Duane Blanck - PRESIDENT; Susan Koering - VICE PRESIDENT; Chadwick Knudson - TREASURER; John Van Essen - SECRETARY.BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Denise Blackwell Kraft, Terry Torkelson, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Marc Halverson, Bob Nystrom

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
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2025 THANKSGIVING GREETINGS to Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association from **The Evergreen Cemetery Board of Trustees,** along with Executive Director Dede Tollefson and Superintendent Tom McCartan. We also wish to express our **HEARTFELT THANKS** for the critical financial support many of you provide Evergreen Cemetery Association through your generous donations.

The “wall hanging” in our office serves as a reminder of the significance and importance of community cemeteries. Your Board of Trustees remains encouraged by that definition of a cemetery as we strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries as places of Rest, Remembrance, and Reflection. We are also reminded that cemeteries exist because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.

Change remains the only constant. We are pleased with our new superintendent, Tom McCartan, appreciating his knowledge and readiness to serve both association members and visitors. Challenges remain for your Board of Trustees, but progress has been made in improving and maintaining our equipment, remodeling the office, and providing a second columbarium. We note this progress has been successful due to your generous donations. **Thank You.**

We were saddened by the resignation and passing of board member Fred Casey, who has served on the board since 2011. Replacing Fred Casey is Bob Nystrom, and replacing retiring Treasurer Gary Bluth is Chadwick Knudson. We welcome Bob and Chadwick.

We have not been successful in implementing statutory language changes that would allow the City of Brainerd to provide support similar to what the County offers with the Memorial Gardens cemetery. We continue to work on this crucial issue.

The past winter was hard on our aging water/irrigation system at Evergreen, with nearly three dozen locations where pipes or faucets froze. This is a major issue, and replacement will be necessary in the future. This need could be addressed through a service project by individuals and/or service clubs. If interested, please contact Executive Director Dede Tollefson.

In response to the community's desire to secure a grave in Evergreen Cemetery, we have begun a survey of reclaiming possible graves and creating "new" graves in unused property.

Your support of the Evergreen Cemetery Association in our general maintenance and groundskeeping is appreciated and needed. A contribution as small as $10 helps when many share in the giving. Please be reminded that we are a 501(c)13 tax-deductible non-profit public cemetery managed by a volunteer nine-member Board of Trustees. Please consider adding Evergreen Cemetery Association to your list of charitable contribution recipients or leaving a legacy gift by including the cemeteries in your will or estate planning. Older members and friends may wish to do a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

We express our heartfelt **THANKS** for the critical financial support many of you provide Evergreen Cemetery Association through your generous donations. And, **THANKS** to the Volunteers who are always welcome. For those who wish to contribute their time and talents, please contact our office for more information. Perhaps you'd like to join a group.

Our website provides information about the Evergreen Cemetery Association, including the Directory of the Dead and details on how to contact us for any reason. Additionally, the website, email, phone number, mailing address, and Trustees are listed on the letterhead.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Trustees

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

2025/26 Donation Form

Make a donation or volunteer - cut out and send in this form.

$20 ___ $50 ___$100 ___ Other $_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____City _____ State _____ Zip_____

Phone _____ Email (Office Use Only) _____

Comments _____

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