

The Columbarium/Meditation Garden

The Columbarium/Meditation Garden at St. Andrew Lutheran Church was constructed in conjunction with the building program that produced our new nave and narthex. This area of our facility was dedicated in 2010. During the last ten years, the Columbarium ministry has developed and matured into what you see today out of the west facing windows of the narthex. You can also view this area as you walk up the walkway from our back parking lot along Mack Hatcher Parkway.

A columbarium is a permanent structure made up of spaces or niches, where the cremated remains of individuals can be placed. The St. Andrew Columbarium contains 128 niches. Each niche can hold the cremains of two individuals. Our Columbarium is intended for the use of members of St. Andrew and their families. To date, 79 niche spaces have been reserved by our member families for burial. Currently, there are 33 individuals interred in our Columbarium.

For centuries, it has been the responsibility of the church to serve its congregation from baptism to death. Although earth burial on church grounds is no longer feasible for most churches, with a columbarium, the church can once again offer members a final resting place. With the establishment of the St. Andrew Columbarium, we can revive this sacred rite of burial for those who have joined the church triumphant.

The Columbarium/Meditation Garden ministry is not supported through the annual Ministry Spending Plan. It is operated through the designated contributions from the sale of niches (\$2,000 per niche) and funds from the Memorial & Tributes Program.

Normally during the month of February, individuals from the Columbarium Committee would be available in the narthex to talk with members. However, that is not possible this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. If you are interested in learning more about the Columbarium/Meditation Garden, we will be happy to send you an information brochure. We can also take your reservation and payment for a niche if you are ready to proceed with that process. Please contact Ron Hartman at hartmanrs44@yahoo.com or 615-500-8230 or Jolene Richardson at office@saintandrewchurch.com if we can be of assistance.

In His Service,

Ron Hartman
Columbarium Committee