

THE EMMANUEL COLUMBARIUM

A final resting place for Emmanuel members and their families



What is a Columbarium?

A columbarium is a unified group of individual “niches” (to protect vessels or urns) which contain the cremated remains of the deceased. Each niche—a permanent, above-ground vault with a sealed front and memorial markings—is available as burial space for up to two individuals.

Why invest in a Columbarium niche?

Cremation (returning the body to ashes) has become an increasingly accepted alternative to in-ground burial. However, many families still wish to have a memorial place for their loved one’s ashes. A niche in a columbarium is affordable, and ecologically sound. The “quiet” design of the Emmanuel Columbarium invites solitary contemplation and meditation (enhanced by three curved, granite benches surrounding the columbarium unit) as well as a gathering place for family and friends to assemble in prayer, love and remembrance.

Who owns the Emmanuel Columbarium?

The Emmanuel Columbarium, located on church property, belongs to Emmanuel Lutheran Church and its members. Churches have traditionally been a natural repository and final resting place for deceased members and their immediate family.

Who is entitled to purchase and use the “niches”?

Members and former members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church as well as their immediate family members (spouse, parents, children) are entitled to purchase niches in the Emmanuel Columbarium. With the approval of the Pastor and Church Council, niches may also be made available to non-members.

The Emmanuel Columbarium is a curved, granite unit consisting of 112 individual niches, configured in four rows of 28 niches each. It is located in a landscaped memorial garden near the western boundary of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church property. Planning permits expansion for years to come—from generation to generation—by placing up to two (2) additional columbarium units, with 112 niches each, alongside the original construction. The number of niches ultimately built will be determined by congregational interest and demand.

Theologically, burial on church grounds reminds those living that the deceased was a believer in the trinity—God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and recognizes our Christian belief in the community of Saints, the living and the dead. Liturgically, burial on church grounds provides a holy and dignified place for remembrance and love of the deceased. The simplicity, elegance and permanence of a columbarium honors those who have gone before us.



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COSTS

How much does a niche cost?

At this time, the cost per niche for ELC members, former members and their families is \$1,500 (\$1,200 if reserved and paid for on or before April 30, 2021). With the approval of the Pastor and Church Council, non-members may purchase a niche for \$1,750. This is the total price for one niche (space), which includes perpetual maintenance and space for up to two (2) urns. Because special vessels or urns for the remains of loved ones vary, the niche cost does not include the cost of such a container.

Are there any other costs?

In addition to the cost of the niche, there is an interment fee of \$250 to cover the opening and closing of the niche and the interment ceremony, and an inscription fee based upon the actual cost of engraving the niche cover plate. These fees are paid at the time of interment.

Who pays for maintenance and/or future construction?

Revenues from the sale of niches will be placed in a restricted fund reserved and applied to reimburse the initial construction cost and as a reserve to cover future maintenance of the Emmanuel Columbarium and the surrounding landscape, as well as possible future expansion (i.e., adding more niches). This fund would be overseen by the ELC Church Administrator and Treasurer and is reviewed annually.

To express interest, complete the Statement of Interest below or online at www.elcvienna.org/columbarium

You will then be contacted by an ELC staff person or a member of the ELC Columbarium team, who will provide details of the next steps including a contract and payment options.

Please complete and return this Statement of Interest to Attn: Church Administrator Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road Vienna, VA 22181

I am interested in the Emmanuel Columbarium and would like one of the ELC staff or a member of the ELC columbarium team to contact me.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

(home/cell) _____

(work) _____

Email:

