

A Soulful Meal of Memories

This event is intended to bring together members of the congregation who have lost loved ones in the past year. It is also an opportunity to find comfort with others in the community who have also been in mourning. It includes the elements of invitation, the breaking of bread and story telling. The time together should focus on the celebration of the life of the departed and how they continue to live on in the hearts of those who love them. Focus also on knowing that through Jesus Christ, who is Resurrection and Life, and by the breath of the Holy Spirit all of us are called together into new life.

Time Frame:

About one and a half hours on Oct. 31st, either at noon or in the evening. Consider whether the majority of the attendees will be retired senior citizens (in which case noon may be best) or adults who are still active in the work force. (when early evening would be a more convenient time).

Leaders: Clergy and Laity

Pre-Event: Send a hand written note to everyone in the parish who has had a relative die within the last year, inviting them to join together with others for the service and meal. Family members who are not members of the congregation should also be encouraged to attend if they so desire.

Ask members of the congregation to submit names of those who have died and have each name read during the service.

The invitations should be sent out by Oct. 12th to allow enough time for individuals to plan on attending.

Sample Schedule:

Welcome: At least ten minutes before the service, have someone available to welcome people.

Conduct Service: Invite the guests to actively participate in the service.

Share a Meal: During the meal time, invite people to share special joyful stories about their loved ones.

SERVICE FOR ALL SOULS EVE PDF

This activity was Inspired by Christ Episcopal Church Charlotte, North Carolina