

## Burial Fees

Like any active garden, the St. Paul Memorial Garden is an ever-evolving place of beauty.

Fees received for burial help underwrite all garden expenses necessary for the garden's long-term loveliness, regular upkeep, and annual maintenance.

The church does not accept pre-payment in advance of a person's death. See the Pre-Planning section (next panel) for further details.

The fee for burial of a St. Paul member, spouse/partner, or dependent child is \$750. This includes name inscription on the wall.

## More Information

A larger document, detailing operational policies for the Memorial Garden, is available on request in the church office.

## Pre-Planning

St. Paul members are invited to indicate their intent to be buried in the Memorial Garden. A Burial Intent Form is available in the church office.

This intent form is not a legally-binding document, but the form will be filed as a statement of desire for those who choose to be buried in the garden. Space for burial in the garden is unlimited.

St. Paul Lutheran Church receives fee payment from families only at the time of a person's death. The church purposely does not function as a bank, holding pre-paid funds for a member's eventual burial. Several options exist regarding advance planning and payment.

1. If you desire burial in the garden, be sure to fill out a Burial Intent Form and share it with loved ones, returning the original copy to the church office.
2. Some individuals will make all cremation arrangements with a funeral home well in advance of death. It is appropriate to check with the funeral home about how it receives advance payment.
3. Some individuals specify the Memorial Garden in their personal will as their intended burial site. The inscription of a name on the wall would be contingent on the person being a member of the congregation at the time of death.
4. Some individuals purchase a Certificate of Deposit (CD) through their local bank in the amount of \$750, to secure the cost of burial. St. Paul Lutheran Church Memorial Garden can be added to whatever other name is on the CD account. A photocopy of the CD can be kept on record with the Burial Intent Form in the church business office. The actual CD would be held by the individual, or the individual's family, until the time of death, at which time the family would transfer funds to the church.



## Gifts

Special monetary gifts to support the ongoing beauty of the Memorial Garden are always welcome. These gestures of generosity allow for the growth of the garden as its needs continue to evolve over time.

Gifts in memory or in honor of loved ones are ways that individuals may choose to ensure perpetual garden care.

## Care of the Garden

An oversight committee gives leadership to the Memorial Garden's maintenance, improvements, and future needs.

The garden requires continual attention, season to season. Volunteers offer the gift of their hands and time for the garden's care. They maintain the beauty of the garden's landscaping.

# A Garden of Memory and Life



## The St. Paul Memorial Garden

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Davenport, Iowa



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## Purpose of the Garden

The Memorial Garden of St. Paul Lutheran Church is a beautiful outdoor space of rest, relaxation, and spiritual peace.

The design of the walkways, garden beds, seating areas, and memorial wall all testify to our centering confidence in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.



The garden hosts not only plantings that change with the seasons, but also the buried ashes from members of the St. Paul community who have died.

Christians understand that human life and death are highly communal in character. This peaceful garden of memory and life reflects the biblical understanding that whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.

People from all walks of life visit the garden daily, stopping for quiet reflection. At the time of a burial service, family and friends come together for fellowship and celebration of the one who has died, recalling the comfort of a Lord who sustains us even in our sorrow.

## Location

The garden sits on the northeast corner of the main campus of St. Paul, surrounded by the living community of an active congregation. It also enjoys proximity and accessibility to the general public.

The location provides members of the congregation the option of burial on the very grounds where they have committed a significant portion of their lives, time, and energy.

## Statement of Faith

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

Jesus' words in John 11:25

Christian people profess faith in the ultimate power of God to resurrect the dead. Eternal life, as scripture teaches us, is a gift of God who has acted in Christ to overcome the power of sin and death.

Burial in the St. Paul Memorial Garden may not be the choice of all individuals. But it is a biblically-faithful option for those who do choose this location.



The common burial plot of the Memorial Garden underscores our tie to the communion of saints — that family of saints comprised of both the living and the dead.

Our baptismal identity in Christ's church is the primary focus of being buried in a common plot along with other St. Paul members.

## Practice of Cremation

The practice of cremation has gained wide acceptance among Christian faith traditions in recent decades. For some, it is a matter of economy and a commitment to simplicity.

As the theological preference of some individuals, cremation provides a more simple and ecological burial method than the traditional casket, vault, and headstone arrangement connected with an embalmed body burial.

Funeral homes regularly assist families with either choice: cremation or embalment.

## Returned to the Soil

Human ashes are often called cremains.

In the St. Paul Memorial Garden, cremains are deposited directly into the topsoil during a special committal service.

The actual location of an individual burial site is not marked — underscoring our commonality as baptized people who are united in Christ.

Upon burial, the cremains become an integrated part of the garden topsoil, reminding us of what the scriptures tell us: “We come from dust, and we return to God through the dust of the soil.”

Burial in common soil is a holy act, a reverence-filled gesture of entrusting the cremains of saints to the everlasting arms of the Lord.

## Burial of Ashes

Ashes of the deceased must be buried in the garden soil for a name to be engraved on the granite wall.

Only members on the roster of St. Paul Lutheran Church at the time of death — and their spouses/partners and dependent children buried in the garden — may have their names engraved on the memorial wall.

With special pastoral permission, individuals outside the congregation are welcome to be buried in the garden. Engraving on the memorial wall is limited, however, to St. Paul members and the family connections noted above.

Pastoral discretion may be used for situations where late-in-life relocation has affected an individual's church membership.

## Decorations

By design, the garden has been laid out to be its own beautiful and lasting memorial.

The relatively small public space of the garden, shared by many different people, makes it inappropriate to place flags, emblems, monuments, plaques, headstones, floral arrangements, or other objects in the garden.

## Committal Service

A committal service is the brief burial service in the garden, conducted by a pastor. It may follow immediately after a memorial service of worship inside the church. Or it can be combined with a brief memorial service in the garden.

During the committal ceremony, the soil is dug up and turned over with a shovel — in one of several designated places among the garden plantings, near the memorial wall.

Family members or friends are invited to take an active role in the burial, if they desire. An urn is customarily used to scatter the cremains, as the ashes are mixed with the soil.

A family may provide its own urn for use during the service. Typically, a family will borrow from the church one of two decorative urns for the burial.



## Inscription on the Memorial Wall

The memorial wall is comprised of seven granite tablets mounted vertically in the center of the Memorial Garden. The tablets represent the seven days of creation when God demonstrated what beauty, order, goodness, and rest truly look like.

The tablets overlook the intimate cross-shaped plaza where people gather.

Names are inscribed on the wall chronologically, in order of burial. This practice celebrates our baptismal identity as our primary calling. In spiritual terms, this means that the people with whom we are buried in the Memorial Garden are true brothers and sisters in Christ, as spiritually significant to us as our own earthly family members.

Along with the name, the date of birth and the date of death are inscribed. A uniform lettering size and font have been selected for all names and dates on the memorial wall. Names are listed without titles.