

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery Guidelines
Red Wing, Minnesota

Mission Statement:

As an extension of the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church, the Cemetery seeks to serve the community in the following ways:

- encourage the bereaved with the hope of eternal salvation
- provide a place for the burial of the dead
- provide a dignified environment for graveside visitation
- maintain records of burials
- preserve the Cemetery as a site of historical significance

Policies:

A. Encourage the bereaved with the hope of eternal salvation

Non-Christian religious activities of any kind are strictly prohibited on cemetery grounds.

Placement of non-Christian religious symbols, statues, figurines, or any other materials associated with the practice of a non-Christian religion is prohibited.

The Cemetery committee may place items bearing words of canonical Scripture or Christian symbols on the cemetery grounds (e.g. inscribed benches, rocks, plaques).

B. Provide a place for the burial of the dead

No burial will be permitted in any lot in the Cemetery until laws and ordinances regarding the burials, as may be in force in the State of Minnesota and City of Red Wing, have been complied with and until the burial fees have been paid.

"Lot owner" means the owner of the burial rights only in any lot purchased.

Owners of rights of burial or their heirs shall not grant, sell, alienate, or convey the said exclusive right of burial to any person(s) without the approval of the Cemetery committee.

Lots sales are made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the cemetery committee.

A schedule of fees shall be updated by the Cemetery committee as it deems necessary. Members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Wing may obtain lots at a reduced rate.

The legal representative of the person assigned the interment right may sell back its lot(s) to the Cemetery committee at the price for which it was purchased.

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No interment shall be made in any lot of the body of any person who was not the owner thereof or a relative of such owner.

Cremated remains must be buried rather than distributed over the cemetery grounds.

One cremation burial is allowed in any lot already containing a burial.

Two cremations are allowed in any lot not already containing a burial.

C. Provide a dignified environment for graveside visitation

No artificial flowers or ornaments shall be allowed between April 1 and November 1.

Fresh or potted flowers are permitted at gravesites until they become wilted or unsightly, when they should be removed. Flowers or refuse requiring disposal must be placed in the trash receptacles provided.

The Cemetery committee has the right to trim any plant material.

Glass vases, bottles, and/or tin cans are not permitted.

The introduction of non-native, aggressive plants or noxious weeds is prohibited.

American and commemorative Armed Service Flags are permitted between Memorial Day and September 15.

The purchase and maintenance of markers shall be the responsibility of the lot owners and their heirs. All permanent markers must have a good and sufficient foundation to withstand frost heaving and the environment.

Markers that deviate significantly from the markers already in place on the Cemetery grounds must have prior approval of the Cemetery committee. Markers making use of coarse language or symbols, or language or symbols that celebrate or memorialize unchristian living are prohibited.

No enclosures or lot walls shall be erected on the Cemetery grounds, beyond certain existing, ancient family lots.

The Cemetery committee reserves the right to move or remove any articles in violation of this policy, or deemed inappropriate, injurious to the immediate locality, prejudicial to the general good appearance of the grounds, dangerous, or positioned such that accessibility to the property is compromised.

Visitors enter the property at their own risk.

Disturbing the quiet or good order of the grounds and surrounding area is prohibited (e.g. intoxication, loud noise, vandalism, disorderly conduct).

No firearms are allowed on Cemetery property except at military funerals.

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Food and/or beverages may be consumed onsite at the discretion of the Cemetery committee.

Motorized vehicles (with the exception of undertaking and maintenance equipment) must remain on the gravel roads or its shoulders, providing the shoulder contains no gravesites.

D. Maintain records of burials

The Cemetery committee shall maintain a map designating the owners of all existing lots to the best of its ability. (This caveat is due to the age of the cemetery and the lack of complete records.)

Purchase of lots must be made through the Cemetery committee, who will maintain a current map, registry of lots sold (indexed by name), and a record of fees paid.

The Cemetery committee will create an electronic database of burials at its earliest convenience.

E. Preserve the Cemetery as a site of historical significance

Maintenance and repair of stone markers and plantings on individual lots or family sites remain the responsibility of the lot owners and their heirs.

Historic gravestones shall be treated with care. Gravestones shall not be relocated or rearranged, and broken fragments shall be saved. Polishing, pressure washing, or sandblasting gravestones is prohibited.

Historic landscape features such as walkways and mature plant materials shall be preserved wherever possible.

Historic accessory buildings should be preserved, maintained, and repaired rather than replaced if possible, and should remain on or as close to the original location as possible.

If the Cemetery committee deems that new permanent landscape features or buildings are necessary, the appearance of the new shall strive to be compatible with the period(s) of the cemetery.

The introduction of modern materials such as asphalt and plastic landscaping material shall be avoided. The landscaping of the grounds shall complement the natural beauty of the surroundings.

New landscaping shall make use of native plants as appropriate for the area.

The Cemetery committee reserves the right to amend these policies without prior notification of lot owners. Updated policies will be made available via church publications such as the website or newsletter, and at the local funeral home.

Approved January 2010