

What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments or niches for the placement of the cremated remains of the deceased. Each metal niche is enclosed with a protective front of bronze to which is attached a metal identification plate for the names and dates of birth and death.

Does a Columbarium belong in a church?

From earliest times Christians have buried their dead in crypts, church yards and chapels within the church. Incorporating the columbarium into the church's life accents our ministry from birth and baptism to death and eternal life and becomes a center for the celebration of God's promise of new life.

Who is eligible for interment in the Columbarium?

All members in good standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and their immediate families are eligible.

Where is Redeemer's Columbarium located?

The initial columbarium with 96 niches (all sold) is on the far end of the garden between the Sims Atrium and the church. A second columbarium with 144 spaces is on the far left side wall.

What services are required for committal in the Columbarium?

A funeral or memorial service must be held in the church or chapel. No cremated remains may be interred in the columbarium without such committal services.

When is one allowed to visit the Columbarium?

The area will be open at all times when the church is open to the public and on special occasions. No flowers, real or artificial, shall be allowed in the area except at the time of interment.

How does the cost compare to funeral and burial expenses?

Expenses for funerals with viewings and burial average about \$4,000-\$6,000. Upright stone monuments and outer burial containers can escalate the cost by several thousands more. The cost of cremation is normally approx. \$1,000. The cost of a columbarium niche at Redeemer is \$750. A portion of this (\$250.) will be considered to be a tax deductible contribution to the church..

Can urns be used in the Columbarium niches?

No. The niches are designed to hold special containers which are furnished with your purchase of a niche.

How will the Columbarium be administered?

The six member Board of Trustees is comprised of five members appointed by the Congregation Council plus the Congregation's Treasurer. Each trustee is appointed for a three year term.

How can a niche be purchased?

Purchase of a columbarium niche may be made by submitting a signed application and full payment of the sales price to the columbarium fund. The right to select a particular niche will be given to purchasers in the order in which applications are received. Legal title to all niches will remain with the church, but purchasers will receive a certificate attesting to his/her ownership of the sole and perpetual use of a specified niche as personal property. There will be no assessments or future charges after the purchase price has been paid. Applications can be downloaded from the Redeemer website http://Redeemer.org/Life_Events.