

A photograph of yellow cosmos flowers in bloom against a clear blue sky. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

Resurrection Garden



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Columbarium Ministry

The Christian faith offers a perspective on the way we construct our lives and offers a perspective about the end of our life. Culturally there are many different views about the way we are to live and what we are to think about the meaning of life at the time of death. The “Columbarium Ministry” is about some of those end of life decisions that need to be made.

Following is a FAQ piece intended to respond to initial questions. The columbarium will be identified as the *Holy Cross Resurrection Garden*. The columbarium is a dedicated structure containing niches for the interment of cremated human remains. A rendering of the columbarium structure is included.

A special task force and the church council have developed documentation that provides clarity about the protocols and procedures associated with this ministry. We are operating with documentation that meets legal standards while representing the conditions of what will be provided if one chooses to become involved with Holy Cross’ “Columbarium Ministry.”

The idea of our “Columbarium Ministry” surfaced from the awareness that the Christian faith tradition plays an integral role at the time of death. The “Columbarium Ministry” involves cremation. Cremation is not a new practice. It has been accepted throughout history and embraced in practice by faith traditions. A congregation being involved in providing a final resting place for loved ones is not new. There are congregations in Lake County who currently provide an option for the interment of cremains as well as a traditional cemetery option.

We think it is important to provide information that may help you in making informed decisions about your involvement and understanding this ministry in general.

Resurrection Garden FAQs

Basic Info

Q. Why did Holy Cross Lutheran Church build a Columbarium and Resurrection Garden?

A. As people of faith, the promise of The Resurrection brings comfort at the time of death. Just as each individual constructs their life in a unique way, our attitudes towards death are also unique. If cremation is a consideration for you, Holy Cross hopes the Columbarium and Resurrection Garden will also provide comfort as a final resting place for people of faith.

Q. What is the Holy Cross Resurrection Garden (HCRG)?

A. The Holy Cross Resurrection Garden consists of a Columbarium, Remembrance Wall, and Meditation Garden. The Columbarium is a dedicated structure within the HCRG containing niches for the interment of cremated human remains. The front of each niche will be a granite tile with an inscription plaque. The Remembrance Wall is adjacent to the Columbarium and contains plaques to memorialize those who are interred elsewhere. The Garden provides a quiet courtyard for prayer, reflection, and meditation.

Q. How large is the HCRG and Columbarium?

A. The Columbarium has 144 niches initially and up to 400 niches with future expansion.

Q. Who is eligible for interment in the HCRG?

A. Current and former members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and their families may be interred in the HCRG, or memorialized on the Remembrance Wall. Others may be interred upon request.

Q. May niches/urns and remembrance plaques be purchased in advance of need?

A. Yes, but advanced purchase is not required. Having conversations with your loved ones (at any age) about your wishes spares loved ones from making difficult decisions under trying circumstances. Purchasing niches/urns and remembrance plaques in advance reserves space at the HCRG while available.

Q. May we memorialize someone who is interred elsewhere?

A. Yes, the Remembrance Wall can be used to memorialize someone interred/buried elsewhere.

Getting Started

Q. How do I get started?

A. Please consult with a member of the pastoral staff concerning the reservation or interment process.

Q. How do I purchase a niche or plaque?

A. Submit a completed reservation form for a Columbarium niche and/or Remembrance Wall plaque, along with a HCRG Agreement to the church office.

Q. How much does a Columbarium niche/urn and Remembrance Wall plaque cost?

A. Cost of a Columbarium niche is \$2,000. Cost of a Remembrance Wall plaque is \$400.

Q. How are fees used?

A. Fees will be used for the care and maintenance of the HCRG. The Church has established a fund dedicated to the supplies, inscriptions, maintenance, and any further development of the HCRG. All fees received will be directed to this fund.

Q. What is provided with a purchase of a niche?

A. Columbarium niche system consists of:

A uniform urn that will be used for permanently storing cremated remains ('cremains').

Secure, weatherproof granite tile ('Niche Front') to seal the niche.

Inscription on the Niche Front consisting of the decedents name, date of birth, and date of death.

Contact the church office at (847) 367-4040 or office@holycrosschurch.org to view an example of the niche system.

The Interment Process

Q. What is the necessary preparation for cremains to be interred in the HCRG?

A. Typically, an authorized funeral director will handle the cremation and any permits for interment that Federal, State, or Local laws require. The HCRG will provide an urn to the authorized funeral director for the proper placement of cremated remains.

Q. How are arrangements made to inter cremains?

A. The Church will arrange for the opening and closing of the Niche at the time of interment.

Q. How will funeral, memorial, or interment services be handled? Who may officiate?

A. The applicant/family will consult with the HCLC pastoral staff for details of the service. The funeral, memorial, or interment service will be a religious service performed by a member of the HCLC pastoral staff. If a Columbarium niche has not been pre-purchased in advance, church staff will work with family members to make arrangements at the time of need.

Q. How will names appear on the Remembrance wall?

A. The inscription on all niche fronts and other granite plaques will be a uniform size and style.

Q. Can I customize what is written on the Remembrance wall plaque or niche nameplate?

A. The inscription shall consist only of the name of the Decedent, date of birth and date of death.

Q. If I am an organ donor, how is the interment handled?

A. Typically an authorized funeral director will arrange for cremation after the donation of organs. Consult a licensed funeral director for more information.

Making Changes

Q. What if I purchase a niche/urn or plaque but later change my mind?

A. Upon written application to the church office, one may request to transfer or assign the interment rights to an eligible transferee. If approved, the transferee will receive updated documentation reflecting the transfer. One may request a refund from the Church equal to the cost paid (without interest).

Q. May cremains be removed once interred in the HCRG?

A. Upon written application to the church office, one may request to remove interred cremains and the associated niche front. Please note that a fee may be assessed for removal if the request for removal comes from the subscriber/family.

Visiting the Holy Cross Resurrection Garden

Q. Are there any restrictions regarding visiting the HCRG?

A. Since the HCRG is outdoors, there are no restricted hours for visitation. The HCRG is part of the Church and all visitors should conduct themselves in accordance with customary respectful decorum.

Q. What kind of decorations or memorials are allowed?

A. In order to maintain consistency, decorations, flowers, wreaths, vases, and other ornaments are not allowed, with the exception of temporary placement for the purpose of an interment service.

Other Information

Q. Do state laws regulate interment of cremains in the HCRG?

A. Yes. Interment, disinterment, and removal will comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws, rules and regulations.

Q. Who is responsible to maintain the HCRG?

A. HCLC will provide for continuing care and maintenance of the Resurrection Garden. The Church will maintain accurate permanent records of Certificates of Columbarium Interment Rights, Certificates of Remembrance Wall Memorial Rights and Agreements, along with other relevant records.

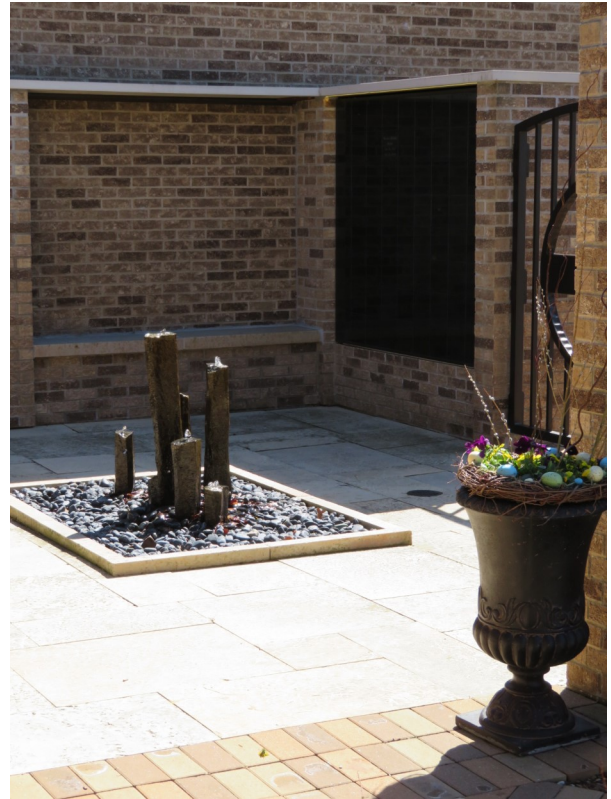
Getting Help

Q. Where can I find more information about cremation in general?

A. The Cremation Society of Illinois: cremation-society.com

US Funerals.com: us-funerals.com/funeral-articles/funerals-and-cremations-in-illinois.html

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