

Columbarium Questions and Answers

What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium is a memorial wall which contains niches into which are placed special containers to hold the cremated remains of people. Each niche is faced with a granite plaque that bears the name, birth date and death date of the people whose remains are in the niche. Each niche can hold the remains of up to 2 people.

Does the Lutheran Church allow for cremation and burial in a columbarium?

Yes. Almost all denominations allow cremation. The LCMS has no official position on cremation. In their textbook on "Pastoral Theology" (used at our Synod's seminaries), LCMS Pastors Norbert H. Mueller and George Kraus explain why this practice is now being viewed more favorably: "In itself, the practice has no theological significance and may be used in good conscience. In fact, because of space limitations in some areas (e.g., West Berlin, England), and because of health considerations, cremation is increasing in favor. Cost, too, is a legitimate consideration, although the family considering it for this reason should be reminded that cost is saved only when there is no public viewing and, thus, no need for embalming and use of the visitation room."

What is the cost comparison with traditional burial?

Cremation and burial in a columbarium can be only a quarter or less of a traditional burial depending on the services purchased from the funeral home.

What if a loved one has already been buried in another location?

A memorial wall is also part of our columbarium plan. Memorial plaques may be purchased for loved ones. These plaques are exactly the same in appearance as the columbarium plaques.

What is the expected cost for use of the columbarium?

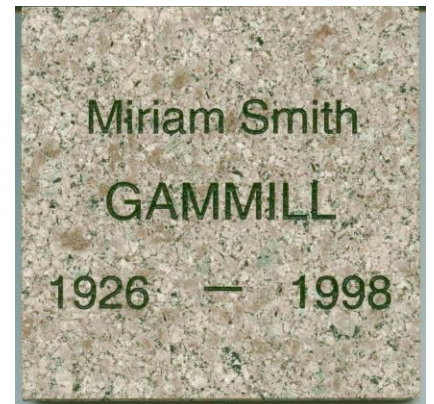
Please call the church office for prices. 757-340-8420

Can anyone be buried in the columbarium?

The columbarium is intended for use by current and former members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and their families. If exceptions are made, they must be approved in advance by the columbarium committee, pastor and church council.

What if I have any other questions?

Please contact the church office with any questions. They will be forwarded to the Columbarium committee and trustees.



Niche plaque for an individual.



Niche plaque for a couple.