

Landscaping Opportunities at Immanuel Lutheran Church

It has always been our goal that our church should act as a welcoming space on Sunday when it opens its doors for services, but we might also feel our outdoor spaces should have a welcoming, warm presence so that when people gaze upon the grounds, they feel at peace, and possibly be encouraged to seek out the inner gifts our church has to offer.



The old saying is that a book should not be judged by its cover. Attractive landscaping, however, can contribute to the welcoming atmosphere of the church, strengthen its missions and enhance its role in the community.

Members of ILC have approached the church council with ideas for improving the outdoor spaces at Immanuel. Some have suggested that we should create comfortable spaces with more benches in shaded, attractive areas so that people are drawn there to spend alone time for reflection and a place to talk to God.



Building a fire pit was suggested to encourage more use of the grounds in the evenings.

Adding a labyrinth has been promoted to facilitate prayer and meditation.



A Bible garden, a collection of plants that are mentioned in the Bible, could offer educational opportunities.

Those concerned about our environment have promoted less manicured grass and more native plantings attractive to pollinators.

Once we design, plant, and bring the landscape to life, it's going to need constant attention to keep it trimmed and well maintained. There's mowing, garden bed edging, and weeding. The existing rain gardens need attention.

We have a small, dedicated team of grounds-keeping volunteers. Many are in their golden years. We are asking for an influx of new people with a vision to make our church grounds more appealing and safe for use by all age groups. This would likely be a long-term project carried out in stages over 3 to 5 years, though some aspects could be started almost immediately. Most importantly, we need one or two people to coordinate this effort — gathering ideas, discussing what's feasible, seeking funding, recruiting and scheduling landscaping teams of all ages. If you have ideas and/or if you are able-bodied and enjoying working outdoors, please contact any of the church council members to volunteer to help get this landscaping ministry underway.

