

MEMORIAL GARDEN MYTH BUSTING

What is the Memorial Garden?

The memorial Garden at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church is a serene place to remember departed family and friends. The garden was opened in 2004. The Memorial Garden Ministry Team is charged with the perpetual care and development of the garden. The garden is designed to include niches where human cremains can be inurned, memorial plaques and an ash scattering garden. There is currently one columbarium with room for 114 niches installed, and the first memorial plaque area is in use. The main garden area is designed to hold an additional 5 columbariums for a total of approximately 650 niches. There are three additional areas designed for memorial plaques.

At the moment, there first memorial plaque wall is nearing full capacity. With only two open spots remaining, the ministry team developed a plan to open a second memorial plaque wall. As the team worked through this plan, they discussed the increased use of the garden for both funerals, meditation and worship services and realized that the existing rough ground cover (decomposed granite) was difficult for people to walk on and for placing chairs. Thus the ministry team decided to expand development and pave the rest of the garden area. In addition, the team opted to curb the river and the planter areas to provide a uniform design and assist in garden maintenance. The ministry team, along with the property team continue working to keep the garden clean and provide a serene area to visit those remembered there

How was the Memorial Garden funded?

Questions have been floating around the church recently about how, in these tough economic times that there is construction happening at BSLC. The answer is simple: the memorial garden is self-funded. That means that the funds to cover the construction, upkeep and future development costs come from the sales of niches and memorial plaques and donations to the memorial garden. No funds from the general church budget are used. The Memorial Garden Ministry Team has a separate bank account that it manages to provide for perpetual care and future development of the garden.

And contrary to one myth floating around that the Memorial Garden costs the church money, the Ministry Team transferred \$1000.00 to the BSLC general fund in 2008.

During your Next visit to BSLC, please take the time to tour our Memorial Garden. Sit and relax, perhaps even send a prayer of thanksgiving or remembrance for a loved one. We are always looking for volunteers to help maintain the garden grounds and educate the congregation on what the garden is and how it truly helps us complete the Circle of Life at BSLC

In His Service

Greg Ogden

Ministry Team Leader

