

St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery

Guidelines and Rules

Sites/Burials

- 1) All burial sites are maintained electronically by the Cemetery Committee and available for viewing on the internet. Refer to the church website for specific locations. Available cemetery plots may be purchased by church members by contacting the church office.
 - a. Burial plots are \$1000. A Certificate of lot assignment identifies the specific lot purchased in the name of the Owner.
 - b. A Certificate owner must notify the Cemetery Committee when considering a transfer of ownership of a lot. A lot cannot be sold directly to another owner.
- 2) The St Paul Cemetery Committee allows the following acceptable burials on a **single (one)** grave site.
 - a. One vault burial OR
 - b. One vault burial and two cremation burials in that order OR
 - c. No more than two cremation urn burials (burial sequence: first – more west; second - more east).
- 3) All in-ground interments shall be made with outside liner, burial vault, or combination casket/vault container, which meet industry standards. All urns will be enclosed in an urn vault. An urn vault burial site opening is of the following dimensions: 36 inches in depth, 15 inches in width, and 20 inches in length. The first urn vault on a burial plot will be positioned 12 inches from the headstone. If no headstone exists, allow 24 inches from the top of a burial plot to location of the first urn vault.
- 4) All burials will be coordinated with the church office. A minimum two day notice is required. The following costs will be incurred for opening and closing a burial plot:
 - a. \$1200 for a casket vault
 - b. \$600 for an urn vault
 - c. Additional weekend rates may apply.
- 5) No interments will be accepted at the cemetery on Sundays or the following holidays: Christmas Day, New Years Day, Holy Week, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, or Thanksgiving Day.

Disinterment

- 6) Disinterment will be made upon court order. Permission to make disinterment not ordered by the court will be given upon written order by the plot owner, surviving wife or husband, legal age children, or parents of the deceased (in that order) provided such disinterment is not made for profit or other reasons considered improper by the Cemetery Committee.
- 7) No disinterment will be made except for official investigation and until there is compliance with all State regulations (under section 517.23 of the Ohio Revised Code) and rules of the local Health authorities. Although we take great pride the quality of the interment of your loved one, St. Paul and the Cemetery Committee will not be responsible for vaults or caskets damaged during disinterment of a full body grave. No disinterment shall be made between October 1 and May 1 of any calendar year unless by a court order.

Markers and Monuments

- 8) A grave site may have only **one** head stone. Contact the church office to arrange for marking of the head stone base footprint.
- 9) In order to reduce sinking and shifting of head stones, all head stones must be placed on a **concrete or granite stone base** at ground level. The dimensions will vary depending on the type of head stone used and whether it is used on one or more adjacent grave sites. Generally, bases are greater in size (2 to 3 inches per side) than the head stone placed upon it.
- 10) The foundation base size for a head stone for a single grave site should be no greater than 36 inches (north to south) by no greater than 24 inches (east to west) by 6 inches thick.
- 11) The base size for a head stone shared by adjacent grave sites should be no greater than 60 inches (north to south) by no greater than 24 inches (east to west) by 6 inches thick.
- 12) **Markers** are generally flat stones that can be placed set slightly above the base that surrounds it.
- 13) **Monuments** are generally one or more tiered stones set upon a base. The base size should be larger than the largest tiered stone set upon it.
 - a. **Exception:** Military markers are allowed on a burial site following the **Markers** rule stated above. If they are in addition to the **Markers or Monuments** stated above, they should be placed behind them (i.e., east) on the burial site.

Cemetery Rules for Visitors

- 14) No trees or shrubs can be planted in the cemetery.
- 15) **All flowers** must be placed in a container on the base or in the ground near the base. All such decorations shall be securely anchored in place to prevent the wind from removing or damaging the decoration and ruining the décor of the cemetery.
- 16) All artificial flowers will be removed from the cemetery by the **Saturday before Memorial Day** is observed.
- 17) All other flowers will be removed from the cemetery by **mid October**.
- 18) In order to maintain a neat appearance throughout, the Cemetery Committee shall remove funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unattractive, and assumes no responsibility for their return. Unused cans, crockery, boxes, baskets, stuffed animals, or watering pots left on graves or plots are considered detrimental to the appearance of the cemetery, and will also be removed. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to restrict unusual arrangements.
- 19) **No** vehicles are allowed in the cemetery except those vehicles directly related to a funeral burial. Maintenance vehicles will park on the side of Walnut Road and bring their maintenance equipment into the cemetery on foot. The short gravel driveway can also be used to unload maintenance equipment.

Columbarium

- 20) All funerals and entombments held in St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery shall be under the direction of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- 21) No burials shall be made on Sundays or legal holidays.
- 22) No interment will take place without a Burial Permit, nor until all laws, ordinances and rules/regulations relative to burials have been complied with.

- 23) No niche shall be opened unless the grave space has been paid for, with the exception of indigent cases, or unless the undertaker assumes the responsibility for the payment of said grave space.
- 24) Undertakers, making arrangements for burials shall be responsible for the interment charges if not paid by the owner or owner's agent
- 25) If the deceased to be interred is not the owner or is not a member of the lot owner's immediate family, written consent of the owner(s), or authorized agent must be filed with the St. Paul Lutheran church before interment may be permitted.

Costs

- 26) Cost per Niche is \$2000. Each Unit will hold 2 sets of ashes.
- 27) Open/Closing of niche \$300
- 28) Additional Weekend rates may apply.
- 29) Services must be completed by 3PM.
- 30) Inscriptions will be limited to full name, birth and death dates.
- 31) The cost of engraving is included in the columbarium entombment fee

Ornamentation

- 32) Ornamentation or decorations of any kind will not be permitted on the Columbarium. This includes flowers, pictures, cards, flags or attachments of any kind. Exceptions will be made for military emblems.
- 33) An alternative to the standard military marker will be sandblasted in the granite only at the request and cost to the family
- 34) Flowers may be left at the base of the columbarium. St. Paul Lutheran Church has the right to remove.

Ownership

- 35) The deed holder may return ownership of any unused columbarium for the purchase price, minus the cost of sandblasting, if stone has been lettered. Thank cannot be sold outright and must be returned to St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- 36) No fee will be charged for this service

Types of Urns

- 37) Due to the types of burial, wood containers cannot be used in the columbarium.
- 38) Size to fit 2 urns: 6.3W x 6.3D x 8.5H

Payment

- 39) All checks and money orders for columbarium should be made payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- 40) A 3% fee will be added to cover the processing fees for a credit card payment.
- 41) Monies will be deposited into the cemetery fund for the care and maintenance of the St. Paul Lutheran Church Cemetery and Columbarium.
- 42) We do not accept partial payments