

REVISED January 20th 2019

"To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery--California, Missouri
Immanuel Lutheran (Boeckhaus) Cemetery--California, Missouri
Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Cemetery--Centertown, Missouri**

Preamble

Our purpose is to give glory to the Triune God and to comfort the saints with the lively hope of the resurrection of the dead through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Article I. Name.

The cemeteries in California, Missouri, bear the names "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery" and "Immanuel Lutheran (Boeckhaus) Cemetery." The cemetery in Centertown, Missouri, bears the name "Evangelical Lutheran Emanuel Cemetery." All cemeteries are the property of the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of California, Missouri.

Article II. Management.

- A. The management of said cemeteries shall be determined and regulated by the trustees of the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, California, Missouri, who are to be guided in their management by regulations and resolutions passed by the congregation.
- B. The president of the congregation may appoint a cemetery committee when needed to assist the trustees in the improvement and upkeep of all or any cemeteries. The committee's plans are to be approved by the trustees prior to implementation. The committee will serve until discharged by the president of the congregation upon recommendation of the trustees.
- C. The trustees shall appoint a superintendent who has the following responsibilities:
 - 1. Keeping "plat maps" of all cemeteries up to date and holding them in two separate locations.
 - 2. Selling graves and plots.

3. Keeping an accurate record of pertinent information such as name, sex, age, date of death, date and location of burial, and any other information available for documentation.
 4. Collecting the appropriate perpetual care fee per grave and/or plot.
 5. Issuing detailed receipts to grave/plot holders.
 6. Turning the fee over to the church treasurer to deposit in cemetery perpetual care investments.
- D. The trustees shall give an annual report on all cemeteries at the January voter's meeting of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, California, Missouri.
- E. The finances relating to the cemeteries are to be handled as follows:
1. The church treasurer shall keep a record and accounting of three (3) funds relating to the cemeteries: Perpetual Care, Operating, and Special Projects.
 2. All Perpetual Care fees will be invested in securities selected by the trustees.
 3. Only the earnings (interest) from the investments in the Perpetual Care fund may be spent.
 4. The church treasurer shall keep a separate record of the incoming fees including the payee.
 5. The church treasurer shall keep a record of investments in a form approved by the trustees.
 6. The church treasurer shall inform the trustees at least thirty (30) days prior to needing to make an investment.
 7. The church treasurer shall record the earnings transferred to the Operating fund.
- F. Gifts, memorials, bequests, etc. are encouraged and may be designated for any or all of the aforementioned cemetery funds. Checks shall be made payable to St. Paul's Cemeteries.
- G. Fees for graves and plots will only be deposited into the Perpetual Care fund.

Article III. Division of the Cemeteries.

The major portion of each cemetery shall be laid out in family burial plots. To clarify, one plot contains three graves. A smaller portion of each cemetery shall also be reserved for single graves. Burial in a single grave section shall be according to the row, in an unbroken continuity. For further particulars, refer to the map of the respective cemetery.

Article IV. Grave/Plot-Holders and the Right of Burial.

- A. Only members of the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, California, Missouri, or of another congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod may become grave/plot-holders. Members desiring a grave/plot shall apply to the superintendent. When two or more families desire the same grave/plot, the choice shall be determined by drawing lots.
- B. Members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church who wish to become grave/plot-holders shall make a perpetual care arrangement and pay a minimum of \$150.00 per grave and \$450.00 per plot. This arrangement shall be made prior to owning the grave/plot.
- C. A member may wish to purchase a plot (three graves) but use only two of the graves. This is permissible by paying for all three graves.
- D. Members of another congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod may obtain one or more graves by making a perpetual care arrangement and paying a minimum of \$200.00 per grave.
- E. Grave/Plot-holders whose membership in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church has ended may retain their burial grave/plot provided they have made a perpetual care arrangement and paid a minimum of \$150.00 per grave and/or \$450.00 per plot.
- F. Grave/Plot-holders are asked to bury on their grave/plot only such persons who are members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or immediate family members. The term "immediate family" is defined as husband or wife, unmarried children, or unmarried stepchildren.
- G. In the event that a family burial plot has ultimately been used only partially, the unused part of such plot shall revert back to the congregation with consent of the children.
- H. Children who have been baptized in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, California, Missouri, but whose parents are not members of this congregation may be buried in one of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Cemeteries.

- I. In cases of extenuating emergencies, the pastor and the superintendent will be given discretionary authority to grant a burial site.

Article V. Rules for Burial.

- A. Only the superintendent or a person authorized by him has the authority to have graves made and old graves opened.
- B. Burial shall be made with the body facing east.
- C. Funeral processions of secret societies, lodges, and associations which have religious teachings and practices contrary to our Christian religion are prohibited on the cemetery grounds as a ceremonial group or to conduct services commensurate with their organizational rituals and by-laws. This regulation shall not be construed to prohibit any government agency as well as any current or ex-serviceman or servicewoman's associations from conducting normal and appropriate services.

Article VI. Care of Family Graves and Plots.

- A. No fencing or concrete curbing shall be placed around burial graves or plots. Permanent mounds over graves shall not exceed four inches.
- B. "Ledgers" or surface mausoleums will not be permitted.
- C. Trees, hedges, or shrubbery shall not be planted on any part of the cemetery except by permission of the trustees. Flowers shall be permitted.
- D. During the mowing season, cut flowers and decorations on or around a grave and/or tombstone shall be removed within two weeks of placement. The rest of the year, flowers and decorations may remain so long as they are "presentable" in appearance. The caretaker may remove them at his discretion when soiled and weathered.
- E. Flowers and decorations in vases on the tombstone or in "saddles" or hangers (not in the ground) may remain so long as they remain "presentable" in appearance. The caretaker may remove them at his discretion should they become soiled and weathered.
- F. Holders of family burial plots shall keep everything thereon in good condition. Should tombstones or monuments located thereon fall into decay or become unsafe or unsightly, the superintendent shall have the authority to have the same repaired at the cost of the plot-holder, or to remove the tombstone or monument after having given the plot-holder ninety days notice to make repairs within that period.

- G. Grave/Plot-holders may erect suitable tombstones, monuments, or statues. Foundations of monuments shall be a minimum of four inches larger on all sides than the base of the monument. The top of this foundation shall be at ground level. Vaults may be erected only by special permission of the congregation and according to approved specifications. The tombstones, monuments, and statues erected shall bear no offensive or unchristian inscriptions. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church encourages scriptural verses and/or Christian symbols to comfort the survivors. The superintendent shall be notified before any tombstone, monument, or statue shall be erected.
- H. All interments shall be identified with a permanent marker. If a financial need is determined, the congregation will assist with the cost of a permanent marker.
- I. Graves/Plots may not be raised without special permission of the trustees.

Article VII. Changes in Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

These rules and regulations may be altered or amended at any regular or special meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, California, Missouri.