

## Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery Policies

The Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery Association operates the cemeteries of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The following policies apply to the cemetery located to the east of our current church and accessible via car on Allen Road in the Town of Theresa. These policies also apply to our cemetery located on Hochheim Road in the Town of Herman – at the location of the former sister congregation of Immanuel.

### **Burial Privileges**

A Christian funeral and burial in the cemetery of Immanuel Lutheran Church is not a right. Generally all who die in the Christian faith as members in good standing of our congregation will be allowed to be buried in the cemetery provided that the other conditions for securing a grave plot are observed.

Under extraordinary circumstances those who are non-members of Immanuel may be granted burial privileges. Such exceptions are to be made with the best interest of the church and its witness to the truth in mind. Such requests must be approved by the Cemetery Association in conjunction with Immanuel's Board of Elders. Those who may be granted exceptions are:

- Family members of those holding membership at Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Those who were previously members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and purchased plots in our cemetery prior to the existence of this policy.
- Those who belong to a congregation in fellowship with Immanuel Lutheran Church or who hold membership in a congregation of another Lutheran Church body which pledges itself to a "quia" subscription of the Lutheran Confessions.

Those removed from the congregation's membership through excommunication, self-exclusion, or affiliation with heterodox churches or other religious groups forfeit burial privileges in Immanuel's cemetery.

## **Rites and Ceremony**

Grave side services will normally be conducted by the called Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. When a member of another congregation is buried in our cemetery, that individual's called Pastor may serve as the officiant for grave side services. Normally Pastors conducting grave side services will be united to the fellowship of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

A proper committal service for cremated remains is required.

Non-Christian religious activities of any kind are strictly prohibited on cemetery and church grounds. Military rites are permitted.

## **Grave Markers and Other Adornments**

Those placing grave makers in our cemetery should remember the purpose for which our cemetery exists. We recognize that believers in Christ will rise to eternal life on account of the death and resurrection of our Savior. As the church sings:

*This body in the grave we lay  
There to await that solemn Day  
When God Himself shall bid it rise  
To mount triumphant to the skies.*

With such faith, we look not to this life but to the life to come. Should grave markers contain language and imagery beyond the names and dates of the deceased, it should testify to the faith of the believer and the promise of eternal glory in Christ Jesus. Bible passages, hymn texts, and appropriate Christian artwork remain acceptable imagery for a Christian cemetery.

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

Grave markers may not contain coarse language, symbols, rude or offensive sayings, or anything which encourages or glorifies unchristian living.

Grave markers must easily fit within the designated space allotted for a cemetery plot. For a single plot, a grave marker may be no wider than 42" with the base no wider than 48".

## Flowers and Plants

It is permissible to plant flowers and other small plants on a cemetery plot. The planting of trees, shrubs or bushes on a cemetery plot is prohibited.

## Cemetery Fees

Members:           \$250 for a single plot  
                      \$500 for a double plot

Non-members:    \$500 for a single plot  
                      \$1,000 for a double plot

Single plots are 5 feet x 12 feet.

Those who desire to bury cremated remains in our cemetery will pay the cost of a standard burial plot. Additional individual's cremated remains may be buried in the same plot for half the cost of an additional plot. No more than four individual's cremated remains may be placed in the same cemetery plot.

Cremated remains may be buried by a Cemetery Trustee or the Cemetery Association approved contractor. The fee for burial by a Cemetery Trustee shall be \$300 (of which \$100 is for the Trustee and \$200 for the Cemetery Association) or the deceased/family shall hire the approved contractor at their expense.

No cremated remains may be buried in the same plot in which a natural human body has already been buried.

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By signing below, I attest that I have received and read this document and agree to abide by the rules and regulations of Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_