



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  LCMS

A Caring Community: Confessing Christ by Reaching Families

6135 Rings Rd. | Dublin OH 43016

Office 614.889.2284 | Preschool 614.889.5893

Sunday Worship 8:00a & 10:45a

Adam J. Steinbrenner, Pastor

Sunday School Hour 9:30a

adam.steinbrenner@stjohndublin.org

Bible Study for all ages 9:30a

Church Office office@stjohndublin.org

Online stjohndublin.org

February 12, 2024

The purpose of this narrative is to express the desire of St. John Lutheran Church to rezone our properties of 6001/6041 Rings Rd. into a memorial garden/cemetery preserve as a Planned Unit Development. We wish to expand our ministry by providing spiritual care for our congregants from the waters of baptism until they are ultimately laid to rest.

St. John has been on the Rings Rd. corner adjacent to the properties of 6001 and 6041 Rings Rd for the last 123 years. Our original church was located about a mile north on Avery Road (in 1855). The original church cemetery location, which has no area for expansion, is next to the roundabout on Avery Road. We have and continue to maintain that property today. Many of our congregants have a rich, active, and full history with this church and especially the Dublin area. This is home for us now and when our time comes to depart from this life. Therefore, we want to be buried on our home property along with our church family and friends.

We are committed to preserving and maintaining the natural and the created beauty of the proposed memorial space. This commitment should give our neighbors peace of mind, with a known and stable environment with beautiful views from their property. We have the same interest as our neighbors in preserving this area and the beauty associated with these parcels of land. That stability will also protect the value of their homes. This proposed memorial project will align with Dublin's objectives for planning rural neighborhoods and parks.

INTENDED PROPERTIES DEVELOPMENT:

A. We intend to professionally develop and manage the front (north) portion of both parcels, which is approximately 6 acres, into a memorial preserve which provides a variety of hybrid burial options on this rural property. Our objective is to develop and preserve, as much as possible, the historic and open pastoral look and feel of this area while also providing various burial options as we continue our "cradle to grave" ministry. At the same time, placement of all burials will be dependent on floodways and flood plain.

B. This memorial space will not be developed in the traditional cemetery style (i.e., multiple lines of headstones) but instead will be planned & developed to blend with and enhance the

existing environment, the natural land features and the local area. We will utilize a variety of burial options including (traditional, natural/green, various types of columbarium & cremation options and a Scatter Garden option) on site.

C. Several areas will have both large and small columbarium box options with native and seasonal landscaping. Also included will be hardscaping (paved sitting & benched areas) in garden spaces linked by pedestrian paths throughout the site.

D. All headstone markers will be “limited and similar” in size and shape, and also limited to just 2 or 3 color options throughout the site. This will help to maintain a unified and balanced look throughout. Burial locations and options will be arranged to blend with existing landscape or have hardy/low maintenance native perennials and grasses planted nearby to soften and blend stones with existing landscape and hardscaping.

E. All open lawn areas are being planned to maintain an open pasture environment by allowing only flush (same color) lawn markers. This will benefit both us and our adjacent neighbors by preserving the current natural/rural look and feel of the area. This also helps to reduce maintenance & associated noise.

F. Plans are to have a small structure onsite linked to a memorial area providing space for family gatherings or occasional special events.

G. If any stone material is used on site or on structures, it would be similar to what is used in our surrounding neighborhoods and area. All of this would be in alignment with Dublin’s guidelines for **Planned Urban Development**.

H. There would be single-lane driving path through memorial garden and possibly across the properties to the existing church parking lot of 6135 Rings Rd.

This endeavor is near and dear to our hearts. Therefore, in summary, we propose to rezone the aforementioned properties to a Planned Unit Development for use as a memorial garden/cemetery preserve.