

## ***WHY A MEMORIAL GARDEN?***

The church is perhaps the most appropriate place for the interment of loved ones who have died, as it is the Christian faith that most completely gives context to the experiences of life and death. As Christians, we understand that those who die in the Lord are now at home with the Lord. Our Memorial Garden is a visible and regular reminder of this truth. Additionally, the garden reminds those of us who are living that we have inherited the faith from others who have preceded us. We carry on a ministry begun by others.

Cremation of the body following death has become the choice of an increasing number of persons and families. It is seen as a fitting way of commending the physical remains of loved ones to the elements of the earth out of which our bodies were formed. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 15 that what is sown a physical body will be raised a spiritual body. Though our present bodies are perishable and mortal, we will in the resurrection receive imperishable, immortal bodies.

Increasingly, the Memorial Garden serves the needs of today's highly mobile society, which often finds family members living far from one another and from family burial places. With the increasing costs of in-ground or mausoleum burial, many families are seeking options such as the Memorial Garden for the burial and remembrance of loved ones.

## ***WHO MAY USE THE GARDEN?***

Members, constituents (others active in the congregation) and their immediate families have first priority in the use of the Memorial Garden. As Central Lutheran Church desires to be of service to others, at the discretion of the Pastors extended family and others may be permitted to use the Memorial Garden at a slightly increased cost.

## ***WHAT IS THE COST OF USING THE GARDEN?***

A market cost will be charged to members, constituents, and their immediate families provides for a bronze marker memorializing the deceased and perpetual care of the Memorial Garden. However, no member of the church will be denied use of the garden for burial due to financial difficulty. The charge to extended family members and others desiring use of the Memorial Garden is market cost plus \$50.

Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund will be gratefully received at any time for the general upkeep and perpetual care of the area.

## ***ARE ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTED?***

Yes. Those who desire to make advance arrangements for burial in the Memorial

Garden may visit any committee member or Pastor to make such arrangements and pre-pay the Memorial Garden fee.

## ***WHAT IS THE BURIAL PROCEDURE?***

Cremains may be delivered to the church by the mortuary, or the family may choose to bring them at the time of the interment.

If desired, a Committal Service can be arranged with the Pastor. At that time the Pastor, family members and close friends may gather in the Memorial Garden for the committal and burial of cremains.

The cremains are placed directly into the ground of the decorative plant beds during the committal portion of the service. The cremains are mixed with the soil.

*Please note: Once the cremains are placed directly into the ground and mixed with the soil. It will not be possible to retrieve or move the cremains at any future time. It should be understood that at various times over the years, planted areas will need to be renovated and new plants brought in.*

## ***HOW ARE THE MARKERS PLACED?***

At the time of death, upon request of the family or by prior arrangement with the deceased, a cast bronze marker will be ordered. The marker will note the deceased's name, date of birth, and date of death. The markers are uniform in design. No variation in style or information is

permitted. Upon arrival, each marker is glued securely to the interior of the garden wall as a permanent memorial to the life of the deceased.

### ***WHAT IS THE MEMORIAL GARDEN?***

The memorial Garden at Central Lutheran Church is an alternative burial site for human cremains of church members, constituents, and their immediate families. Cremains are buried directly into the soil of the plant beds in the garden.

*Please note: Urns and containers cannot be placed into the ground. As cremains are buried directly into the soil, there will be no identifiable burial location.*

A permanent bronze marker noting an individual's name, date of birth and date of death will be placed on the interior wall of the garden as a lasting memorial to each person who is buried in the Memorial Garden.

*Please note: Markers will be placed only for persons whose cremains are buried in the garden. Additional markers, flowers and memorials for those buried are not permitted in the garden.*

### ***A PLACE OF MEMORY AND MEDITATION***

The Memorial Garden is a perpetual memorial to those whose cremains are placed in it.

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Additionally, this private and beautifully landscaped setting provides a peaceful atmosphere for remembrance and prayerful meditation in God's presence.

***For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1***

# **THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**

**AT  
CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Central Lutheran Church  
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