

What is the Circle of Grace at St. Michael?

We have created the Circle of Grace to proclaim God's gracious love in Christ Jesus for all people, to provide a final resting place for the cremated remains of our beloved, and to create a contemplative place of solace for those who grieve.

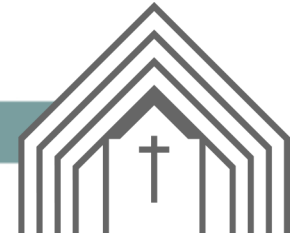
How do I scatter/place the ashes of my beloved in the Circle of Grace at St. Michael?

1. Please read this information on the Circle of Grace carefully. It provides instructions and guidelines for use.
2. Complete the application and record with the appropriate information regarding the deceased.
3. Sign the "Application and Record" indicating your understanding of the policies.
4. Attach the donation stipulated in the guidelines.
5. Return the application and record to the church office for signature by the pastor or designated church official.
6. Contact the office (540.951.8951) to arrange a convenient time to discuss the scattering of the ashes and appropriate service if desired.

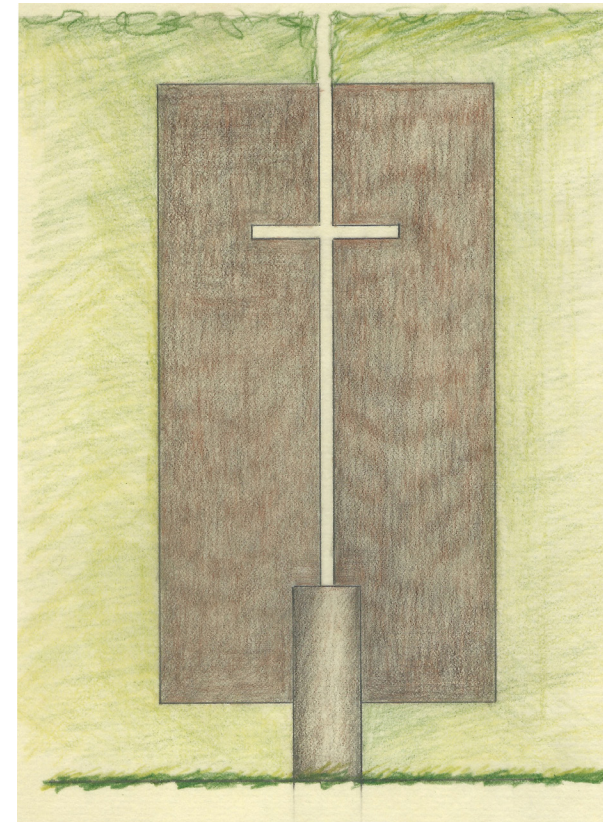
St. Michael Lutheran Church

Circle of Grace

Scattering Garden



St. Michael Lutheran Church
2308 Merrimac Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540.951.8951
hope@stmlc.us



I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

- **Jeremiah 31:13** (NRSV)

Circle of Grace Guidelines

1. All of God's children are eligible to have their cremains scattered in the Circle of Grace at St. Michael.
2. Cremains are scattered within the center of the Circle of Grace. None of the cremains will be recoverable or preserved intact. Only the ashes from the cremation (cremains) are scattered. Burial containers will not be allowed.
3. A donation of \$250 per person is requested for use of the Circle of Grace. All donations should be made with the application. All donations for use of the Circle of Grace will be used for the purpose of maintenance and care of the Circle of Grace and surrounding landscape, memorial record, and engraving and installation of the memorial plaque. This donation does not include the cost of cremation or other costs which may be associated with cremation services.
4. St. Michael Lutheran Church will enter the names of persons whose cremains are scattered in the Circle of Grace in a memorial record maintained by the church. A memorial plaque of uniform style bearing the name of each person along with their birth and death date will be placed on the wall.
5. Reservations are not required but a Circle of Grace application must be completed and signed prior to the scattering of cremains in the Circle of Grace.
6. The scattering of cremains in the Circle of Grace shall occur in consultation with the pastor or a designated church official.
7. No flowers, plants or decorations shall be placed in or about the Circle of Grace with the exception of a bud vase designed to be placed on the memorial wall. The bud vase will remain with a live flower for one week following the service and then will be removed. Those wishing to memorialize family members are encouraged to do so by donation to the church or making a donation to support expansion and maintenance of the Circle of Grace.
8. The use and maintenance of the Circle of Grace and all terms, conditions, and rules are under the control of the Congregational Council of St. Michael Lutheran Church. The church reserves the right to make, amend and repeal such terms, conditions and rules as it deems fit.
9. Though St. Michael Lutheran Church cannot guarantee the perpetuity of the Circle of Grace, the church assumes the moral responsibility to maintain the Circle of Grace for the purpose intended, as long as it remains reasonably practical to do so.
10. St. Michael Lutheran Church assumes no liability with regard to the acceptance and placement of any cremains within the Circle of Grace. Any applicant seeking to have cremains accepted for placement with the Circle shall be required to sign a waiver releasing St. Michael Lutheran Church, its members, employees, and pastors from any liability arising out of the operation and administration of the Circle of Grace.

Martin Luther
November 10, 1483 – February 18, 1546

Sample of Plaque



St. Michael Lutheran Church

Circle of Grace

Application and Record

Full Name of Deceased:

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Spouse/Partner of Deceased: _____

Children of the Deceased: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Relative or Designee Responsible
for Cremains and contact information: _____

Was the deceased a member of St Michael Lutheran Church? Yes ___ No ___

If not, relationship to a member of St Michael _____

Additional Comments: _____

I have read the Circle of Grace Guidelines. On behalf of myself, and my heirs, I release St. Michael Lutheran Church, its members, employees and pastors from any liability arising out of the operation and administration of the Circle of Grace. I recognize that the Circle of Grace is not a cemetery, and, as outlined in the guidelines, waive all claim to the Circle of Grace.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Deceased: _____

For Office Use

Donation Amount \$ _____ Received on: _____

Approval Signature _____ Date: _____

Completing and maintaining the Circle of Grace

While the initial phases of the Circle of Grace project have been completed, the remaining elements of the design including landscaping and entry ways are ongoing. Those items will be installed as funding becomes available. If you would like to make a donation, please speak to Pastor Wes Jamison (PastorWes@stmlc.us).

Future Elements of the Circle of Grace

Memorial Wall (additional panels)	\$ 3,300 each
Benches	\$ 750 – 1,500
Landscaping	\$ donations are welcome
Signage & other	\$ donations are welcome