

Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden

at

Christ our Savior Lutheran Church



Gardeners' Welcome Packet

2026

Welcome to Community Gardening and to the Paul and Ruth Lemp Community Garden!

This Welcome Packet contains important information about how our garden operates, its policies, and who to contact with any questions. It also contains information about how you can pitch in to make the garden a success. Because community gardening requires work beyond tending to your own growing space, every gardener is asked to participate to the best of his or her ability in the management and upkeep of the entire garden so that we may all benefit from its success.

A Little About Paul and Ruth Lemp

Paul and Ruth were longtime Alaskans and beloved members of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. They were dedicated to the well-being of the church, volunteering for whatever project that needed assistance and also enthusiastic about joining all church events and celebrations. They were both community builders at heart, evidenced by the fact that Ruth was the financial secretary and Sunday school coordinator, while Paul delighted in bringing the harvest from his thriving home vegetable garden to share with church members. Paul and Ruth left a generous donation to the church that planted the seed that sprouted the Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden. We hope you enjoy gardening as much as they did.



Table of Contents

Successful Gardening.....4

Job Descriptions & Security.....5

General Garden Policies & Responsibilities.....6

Greenhouse Policies & Responsibilities.....7

Resources.....7

Garden Application/Agreement.....8-10

“It Takes a Village to Grow a Garden”

Jeralyn Phifer



The Risch Family

Successful Community Gardening

A community garden means many things to many people. For some, a community garden is a place to grow food or flowers in the company of friends and neighbors. For others, it's a place to reconnect with nature or get some exercise. For others it's a place to grow what they do not have the opportunity to grow at their own home. Regardless of why you have come to take part in the garden, the choice comes with both responsibilities and rewards.

Rewards of Community Gardening:

There are many benefits to community gardening. Being able to nurture plants and watch them grow can be fun and rewarding. Harvesting your own healthy, organically grown produce for yourself or the community, is not only rewarding, but nutritious! It also provides fun and educational opportunities for kids. Enjoying the comradery of fellow gardeners, making new friends, sharing growing tips, and maybe even sharing some recipes, all add to the community feel of the garden. It's also a great place to get a little exercise especially when pitching in on garden work projects and maintenance. Gardening provides a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction and helps put us in touch with nature, providing a sense belonging and a connection to the world around us, not to mention providing an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Alaskan summer days. Gardening is not just beneficial to us, but to the environment we live in, by creating greater biodiversity, reducing the heat island effect, and providing an opportunity to recycle waste materials that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Responsibilities of Community Gardening:

Properly maintain your growing space. Plan on visiting your garden multiple times a week, if not daily in drier weather, to care for your plants. Post a note for yourself or set a reminder on your phone. Educate yourself about your plants and gardening. **You are required to designate an Alternate Gardener to care for your growing space when you are unavailable.**

Contributing to the garden is strongly encouraged. Community gardens require attention and work to be successful. Many things need to be done: Water tanks need filling, grass needs mowing, weeds need whacking, compost needs turning, beds need assembling, tools and equipment need maintaining, supplies need hauling, etc. It is so true that many hands make light work! Find out how you can pitch in by asking one of the Garden Committee members. Your contributions are very appreciated!

What's provided:

After registration, and upon opening, each gardener will receive the gate code, a bag of organic fertilizer, a 10% off discount card for FORGET-ME-NOT NURSERY, access to water, watering cans, wagons for hauling, compost/topsoil (when available), shovels, rakes, pitchforks, and the ADA Rent-A-Can (Please help keep it clean).

Community Garden Job Descriptions

- **Garden Committee:** Primary contacts for the garden. These folks set policy, coordinate and facilitate all garden activities, events, work parties, workshops, and meetings. They recruit gardeners for various jobs and provide leadership and guidance for gardeners and volunteer positions.
- **Coordinator:** Manages and oversees **all** garden operations, organizes meetings, makes purchases, reports to the COSLC council.
- **Registrar:** Maintains all registration information. Assigns garden plots based on policy, creates annual garden map, maintains applications, manages the waitlist.
- **Bookkeeper/Grant Writer:** Collects payments, accounts for funds, writes grants.
- **Grounds Keepers:** Maintain the garden's common areas. Mow and trim the grass, clear pathways, and remove trash.
- **Water Tank Fillers:** Keep the water tanks filled above 1/2.
- **Maintenance Crew:** Maintain tools, equipment, hoses, and raised beds frames.
- **Compost Tenders:** Monitor, turn and water the compost pile, and retrieve supplies.
- **Monthly Newsletter Editors:** Provide valuable news, updates and information regarding our Community Garden. Based on contributions from Gardeners and the editors, Dan, LaVonne, and Jeralyn. Your input is very welcome and appreciated.
- **Garden Committee:** Dan Gullickson – Coordinator (907-388-8193), Jeralyn Phifer – Registrar (GrowitAK@outlook.com), Jeanette Morton - Grant Writer/Bookkeeper, Pastor Anna Silco, Linda Matthews, Jessica Morrison, Sharon Holland, Brigitte Lacouture, LaVonne Gullickson and Amanda Lervold.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Garden Committee. We are here to help!

Security and Personal Safety at the Community Garden

All gardeners have the right to feel safe and be safe while at the garden.

To date we have had no incidents.

- If an incident occurs or you feel threatened or harassed, leave the garden immediately and get to a safe place. **If necessary, contact the police by calling 911. Then contact Dan at 907-865-3275 (Land Line/Msg), or 907-388-8193 (cell).**
- Be aware of your surroundings. Only garden during daylight hours. Keep a cell phone with you.
- Garden gates **must** remain locked unless one or more gardeners are in the garden area. Always lock the gate when you leave, unless there is another gardener inside.
- If you are concerned about your personal safety, lock the gate after entering the garden, and consider gardening in pairs.
- Report theft, vandalism, and unusual activities to the **Garden Committee and if necessary, the police.** Take pictures of any evidence, if it is safe to do so.

Garden Policies & Responsibilities

1. Access to the garden is from early-May to mid-Oct. The exact dates will be set each year by the Garden Committee based on weather and the ground conditions.
2. Please park in the church parking lot or the driveway along the north fence.
3. Gardeners may plant vegetables, fruits, herbs, or flowers for personal use or donation. Hemp, marijuana, illegal plants, or any plants listed on the State of Alaska's noxious weed list are **not allowed** in the garden. See Resources.
4. Plants, temporary covers, or support structures may **not** exceed 4 feet in height so as not to shadow neighboring beds and should not obstruct garden pathways. Beds #51 through #55 are exempt from the height restriction.
5. Only use certified organic fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, and fungicide products.
6. Gardeners should have their beds planted by the 15th of June and have all vegetation removed by September 30th or the specified closure date.
7. Gardeners (or their designated Alternate) need to water, weed, and harvest regularly in order to properly maintain their beds.
8. A basket will be provided for gardeners to place any surplus vegetables in, for donation to the Lutheran Social Services of Alaska Foodbank.
9. Gardeners will need to provide their own hand gardening tools. Please take them home after each day's use.
10. Please refill the watering cans after each use. **Do not leave a running faucet unattended!**
11. Please keep the garden area free of liter by placing all trash in the provided trash container.
12. Please place all green waste in the provided green waste container. This will be recycled for composting to make our own topsoil.
13. Be respectful of fellow gardeners and the garden's neighbors. If you wish to listen to the radio or other audio devices, please use earbuds.
14. Harassment, threats, verbal abuse, theft, or acts of violence **will not be tolerated**.
15. Ornaments and signage are permitted as long as it is garden themed, non-offensive and follows the size restrictions mentioned in item #4.
16. It is **prohibited** to water, weed, or harvest other gardeners' beds without their express permission.
17. Without exception, animals are **not allowed** inside the fenced garden area.
18. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.
19. Any concerns should be referred to a member of the Garden Committee.
20. **Failure to abide by the Garden Policies will result in the loss of your garden privileges and assigned growing space.**

Greenhouse Policies & Responsibilities

Available plots are as follows: lower shelf plots 17”w x 16”d for larger plants (i.e. tomatoes and cucumbers), upper shelf plots 17”w x 8”d for smaller plants. (i.e. herbs and starter plants.)

All greenhouse gardeners are highly encouraged to communicate with each other. This can be to form watering teams, make determinations about when lower shelves should be removed, and maintain and adjust the Door Opening/Closing Schedule.

1. All above Garden Policies & Responsibilities apply to the Greenhouse.
2. All gardeners are welcome to request a plot in the greenhouse each year. If requests exceed plots available, a random drawing will be held to determine which gardeners will be granted a plot.
3. **Maximum** pot diameter is 12” (i.e. 5gal. bucket). This is suitable for tomatoes and cucumbers. A 1gal. pot is recommended for cherry tomatoes.
4. Each pot must be clearly labeled with the gardener’s first name and first initial of their last name. This must be **legible** and **waterproof**.
5. **All** pots must have a waterproof drip tray under them, unless on the floor.
6. Tomatoes: **only determinate varieties are allowed.** Seed companies and greenhouses will specify this, if not please ask when purchasing.
7. Tomato cages are required as plants gain height for support and containment. String support is allowed, but **must** remain in-line with the plot space and not interfere with any other plant or plot access.
8. Lower shelves may be removed and larger plants placed on the floor part way into the season to accommodate vertical growth. This will be a **collective** decision made by the greenhouse gardeners and **must** be approved by Dan.
9. **All** greenhouse gardeners **must** participate in the door opening and closing schedule. The screen door **must** be kept closed if the main door is open. This is crucial to prevent insect infestation.

Resources

Forget-Me-Not Nursery, 480 Indian Rd, Indian, AK; www.forgetmenotnursery.com

University of Alaska Co-operative Extension Service; www.uaf.edu/ces

Anchor Gardens – www.anchorgardens.org

Alaska Master Gardeners of Anchorage – www.alaskamastergardeners.org

Old Farmer’s Almanac – www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/AK/Anchorage

State of Alaska- <https://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/noxious-weeds.htm>

Municipality of Anchorage

www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/CommunityGardens_resources.aspx

Anchorage Daily News – www.adn.com/section/alaska-life/gardening/

Our local Greenhouses and Nurseries are excellent resources of information as well.

COSLC Community Garden Application/Agreement (2026)

On the following form, COSLC COMMUNITY GARDEN refers to the PAUL AND RUTH LEMP MEMORIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN. COSLC refers to Christ our Savior Lutheran Church.

This form **must** be filled out in its entirety.

Definitions:

Primary Bed - a bed that each gardener may reserve and use in a given year.

Auxiliary Bed – when available, a bed that each gardener may reserve and use in a given year, providing that all Primary Beds have been assigned first.

Greenhouse Space – an area in the greenhouse allotted for a gardener to place one or more pots in, in a given year.

- An annual fee of \$25 per bed and/or \$10 per greenhouse space is charged.
- **Payment is due at the time of Registration and must accompany your signed Application/Agreement. No exceptions! See Deadlines.**
- **A valid email address is required. Please list an email you check regularly.**
- First year gardeners will be allowed 1 Primary Bed and/or a Greenhouse Space.
- New Gardener's must complete one successful season prior to being granted a second Primary Bed or any Auxiliary Bed(s).
- Returning Gardeners will be allowed up to 2 Primary Beds and 1 Greenhouse Space per household. If Auxiliary Beds are available a maximum of 2 Auxiliary Beds per household will be allowed, or if a Greenhouse Space is awarded then only 1 Auxiliary Bed will be allowed. Thus, no one household will be allowed more than 4 plots in total in any given year. Gardeners will be granted the same Primary Bed(s) from year to year unless garden operational needs require otherwise.
- All efforts will be made to allow gardeners the same Auxiliary beds from year to year, if available, but are not guaranteed, providing they meet all registration deadlines. Auxiliary beds will be assigned one at a time based on availability **after** the assignment of all Primary Beds and Greenhouse spaces.
- All bed requests must be made by email and are first come first served; however, previous years gardeners with Auxiliary Beds will have preference on Auxiliary bed selection. One at a time.
- North Fence beds (51-55) will be limited to 1 per household
- Surrendered or abandoned beds revert to the Committee for reassignment.
- No trading of beds without permission from the Garden Coordinator and Registrar.
- **Payment must be made by check or money order and mailed to the church accompanied by the signed Garden Application/Agreement, postmarked by the deadline. No exceptions!**
- If members of the Garden Committee discover lack of maintenance, vandalism, insects, plant wilt, mold or other plant diseases, we will contact you. If you notice a problem, please contact Dan at 907-388-8193 with the bed number. All beds have a number engraved on a small wood plaque attached to a metal post.

- You are the Primary Gardener. The Alternate Gardener is someone that you have asked to take care of your garden if you are out of town or unable too. If there is a problem with your bed and we cannot reach you, then we will contact your Alternate Gardener. You will bear responsibility for yourself and your designated Alternate Gardener.
- **If we cannot reach you or your alternate, we may consider your garden space abandoned and it will be reclaimed and reassigned to someone on the waitlist to maintain and harvest. No refund will be issued.**
- The Paul and Ruth Lemp Community Garden Welcome Packet with included Registration Application/Agreement will be sent via email to all interested gardeners.
- An Auxiliary Bed Payment Voucher will be emailed after April 15th to each gardener granted Auxiliary bed(s). This voucher must accompany your payment for the assigned Auxiliary bed(s) and be mailed to the church, and postmarked by the deadline stated below.

Deadlines

Registration deadlines are as follows: These are the dates that the completed Registration Application/Agreement and payment **must be postmarked by. All payments must be made by check or money order. No cash and no exceptions. We must have a paper trail for accounting purposes.**

Any questions or problems, please contact Jeralyn via email at GrowitAK@outlook.com

Registration and payment for Primary Beds and Greenhouse Spaces: April 15th

Payment for assigned Auxiliary beds: May 15th.

COSLC Community Garden Application/Agreement (2026)

I wish to reserve raised garden bed(s) and/or a greenhouse space for an annual fee of \$25 per bed, \$10 per greenhouse space. If additional beds are desired, my name will be placed on a waiting list.

I have read and understand the Policies for the COSLC Community Garden and agree to abide by them. I also understand that failure to abide by the Policies may result in the immediate revocation of the use of the COSLC Community Garden, forfeiture of any plants, application fees, and future use of the garden.

COSLC will not be responsible for personal injury incurred by any gardener or person accompanying the gardener, including children, when using the garden area and surrounding area. Nor will the church assume responsibility for any theft, loss, or destruction of any property owned by the gardener.

By signing this agreement, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless COSLC, its employees, members, council members, and the Paul and Ruth Lemp Memorial Community Garden Committee and volunteers, from any claims or liabilities arising from the negligent or intentional misconduct of myself, my family members, or persons accompanying me while I use the garden or surrounding COSLC property.

PLEASE PRINT the following REQUIRED information:

Primary Gardener _____

Mailing Address (with zip code) _____

Phone _____ OK to text Email _____

Alternate Gardener (Your assigned person who takes care of your bed if you are unable to do so)

Name _____

Phone _____ OK to text Email _____

I request a higher elevated bed due to a disability or mobility issue, if available.

I would like 1 or 2 Primary Beds (circle one) Primary Bed(s) # _____ & # _____

Waitlist me for 1 or 2 Auxiliary Beds (circle one) Auxiliary Bed(s) 1st choice # _____ 2nd choice # _____

I would like a greenhouse plot

Signature _____

Payment must be made via check or money order and made out to: COSLC Community Garden

PLEASE MAIL this COMPLETED and SIGNED APPLICATION/AGREEMENT with your PAYMENT to:

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH,

Attn: COSLC Community Garden, 1612 Oceanview Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99515

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Primary Bed(s) Assigned # _____ # _____ Amount Due \$ _____ Amount Paid \$ _____

Paid by Check _____ # _____ Paid by Money Order _____ Date Payment Postmarked _____