

Faith Lutheran Celebration and Memorial Courtyard Frequently Asked Questions

What Is the Courtyard?

The Faith Lutheran Celebration and Memorial Courtyard is an interior memorial garden where cremated ashes are interred. It is a special space filled with peace and natural beauty, where we remember and celebrate loved ones.

Transforming a deteriorating, little-used space inside the church into a beautiful memorial garden was the vision of the late Rae L. Welker, longtime Faith member. She inspired congregation members to raise funds and establish the Celebration and Memorial Courtyard in 2017. Members originally involved in the endeavor remain in support of the courtyard and have been joined by other volunteers over the years.

Who Can Be Interred?

Current and former church members and their families may be interred in the courtyard, and their names are indicated on a committals plaque there. If buried elsewhere, church members and their families may be memorialized on a remembrance plaque in the courtyard. No markers of any type are permitted to adorn or to indicate location of ashes. As of mid-2025, 13 individuals are interred and an additional 17 others have formalized plans for interment.

How Far in Advance May Plans Be Made?

Planning can begin whenever addressing final arrangements. Interment plans may be made before or after death has occurred. All contractual responsibilities must be completed prior to an interment.

What Is the Process?

- Consult with the church's interment liaison, who will provide information and answer questions.
- Review the [Courtyard Policies and Rules of Operation](#).
- Complete an [Interment Agreement](#) and pay the associated fees.
- Select a site in the courtyard.
- Inform loved ones about the arrangements that have been made.

Sue Harman is the current interment liaison and may be reached at 330-882-9352 or sharman270@msn.com.

What Are the Costs?

Interment in the courtyard is an affordable alternative to traditional ground burial at \$1,200. This includes one nameplate mounted on the committals plaque. Nameplates for the remembrance plaque are \$250. See the [Interment](#) and [Remembrance](#) agreements for further details.

How Is the Courtyard Maintained?

A team of church members oversees operation and maintenance of the courtyard. They work in the garden seasonally and also employ a professional gardener weekly during April-October to ensure the space is always well maintained. The courtyard is registered with the State of Ohio as a cemetery. It is protected and secure and a safe, serene place to meditate, remember, and celebrate.

How Do I Access the Courtyard to Schedule a Church Meeting or Other Gathering?

Start with the pastor or church administrator, who maintains an event calendar. Folding chairs may be brought in from the Fellowship Hall.

How Do I Make a Monetary Gift to the Courtyard?

Financial support for courtyard beautification is always welcome. Make a check payable to Faith Lutheran Church and indicate on the memo line that the contribution is for the courtyard.

What is the Courtyard Team?

A team of Faith Lutheran Church members oversees the Celebration and Memorial Courtyard. They serve in staggered three-year terms and meet four to six times a year. The team handles interments; maintains the garden; plans church gatherings in the courtyard; and communicates to the congregation about courtyard matters. The team welcomes participation of Faith members in the continuing work of the courtyard and support of this ministry by prayer.

Martha Keeler is the current chair and may be reached at 330-532-0430 or keylure@gmail.com.