

American Lutheran Church **Occasional Services Policy**

Occasional Services: Those worship services (funerals, weddings, and baptisms), held at ALC, in addition to regular worship or holiday services.

Officiating and Order of Worship - All occasional services shall be officiated by duly rostered North American Lutheran Church (NALC) pastors to insure the values, understandings, and ethics of the congregation are not compromised. Any exception is at the sole discretion of the pastor(s) or church council in consultation with the pastor(s).

Likewise, all occasional services shall follow the traditional order of Lutheran worship compatible with NALC doctrine and ideology and the Lutheran worldview they represent. Therefore, non-church music, settings, decorations, and paraphernalia are discouraged. Any exception is at the discretion of the pastor(s) or the church council in consultation with the pastor(s). The personal decorum and conduct of all family members and guests (churched and un-churched) at all occasional services are expected to be respectful and in harmony with the traditional values and understandings of this church and traditional orders of Lutheran worship.

Weddings - Weddings on the ALC premises are granted only for active members as defined. The wedding privileges of an active member are not transferrable to any family member (immediate, extended, or otherwise). Out of respect for the ministry, former members and the family members of active members with an active faith life elsewhere are expected to be married at their current fellowship. Pastoral exceptions may be granted, provided such exceptions do not abuse the ministry, or compromise this congregation's values, understandings, ethics, and faith. Off-site weddings are at the sole discretion and under the sole authority and responsibility of the pastor(s). Such weddings will not compromise this congregation's understanding of faith and its values.

Funerals - Funerals on the ALC premises are granted only for active members and former members as defined. The funeral privileges of an active member are not transferrable to any family member (immediate, extended, or otherwise). Pastoral exceptions may be granted, provided such exceptions do not abuse the ministry, or compromise this congregation's values, understandings, ethics, and faith. Non-members may be served at the pastor(s) discretion in local funeral homes, or other alternative settings.

Funeral Luncheons - Funeral luncheons are provided for those who are, or have been, active members as defined. The luncheon committee may make exceptions at their discretion. This policy is necessary to protect the congregation's limited resources and labors of our luncheon committee, and reserve them for those who have been active members of the congregation and as a memorial to that service for their families.

Baptisms - As part of the Great Commission, baptisms shall be done as long as there is respect for the tradition and understanding of this congregation's faith. Membership of any kind is not a prerequisite, but the aim of baptism is to see the child baptized involved in the life of the church.