

Pedersen Funeral Home, Morris, MN

Pedersen Funeral Home began offering families the service of a photographer at their funeral or memorial service. We are working with a local photographer, who will take photos at the funeral and committal service and designs a book using Shutterfly that is given to the family. The book not only contains photos of the family and services at the funeral but incorporates the information from the service folder, scriptures used in the funeral, parts of the obituary, aspects of the casket or vault, floral arrangements and etc. One book is given to the family for free and additional books can be purchased.

A funeral is a once in a life time event; capturing this moment is as important as other life events like the birth of a child, graduations, a wedding, or retirement. Being able to give the family the opportunity to look back on this event that sometimes is a blur in their mind is priceless.

Our directors offer this service to the family during our funeral arrangement conference. We explain the process of the photographer and show them examples of the books from previous services. If the family agrees to the service, we get in touch with our photographer who in part contacts the family to let them know the how, when, and what she will be doing. The day of the funeral we direct the photographer of some of the service details that will occur, and she lets her talents prevail from there. Photos are taken of the visitation hour prior to the service, during the funeral or memorial ceremony, and at the graveside service. Our photographer then takes the photos and compiles a book that is presented to the family within a few weeks. The family then can purchase additional books from the photographer.

Several families have decided to use this service and we have gotten many compliments. The funeral is a ceremony that needs to be remembered. Many times because of the stress the family is in, many details or events of the funeral are not remembered. With this book of photos from the service they are only a moment away on the table or in the bookcase. I have heard the widow of a gentleman say that she not only brings her book out often to reflect on the day, but when her grandchildren come to her home they ask to see the book of grandpa's funeral. We have also heard back from other families who mentioned how beautiful the book is and how glad they are on deciding to use this service.

With tribute videos, webcasting, photos of the all the floral arrangements on pages of the register book, and now this photo tribute book, our funeral home sends the family off with the ability to remember this life event. Going above and beyond from the cookie cutter funeral is what we try and accomplish.