

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

A Garden with a Prayer Mission

Christ often sought a garden to pray, rest with his disciples, and retreat from the sun. Amazingly, we also seek our own gardens for the very same reasons. Holy Cross has been blessed with its own garden. Originally imagined by our early members, our Prayer Garden is enjoyed by the community, visitors to the area, and our congregation. Most we never see or meet but over the years it has brought solace and joy to many.

How our Prayer Garden began is a delightful story!

After the new sanctuary was dedicated in 2007, the members decided to make eighteen stained glass windows to replace the plain glass. Led by artistic members Fred Huddleston and Monica Morris, the tedious work was done in our largest classroom. The successful project took several years. Each window is a work of art we all cherish!

Left over colored glass from the windows led to a second early project, steppingstones. Members cut the extra glass into pieces, created mosaics of their favorite worship symbol, then grouted them to concrete pavers. The pavers were stored until members Jo Ann and Harold Hees volunteered to build a Prayer Garden. Harold planned a concrete walk, and the colorful tiles were inserted into the walk at construction. They continue to fill us with joy as we stroll the garden.

The Prayer Garden was Dedicated in 2014. The Columbarium area was added along the walk in 2015 and the "Way of the Cross" Passion Story along the walk was added in 2021. What a great history!

We are now very excited to begin a new Chapter in the Prayer Garden's history. Hurricane Harvey and the ice storm severely damaged our beautiful garden acre. In January of this year a fundraiser was begun to renovate the garden. Following a landscape plan, the garden will be upgraded in four phases. The plan highlights a new entrance sign, the columbarium area, river rock beds, and existing sculptures. Trees, flowering bushes, and wildflower fields will be added as donations arrive. Groundbreaking was Sunday, February 20th.

When Jesus went to the beautiful Garden of Gethsemane to pray, he was sorrowful and distressed.

Our troubled souls also find relief when we are alone with God. Our Prayer Garden offers this quiet relief to all who visit. It's beauty consoles.

Thank you, Lord, for guiding our mission work through our Prayer Garden.



Patty Enstrom
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