

## Columbarium Update

The voters approved the construction of a columbarium at Faith Lutheran Church during the 2022 Spring/Summer Voters Assembly. This article will provide you with an update of the activities that have taken place since that meeting.

A Columbarium Committee has been formed by members interested in the construction and ongoing operation of the columbarium. These members are Harold and Sandra Bergh, Leon and Carol Buck, Sandra Jones, and Chris and Carrie Wood. As required by our by-laws, Frank Menzel will represent the Board of Trustees on the committee.

All members of the team are enthusiastic and have gotten to work on the detailed planning necessary to bring this project to completion. A first step was a field trip to consider the existing columbaria at three local churches. Each featured a different approach to niches and a unique environmental setting. Following the field trip, the committee was unanimous that the design presented to the voters was the best one for our needs and space.

Voter approval was contingent on the committee fully funding the project through designated offerings. Therefore, one of their first tasks was to identify the total cost requirements-- including site preparation, wiring and plumbing, foundation and footing construction and, finally, the columbarium itself. They estimate that the total funding need is \$175,000. To date, members have pledged \$130,000. Thus, \$45,000 in additional pledges are needed before construction can begin. The project completion time will be about 15 months after funding is secured.

Since the committee will administer the columbarium following construction, I intend to ask the Church Council to establish the committee as a permanent committee of the Council. This will provide both oversight and review of their work and provide them with access to the staff and boards with whom they will interact. This structure will also provide them with access to our financial services as their money flows in and out and visibility to the congregation through financial statements and reports.

Chris Wood will give an update from the committee's perspective in a Temple Talk at both services on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, and will be available to answer your questions between and after services. Additionally, you may contact him by email at [chris.wood@3solas.com](mailto:chris.wood@3solas.com)

Bill Fuller, Congregational Chairman