COLUMBARIUM AND OSSUARY
Lutheran Church of God's Love

General Information:

A **Columbarium** is a well-designed and carefully constructed structure with niches in which containers of cremated ashes are inurned above ground.

An **Ossuary** is a shared container or vessel in which the cremated remains of multiple individuals are respectfully inurned together as a collective resting place.

Endorsement

In the ELCA, Christian burial is a sacred act that proclaims the hope of resurrection and entrusts the deceased to God's eternal care. Whether the body is buried or cremated, the church emphasizes dignity, respect, and the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ.

Funeral and committal services are opportunities for the community to gather, grieve, and be comforted by the promises of baptism and resurrection. In all things, we remember that "both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God" (Romans 14:8).

Cost

The cost of a columbarium **niche is $2,000** (accommodating up to three sets of cremated remains); the cost of space in the **ossuary is $500**.

This **does not include** the cost of cremation or any associated fees such as death certificate, obituary publication charge, urn, niche faceplate engraving, funeral arrangements, etc.

If payment is made via credit card, a 3% processing fee will be added.

Families are free to select the funeral home and director of their choosing, as this is an independent arrangement made outside of the church.

COLUMBARIUM AND OSSUARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Lutheran Church of God's Love

as of September 2026

Eligibility

Members of the congregation (past and present) and their immediate families (spouses or domestic partner, children, and stepchildren, parents) are eligible to be inurned in the Columbarium or interred in the Ossuary. Associated members and congregational friends of record may appeal to the church's pastoral staff to obtain eligibility.

No Floral Displays or Ornamental Attachments

No flowers (cut, potted, or artificial) or other items will be allowed near the Columbarium and Ossuary. In addition, no ornaments of any kind are to be attached to the faceplates of the Columbarium. Bereaved persons seeking comfort in their grief or wishing to remember a loved one are invited to request a pastoral visit for on-site or in-home services of psalms, readings, prayers, or counseling. Also, in times of mourning and remembrance, consideration can be given to dedicating the altar flowers in loving memory of the deceased, placing a floral arrangement in the worship space (sanctuary or narthex) in loving memory of the departed; providing the food and drink for a Sunday morning fellowship in remembrance of the loved one; or making a gift to the Memorial Fund in honor of the departed one.

Disposition of Cremains

Cremains will remain either at the crematory, with the funeral director, or with the family until the scheduled interment. Cremains shall not be left with the church at any time prior to the day of the scheduled interment.

Columbarium Inscriptions

Each niche of the Columbarium shall have a nameplate of uniform size, which may be inscribed with name and dates of birth and death. Any additional wording will require church approval. Inscriptions can be arranged at or near the time of inurnment.

Ossuary Inscriptions

Those interred in the Ossuary may be commemorated with a personalized brick placed in the walkway surrounding the columbarium. Each brick will be of uniform size and may be inscribed with name and dates of birth and death. Any additional wording will require church approval. Brick inscriptions can be arranged at or near the time of interment.

(continued)

Remains Not Recoverable

Cremated remains interred in the Ossuary cannot be retrieved, removed, nor relocated; requests to do so cannot be honored. However, remains inurned in the Columbarium can be moved if, and when, the immediate family deems that necessary. A niche re-opening fee may apply.

Responsibility of Identity

The church shall not be liable for ensuring the identity of the person whose cremated remains are inurned or interred. Certification of identity comes from the crematory. The paperwork received will be kept in the confidential records of the church.

Personal Conduct

The Prayer Garden with the Columbarium and Ossuary will constitute a peaceful, private and quiet place for prayer, contemplation, and remembrance. Therefore, all persons in the area are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

Exclusive Right

The church is the sole owner of the Columbarium and Ossuary. Consequently, reserved niches in the Columbarium and spaces in the Ossuary are non-transferable; they may not be given, sold or otherwise transferred to another. If a reserved niche or ossuary space is no longer needed it may be surrendered back to the church.

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COLUMBARIUM AND OSSUARY
INTERMENT OF CREMAINS AGREEMENT

I am electing to have the cremains of the following individual(s) interred at Lutheran Church of God's Love, 791 Newtown Yardley Road in Newtown, Pennsylvania:

Name(s) _____
Printed Name(s)

My contact information:

_____ _____
Name Email, Phone Number, and/or Mailing Address

My selection for the interment is:

_____ interred in a biodegradable container in the Ossuary

_____ inurned in a niche of the Columbarium

_____ Assign me a niche location **OR**

_____ I would like one of the following niche locations* (list up to three) _____ _____ _____

* Note: If none of your choices are available, we will contact you for another choice.

To cover my selection,

a check for $_____ payable to Lutheran Church of God's Love is enclosed **OR**

I processed an online credit card payment for $ _____ on date: _____.

I have read and agree to comply with the "Columbarium and Ossuary Rules and Regulations".

_____ _____
Signature Date

Return this completed agreement and your payment to:

Lutheran Church of God's Love
791 Newtown Yardley Rd
Newtown, PA 18940
Attn: Columbarium Team
or email completed form to columbarium@godslovenewtown.org

Office Use Only ☐ Niche assigned: _____ OR ☐ Ossuary reserved

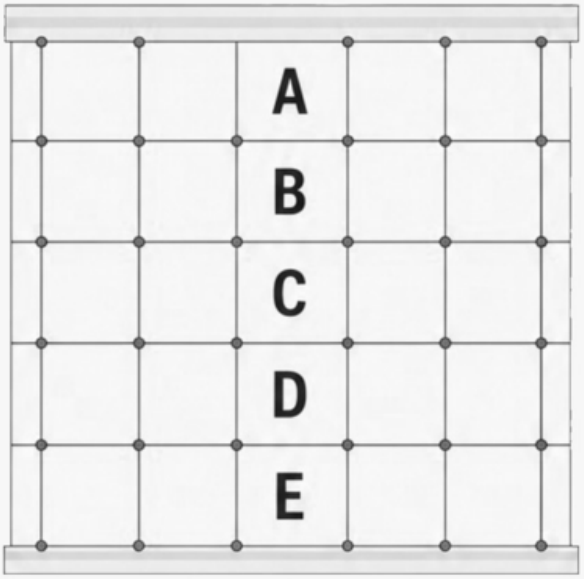
Payment of $_____ received on date _____
☐ Check # _____ OR ☐ Proof of Credit Card Payment OR ☐ Cash

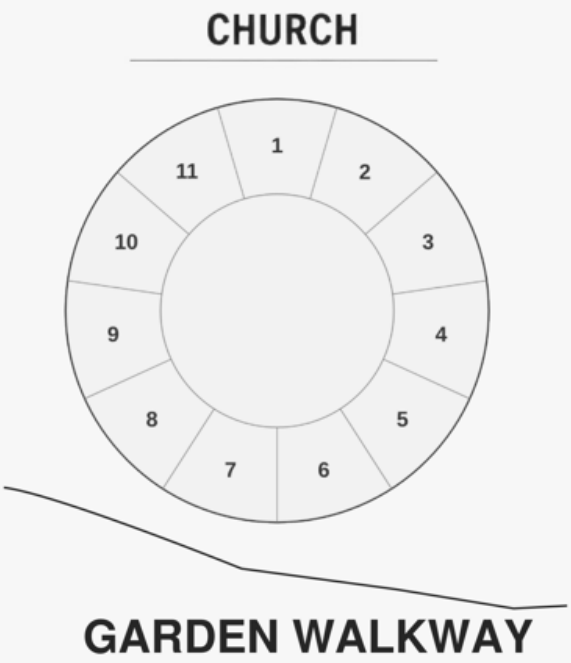
Lutheran Church of God's Love

COLUMBARIUM SELECTION

Our columbarium provides a sacred and lasting place of remembrance for members of our church family. Niches are available for purchase to house the cremated remains of loved ones.

COLUMBARIUM OVERVIEW





- It offers 5 horizontal rows (A–E) from top to bottom
- Each niche holds up to 3 sets of cremains
- All niches are identical in size - 12" Tall x 12" Deep x 5" Wide (at the narrow end)

HOW TO SELECT A NICHE

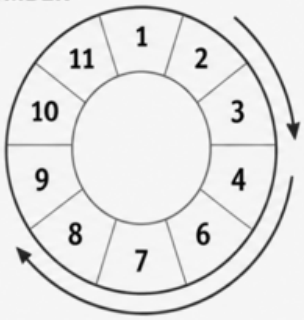
1 CHOOSE YOUR ROW

Select the horizontal row that best fits your preference.
Rows are labeled from top to bottom:
A, B, C, D, E.

A
B
C
D
E

2 CHOOSE YOUR NICHE NUMBER

Within that row, choose a niche number from 1 through 11 (**clockwise** from 1 to 11).



3 CHECK AVAILABILITY

Contact the church office to confirm availability and complete the purchase.

Phone: (215) 968-4335

Address: 791 Newtown Yardley Rd, Newtown, PA 18940

Email: columbarium@godslovenewtown.org