



Q & A The Columbarium

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NOTE: For complete details and information, please refer to the *Christ Lutheran Church Columbarium Rules, Regulations and Policies* document, available in the church office.

What is a columbarium?

A columbarium is an assembly of niches or compartments designed to house urns containing the ashes of deceased loved ones. The word *columbarium* comes from the Latin word *columba*, meaning dove. For Christians, the imagery of the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit—the giver of life, comfort, and peace.

Where is the columbarium of Christ Lutheran Church located?

The columbarium is located on the west side of the church grounds, between the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and consists of 40 niches. Also available is a memorial wall for plaques that may be engraved in memory of a deceased family member.

What are some reasons for choosing this type of committal instead of burial?

Christians believe that in death one's soul is resurrected to new life with God. The earthly finality of *ashes to ashes, dust to dust* is realized whether the body is buried or cremated. Burial within church grounds was once a common practice, and cremation with inurnment is increasingly considered a matter of good and faithful stewardship. Some turn to cremation and inurnment for an economical and dignified way to honor loved ones. CLC's columbarium provides a comfortable meeting place for families and friends to gather in love and remembrance, a consoling link between life and death.

Who may visit the columbarium and memorial garden?

The columbarium is open to all.

When are the columbarium and memorial garden open for visitation?

The columbarium and memorial garden are open daily, dawn to dusk, for visitation.

Who is eligible for inurnment at CLC's columbarium?

Inurnment in the columbarium or placement of memorial plaques are limited to any past or present members and associate members of Christ Lutheran Church, and immediate family, including spouse, parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren.

What does the purchase of a niche include?

Included in the cost is the right to inurnment, the urn(s), the opening and closing of the niche for inurnment, inscription on the niche plaque, and perpetual care of the columbarium. Cremation is not included.

May I select the specific niche?

Yes, you may select any niche that is not already reserved.

How many urns can each niche hold?

Each niche in the columbarium has a capacity of two urns.

What is the cost of a niche?

The current fee to purchase a single niche in the columbarium is \$1,740.00. A double niche costs \$2,100.00.

What is the cost of a memorial plaque?

A memorial plaque may be purchased for \$200.

Must I pay the full cost at the time of purchase, or are payment options available?

Payment of niches may be made in full at the time of reservation or under a one- or two-year monthly payment plan. For memorial plaques, payment must be made in full at the time of purchase.

Are the prices for niches and plaques fixed?

Current listed prices are valid through 2015 and may increase thereafter.

How do I purchase a niche or memorial plaque?

Obtain a columbarium packet from the church office, complete all appropriate forms, and submit them, with payment in full or agreement to one of the payment plans. A columbarium administrator will contact you to review the application before submitting it for final approval.

What if I purchase a niche or plaque and later change my mind? May I sell or transfer it?

The owner of unused inurnment rights may apply for transfer of rights to an approved transferee. CLC retains right of first refusal to purchase unused inurnment rights. For details, see the *CLC Columbarium Rules, Regulations and Policies* document.

Who oversees and maintains the columbarium and grounds?

The columbarium is owned by and is part of Christ Lutheran Church. The Columbarium Group, appointed by CLC Council, serves as administrator. The Memorial Garden Group maintains the columbarium and garden grounds.

What if I have additional questions?

For more information, contact the columbarium administrators, CLC members Gary Jonson, Louisa Underwood, and Nancy Tupper. CLC's office manager can provide their contact information.