



We grieve death.

*We cling to the certain
hope of Christ.*

*He has put death to death.
He gives new life now,
& new life to come.*

Romans 6:3-11

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his!

Dear Family,

During this time of grief, the ministry of New Hope will be to offer the hope of Jesus Christ – that for our sake, God gave up His Son so that all who believe in Him will live. For we know that if we die with Jesus, we will also live with Him. For if we have been united with Jesus in His death, we will also be united with Him in resurrected-life.

The following brochure will offer a brief explanation of our ministry to you and your family in the days to come.

Selecting A Funeral Home

If you are in need of any references, your pastor would be more happy to help you. Funeral Directors will walk you through all the arrangements that are necessary. Most Funeral Directors work closely with pastors to ensure professional service.

Funeral Visitations

Pastor makes it a point to visit the funeral home for the visitation. If you wish the pastor to do anything special at the funeral home, please do not hesitate to ask.

The Funeral Service

New Hope prefers that the worship service – including funerals – be officiated in our sanctuary. Although Pastor would be willing to officiate at the funeral home chapel, we count it a privilege to conduct the service at church. It is in that place that we celebrate the Good News of Jesus – his life, death, and resurrection. It is in

that place that we celebrate and grieve and hope as a people of God through Christ.

“In State”

It is our practice to provide the opportunity for visitation in our narthex for a time before the start of the service (usually one hour) At the conclusion of this time, the immediate family may pay their last respects, and then will be invited into an adjoining room for prayer. At that time the casket will be closed.

Services Hymns & Readings

We encourage members to choose hymns and Bible readings that bring the most comfort, joy, and meaning. Upon request, pastor can help you choose appropriate hymns and Bible readings.

Funeral Folders

New Hope will provide appropriate worship folders for the service. If you wish for anything special to appear in the folder, please do not hesitate to ask.

The ‘Eulogy’

It is generally not the practice of the Lutheran Church to include the eulogy *in the worship service*. If you would like family and friends to publically share kind words, we encourage you to use the luncheon for that purpose.

The Funeral Luncheon

Upon request, New Hope will provide a funeral luncheon following the worship service. This usually takes place immediately following the service, or the committal (graveside service).

Fees & Honorariums

- Pianist/Organist: \$75
- Pastor: \$0
- Church Usage: \$0
- Funeral Folders: \$0
- Luncheon: Suggested gift of \$2-3 per expected guest

Odds & Ends

Pianist/Organist: New Hope will contract with the best available for the worship service. Special requests should be made through the pastor. Please see the fee schedule for details.

Preacher: It is the practice of our pastor to assume primary responsibilities for the funeral services at New Hope. Special requests, however, will be honored as appropriate.

Readers: It is the practice of New Hope to officiate the worship service in its entirety. However, requests for a family member or friend to read a passage will be honored as appropriate.

Committal: A committal service is traditionally officiated at the cemetery, either graveside or in the chapel. Pastor would count it a privilege to lead this either immediately following the funeral, or at some later date in the case of cremation.

New Hope Contacts

Rev. David Rufner – Pastor
Office: 616.669.2790
Mobile: 616.822.3984
Email: pastor@nhlchurch.org

Mrs. Suzanne Berg – Business Manager
Office: 616.669.2790
Email: sberg@nhlchurch.org

New Hope Lutheran Church
3232 Port Sheldon Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426

www.nhlchurch.org
616.669.2790