

First Lutheran Church – Funeral Lunch Policy

First Lutheran is grateful to offer hospitality following funerals. Because our volunteers are limited, we provide space, coordination, and hospitality, while all meals are catered. This allows us to care well for families without overburdening our volunteers.

What First Lutheran *Will* Provide

- **Use of Fellowship Hall** (when available)
- **Coordination with a Caterer** selected by the family/funeral home
- **Kitchen access for catered food** (no on-site cooking by volunteers)
- **Coffee, water, and basic table service** (plates, napkins, silverware if needed)
- **Set-up and light clean-up assistance**, as volunteers are able

What First Lutheran *Will Not* Provide

- We do **not prepare or serve full meals**
- We do **not cook on-site**
- We do **not shop for food**
- We do **not guarantee volunteer staffing**
- We do **not provide servers** for plated meals

All meals must be **fully catered**, including main dishes and sides. If any food items are brought in by the family, they must be ready to serve and in the kitchen prior to the funeral service.

Catering Responsibilities

- The **family is responsible** for selecting, ordering, and paying the caterer
- Caterers must deliver **ready-to-serve food**
- Any special dietary needs should be handled through the caterer

Desserts for church members

- Church volunteers may provide desserts for a church member, if desired by the family
- Availability depends on volunteer capacity at the time of the funeral
- Dessert coordination is handled by the M-team

Cleanup

- The caterer is responsible for removing any equipment
- Volunteers will assist with packaging up leftover food for the family to take
- Volunteers will assist with basic cleanup of tables and the fellowship space
- Families are **not expected** to clean
- Family members should bring containers to take home leftovers or arrange with the caterer to provide these.

Scheduling & Availability

- Funeral lunches are subject to **facility and volunteer availability**
- The pastor or church office will confirm what is possible **before plans are finalized**
- Not all funerals will be able to include a luncheon

Communication

- This policy will be shared with funeral homes
- Families will receive this information early in the planning process
- Questions should be directed to the pastor