

In the Event of A Death

We wanted to break ecumenical lines because this was a loss that impacted everyone in the community. So we started at the Catholic Church watching Rob Bell's movie on Loss--which I would highly recommend adding to your library for those JUST IN CASE--nooma.com. As the movie finished, we could have opened it to discussion, but instead, we shared the peace and then went outside. Carrying the processional cross from St. Al's Catholic Church, the processional cross from Calmar Lutheran Church, and a large candle that was unlit, we walked together behind them as symbols of faith. Each kid was allowed to carry one of them a part of the way. We held hands for support. When we reached the church, we read the Resurrection story from Mark and then we walked into the church where we celebrated worship.

Scripture included Isaiah 40:1-8; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:13-17; John 14:1-6.

We lit the candle and talked about how Danan had passed away and although it seemed his life was extinguished, God had given him Eternal Life. The worship service included upbeat and moving contemporary music and was a complete celebration of life. This is a really moving worship and memorial; it will offer comfort to those who have lost a classmate and a friend. It will also help you as you release some of your own grief and helps in your de-briefing.

There are more resources at: www.neiasynod.org/youth/caringforyouthincrisis.asp