

**Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden at Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church (COSLC)**

1612 Oceanview Drive (corner of Old Seward Highway)

Update: 4/22

In January of 2021, the congregation felt God's call to reach out to our neighbors by supporting the development of a community garden ministry with focus on the residents of the church's neighborhood. Critical to this support was a commitment to use some funds from a bequest given to the church by Paul and Ruth Lemp. Due to efforts of the garden committee, additional grants have been secured to develop a 10,000 sq. foot garden on the vacant plot of land adjoining the church. A moose-proof fence had been erected, 10 raised garden beds have been purchased and assembled, 20 more are enroute from the manufacturer and all will be filled with soil within the next 1-2 months. A water tank has been purchased and is awaiting installation and an accessible porta-potty for gardeners will be provided at the site. Throughout this entire process, we have been anticipating the grand opening of the garden with 30 beds in early June.

The area surrounding the church is a mixture of single-family and multi-family residences. According to recent MOA demographics, many of these residents are relatively well-off financially while others may well be struggling to provide the basic needs for their families. Although a \$10 annual fee per bed will be charged, someone's inability to pay will not be an impediment.

The church is committed to providing the opportunity for interested gardeners to learn how to grow healthful food thus becoming more food-secure. "Yarducopia" and "Master Gardeners" are local gardening organizations who will help us meet this commitment. We envision the area surrounding the garden as a gathering place for neighbors who have limited green space available where they live. To that end, we have applied for a grant, that if funded, will provide for a small "pocket park" near the garden with benches and picnic tables for area residents.

As part of our outreach we have partnered with the newly opened Q'evu Village senior housing development on Old Seward highway just south of the church. Following our presentation to the residents and management, the interest is building and a number of beds have been reserved. Through signage and flyer distribution, we are continuing outreach to other neighbors in the area and plan to host a kick-off Garden Celebration in mid to late May.

We anticipate that full implementation of the project will take 3 years.

Gary Matthews
COCLC Project Coordinator