



Title	Funeral Policy
Policy #	02
Expires	When Replaced
Issued by	Board of Directors
Signed	

1. History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	UPDATED BY	PURPOSE FOR CREATION/UPDATE
1.0			

2. Scope

This policy is part of Grace Lutheran Church and School’s organizational policies. It applies to all congregation members, members of the community and employees.

3. Policy

We believe that Christian pastors should officiate only at the funerals of professed Christians, as evidenced by their practices and affiliation with the family of God. The very presence of a Christian pastor testifies to the faith of the deceased and implies that the individual has “fallen asleep in Jesus.”

We also believe that the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and School has been called to a specific responsibility to his own parishioners and to sister congregations in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and not to the Christian or secular community in general. Therefore, he is to officiate at the funeral or memorial service of members and their immediate families, thus being assured that the brother or sister who has died had made a public confession of faith in Christ Jesus.

Exceptions are made for professed Christians who were active in the spiritual life of our congregation while contemplating membership, as well as to non-member believers to whom the pastor, elders or those involved in evangelism at Grace Lutheran Church and School had a direct, personal ministry, or they were a close relative of an active member.

Members of Grace Lutheran Church and School who request that their pastor officiate at the funeral of their non-member friend or distant relative place the pastors

and elders in a difficult position. Not knowing the individual or the spiritual condition of the deceased may turn many a funeral sermon into an impersonal eulogy.

As the Steward of the Mysteries and Under-Shepherd of the Flock, exceptions can be made by the pastor on a case-by-case basis.

4. Procedure

1. This lists the steps that are followed to implement the policy.

5. Forms

1. This lists the forms use (if any) to enable the procedure to be followed.