



Helping You through the Grieving Process

As you read these suggestions for funerals at The Village at Augsburg—A National Lutheran Community, please know that you are not alone as you grieve. The team at Augsburg stands by to help you in any way possible.

The funeral home of your choice will arrange many of the details associated with the funeral including transport, burial, etc. This guide is meant to assist you as you think through the details of the service.

If your loved one had any prearranged wishes, please share those with us.

Grieving and remembering

Funerals at The Village at Augsburg are primarily worship services. Funerals give residents, team members, families and friends the opportunity to grieve the loss of a loved one as well as to celebrate the multitude of ways his/her life has touched us. Yes, there are tears shed, but not for the one who has died. Rather, our tears are because of the empty space in our lives and hearts. We hope there will be some laughter shared when family and friends share their memories. These personal tributes are welcome, but we ask that this portion of the worship be limited in total of 10–15 minutes.

Prior to the worship service, guests will have an opportunity to view the casket, photos and mingle with one another. Family members can choose to be present for this, or can sequester in a private, reserved space.

An opportunity to glorify and thank God

Our primary purpose for the funeral is not to eulogize the individual who has passed. It is to recognize that it is in “God that we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:23). We thank God for “giving us life and breath and everything else” but we also look forward to life beyond the grave and a reunion with those who have gone before us.

Planning the worship service and interment

Our chaplain is honored to help you with the selection of Scriptures, hymns, and prayers for the service. The chaplain has sample worship services for the family to look at and will also photocopy the number of bulletins or programs that are needed. Generally speaking, the chaplain accompanies the body to the cemetery for interment. The only exception to this is a cemetery that is a prohibitive distance away from Baltimore (50 miles or more). As the chaplain cannot accept personal gifts, any gift provided by families will be donated to the charity of your choice or to the Resident Care Fund at The Village at Augsburg.

We understand many families have a preferred spiritual leader. We can accommodate a clergy member of your choice performing the service.

Your personal touch

We have the projection equipment in our Worship and Community Life Center to show any DVD that you might put together for the life of your loved one and also encourage picture boards. When the option of cremation is chosen, a large portrait on an easel near the altar rail is appropriate and appreciated. Flowers may be placed on the altar, on the shelves mounted in the chancel, and in front of the pulpit.

If you have other requests, please discuss them with the chaplain.

Fellowship after the interment

Our dietary team's primary responsibility is to see to the needs of residents. To ensure the best possible service for them, we cannot serve meals at Augsburg after the funeral service. Health regulations do not permit us to have outside caterers serving meals. Many families chose to gather in one of the area restaurants.

Musicians and their remuneration

We have several volunteer organists/pianists who help us on Sundays, but a few of them do not work full-time, and can be arranged to play for the service through the chaplain. The suggested honorarium is at least \$100. We can also accommodate a musician of your choice.

Questions or concerns

Please contact Pastor Ray at 410-486-4573 extension 186 or rogers@thevillageataugsburg.org.