

The Theology for a Congregational Cemetery

North Cape Lutheran Church Cemetery is a non-pecuniary cemetery.

In this context, a congregation may choose to own a plot of ground for its own use as a cemetery. In this way, people who lived and worshipped together in their lifetimes in the church militant may symbolically express their continuing fellowship with each other in God beyond death in the church triumphant.

The use of a congregational cemetery by no means implies the holding of a particular doctrine of the nature of eternal life or of the details of the Resurrection. Neither does it imply that this ground is “holy ground” which somehow guarantees special divine favor to someone buried there.

A congregation’s cemetery is simply intended for the use and convenience of its members, implying only their shared faith. There is no compulsion to use this cemetery. Members of the congregation may freely choose to use commercial cemeteries for their own reasons without any sort of disapprobation.

Christian burial also implies only a proper love and respect for the person represented by the body. It implies that this person is dear to us and to God and, therefore, his body is, with care and respect, given back unto the good earth.

Committing the body to the earth and to God is part of our Christian grieving. Burial by no means implies any attempt to “preserve” or to hallow the earthly remains. A well-kept cemetery, use of memorial stones or plaques in a reasonable way imply a precious remembrance, nothing more, nothing less.