



Columbarium and Memorial Garden

For More information, to sponsor or to donate, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the Bethel Office.

Name(s): _____

Best way to contact:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am interested in:

- Sponsor Donation \$5,000
- Other Donation: \$ _____
- Purchasing a niche when available

I have questions:

- Please contact me

My question(s): _____

Frequently Asked Questions

Two Columbarium structures with 64 niches each are planned. Each niche may hold one or two urns.

The Columbariums are made completely from granite and weigh several tons.

Eickhof Coumbariums is an American company from Minnesota. They will deliver and install the structures.

Robinson Monuments of Noblesville will do the face plate etching. They also did the tree plaques on the Peace Trail.

The Columbariums will be installed with a crane on concrete 36” deep pads.

The only permits needed appear to be a construction permit.

Columbariums will be delivered in early October.

The Construction timeline expects completion of the project by November 1, 2020 - All Saints Day.

The Committee, with legal advice, has developed the documentation, record keeping procedures, and purchase agreements.

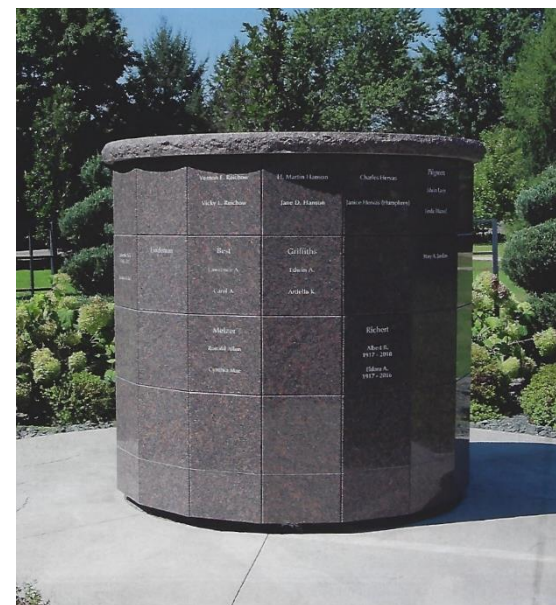
The committee continues to seek and accept donations to the project. All donations are appreciated and Sponsor Donors of \$5,000 will have first choice of location in the Columbariums.

Niches need to be paid for at the time of the agreement being signed. Location will be selected at this point.

Please clearly mark donations as “Columbarium Project” on your check and on the envelope. Please make sure the donation is in an envelope and clearly marked!



Columbarium and Memorial Garden



64 NICHE WINCHESTER COLUMBARIUM

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.
Psalms 116:15 (NIV)

My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

www.bethellutheranchurch.com

Columbarium

A final, peaceful, resting place for a person's cremated ashes to be placed.

Why a Columbarium?

1. Cremation has become a much more common form of final resting place in the United States. Over 50% of all burials are now cremations.
2. Columbariums are replacing "church cemeteries" because they take up little space, while providing a peaceful, meaningful, final resting place with their church family. Additionally, the Old Bethel (Zimmer) Cemetery is completely full and has no space left.
3. A Columbarium Garden will beautify the Narthex garden area and east side of the church property, and provide another reason for potential new Bethel members, showing Bethel as a "lifetime church," which includes their final resting place. Bethel members will have an option to make it their final home. This area will be a quiet, reflective space for Bethel members and their families to enjoy.
4. The interest in this project has been strong. The minimum necessary funds have been raised for council to approve the project, and although we continue to raise funds, we are now moving forward to begin the sales process. Each niche will cost \$2,500, which includes up to two sets of remains to be placed in each niche.

Will the Columbarium be secure?

The Columbarium Garden area will not be fenced or gated. However, the Columbarium does have a unique security system for each niche which protects them from being tampered with. Additionally, there will be security lighting and cameras in the area.

How will I get out to the Columbarium?

The main access point from the church will be through the Narthex door on the east side of the Narthex. You will also be able to exit through the Fellowship Hall doors to get there. The Peace Trail extension, which is a small part of this project, will also provide easy accessibility from the remote gravel parking lot and from the front door of the church. The extension will come through the grass on the east side of the church, passing by the Garden area and continue around to the concrete entry pad by the front door.

Will I be able to plant flowers and memorial plants in the Garden area?

The planting activity will be controlled by the Columbarium Committee. The goal is to develop a regular program to have seasonal flowers planted by volunteers during the year. The landscaping being proposed for the project will focus on a variety of colorful or unique plantings to make the Garden area live up to its name.

Are donations tax-deductible?

Deductibility is limited to that part of the total donation that doesn't include purchasing niche space. Sponsor Donors will receive a niche for two people as part of their donation, so the Fair Market Value of the niche is \$2,500, which means they can deduct \$2,500 as a donation to the church.

How will it be maintained?

As with many things at Bethel, the hope is we will have a strong volunteer group to maintain the area at a high level. It is not a large area, and the plants that will be selected partially will be due to their ease of maintenance. Water, possibly an irrigation system will be available to keep everything healthy.

What happens if the church no longer exists as an entity?

A portion of each niche sale will go to a perpetual care fund that would be utilized to move the entire Columbarium structure to another location should the church move or cease to exist.

How many Columbariums will we have?

We will have two Columbariums, each holding 64 niches for a total of 128 niches and room for a maximum of 256 interments.

What happens when the Columbariums are filled?

Part of the reason we chose the location for the Garden is that it affords us expandability in that same area. We believe, based on measurements taken, that we could have as many as 5 structures in this area. Granted, it would lose a little of its greenspace, but the surrounding plant material will remain in place and continue to provide that screened, privatized feeling. Five structures would allow up to 640 individuals to be interred in that area. At that point, we believe the grounds on the east side would accommodate further expansion, but that would likely be a very long time from now.