50 guests or more. Whether performed by funeral home personnel or family volunteers, duties that are typically carried out include: Arranging the placement of flowers, picture boards and memorabilia; providing a guest book; greeting guests and handing out worship bulletins; distributing honorariums; and returning all items to their original locations following the service.

*What are the Calvary fees associated with a funeral or memorial service?*

Typical fees include: Honorariums for the pastor and musicians, including organist/pianist and soloist. Contact Calvary's Funeral Administrative Assistant, Lora Edwards, [ledwards@calvary.org](mailto:ledwards@calvary.org) or 763.231.2956, for suggested amounts.

*What are our reception options?*

While not required, receptions may be held in the following Calvary locations:

- Calvary's Gathering Room (accommodating up to 225 people)
- Calvary's 2nd floor commons area (up to 125)
- Calvary's Gym (up to 250)

For receptions of 100 or more, two buffet lines are suggested.

Catering options include:

- A dessert served by Calvary's Funeral Team at no charge (comprised of cake, lemonade and coffee). Offered weekdays.
- A cold lunch served by Calvary's Funeral Team; the bill submitted to the family following the event. Lunch includes meat and cheese trays, buns, potato salad, mixed fruit, chips, cake, lemonade and coffee. Offered weekdays. For current pricing, contact Lora, [ledwards@calvary.org](mailto:ledwards@calvary.org) or 763.231.2956.
- A catered lunch provided by an approved outside caterer; the food order and bill are handled directly by the family. Approved caterers include:
  - Crowning Touch (763.533.6464), [www.crowningtouchcatering.com](http://www.crowningtouchcatering.com)
  - Heavenly Hosts (763.360.2596), [www.heavenlyhostscatering.com](http://www.heavenlyhostscatering.com)

*Are there other details we should be aware of?*

You'll be asked to provide Calvary with a picture of your loved one to be included in Calvary's All Saints Remembrance Services held the first weekend of November. All worship services will honor those departed during the past year with a slideshow and a time to light a candle in remembrance of their lives. Pictures in the form of a .jpg may be forwarded to Lora Edwards, [ledwards@calvary.org](mailto:ledwards@calvary.org). Invitations to attend the services will be sent to a representative of the family in October.

*How should memorial gifts to Calvary be handled?*

Church and Endowment Fund staff can assist you in handling gifts received as memorials on behalf of your loved one. Contact Lois Palmquist, [lpalmquist@calvary.org](mailto:lpalmquist@calvary.org) or 763.231.2985, for further information.