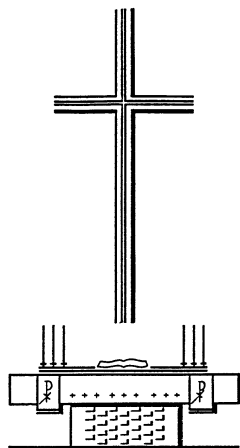


## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

The time of grief is a difficult time of change, loneliness and loss. Individuals will frequently benefit from pastoral guidance and support in the time of loss.

The Pastor and members of Gethsemane stand ready to assist and encourage you with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the days and weeks following the funeral. If you desire assistance or a visit with the Pastor, please feel free to contact the Pastor at 1-248-852-5510.



I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
What Comfort This Sweet Sentence Gives  
He Lives, He Lives, Who Once Was Dead  
He Lives My Ever-Living Head.

He Lives To Silence All My Fears,  
He Lives To Wipe Away My Tears,  
He Lives To Calm My Troubled Heart,  
He Lives All Blessings To Impart.

He Lives All Glory To His Name!  
He Lives, My Jesus, Still the Same.  
Oh, The Sweet Joy This Sentence Gives,  
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

*The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 200*

*Approved by GLC Elders, 7/17/02*

# Funeral Handbook



*A Guide For Families In  
Time of Grief*

***Gethsemane Lutheran Church-LCMS***

***1892 E. Auburn Road***

***Rochester Hills, MI 48307***

***1-248-852-5510***

***<http://GLCRH.org>***

***Rev. Thomas F. Fischer, Pastor***

## HOPE...IN TIME OF GRIEF

At this time of loss, the members of Gethsemane extend their heartfelt sympathy and direct you to the Christian hope which comforts us. St.. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians wrote,

*“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Cor. 15:56-57 (KJV)*

Christ has given us the victory. In sorrow, there is rejoicing. In death, there is life. In suffering, there is victory in Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you!

*The Pastor and Family of God at Gethsemane Lutheran Church*

## THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Gethsemane stands ready to assist bereaved families. Member families are encouraged to worship and praise God in our sanctuary so that hymns, prayers, and praise can be offered to God in His own house. Those who prefer may also have memorial services held at the Funeral Home.

Worship service times are normally arranged with the Pastor in consultation with the family and the Funeral Director. Please call the church office for current fees relating to organists, soloists, officiants or others involved in the memorial service.

A printed order of worship is provided free of charge and is commonly used for all funeral services. In planning the memorial service, the Pastor will ask family members for suggested hymns, Scripture readings and sermon themes. Efforts will be made to do everything possible to accommodate the family's preferences for the date and time of the memorial service. Any special requests should be directed to the Pastor as soon as possible.

## GRAVESIDE RITES

The Pastor will conduct all graveside rites. Military rites, if applicable, may be conducted at the graveside immediately after religious rites have been completed.

In accordance with the Word of God, the beliefs of evangelical Christianity and the practice of the LCMS, GLC will not permit rites conducted by lodges or other non-Christian fraternal or religious organizations (e.g. Eagles, Moose, Rebecca's, Easter Star, Shriners, etc.). Rites by VFW, American Legion, etc. are encouraged to honor Christians with military service.

## FUNERAL LUNCHEON

As an extension of our caring ministry, the members of Gethsemane Lutheran offer funeral luncheon. Please contact the church office at least forty-eight hours in advance of the funeral dinner so that appropriate arrangements can be made to purchase all food, drinks, etc. Before calling the contact person, please have an estimate of the number of guests expected at your dinner.

Though the use of the facilities, clean-up, preparation and serving of food for funerals is without charge, it is customary that an honorarium also be given to the congregation in thanksgiving for this service. These funds are used by the congregation to support our ministry to grieving families and other ministries of caring.

## MEMORIALS

Memorials designated for Gethsemane may be given at the Funeral Home, at the Memorial Service, by mail to Gethsemane and/or in person in the office.

Memorials received by Gethsemane will be recorded with the donor's name, address and amount of the gift. A copy of this list will be given to the family generally within one month of the funeral service.

The Pastor will be happy to assist you with various projects and ministries to which the memorial funds may be directed. Gethsemane has numerous worthwhile projects, needs and ministries which serve as possible memorial designates. These include the *Living Memorial Fund* and the *Herr Scholarship Fund*. The Elders maintain an updated listing of other memorial projects and will give consideration to other memorials not currently listed.

Any memorial remaining undesignated for more than 12 months from the date of the memorial service shall be utilized by Gethsemane Lutheran Church as the Elders shall see fit. An additional extension of up to 3 months can be made upon written request to the pastor. The family will be gratefully notified prior to the deadline.

## SPIRITUAL MATERIALS

As a ministry to those grieving, Gethsemane Lutheran Church may also offer special reading and listening materials relating to grief. These are chosen specifically by the Pastor and provided by the congregation with our prayers.