

## **All Saints Lutheran Church Community Garden Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: Why a garden here?**

A: The mission of All Saints Lutheran Church (ASLC) is “To Know, Follow, and Share Jesus,” and hosting a community garden at the west end of our property is a wonderful way to work with our neighbors in Fitchburg/South Madison. We believe in cultivating community by working together.

### **Q: Who can garden?**

A: Anyone who is interested and willing to abide by the ASLC Community Garden Agreement.

### **Q: How big are the plots? Are they the same as other community gardens?**

A: Plots in the ASLC community garden are generally 11'x20' (220 square feet); half plots are also available. Most community gardens in Dane County offer plots that are around 400 square feet.

### **Q: What is the cost?**

A: We know that similar plots around Dane Co., are approximately \$50 per year per season. We do not charge a fee, but invite gifts to our Garden Fund to defray costs for tilling, water, and general upkeep around the area. Gifts can be made online at <https://www.allsaints-madison.org/online-giving.html> or by mailing a check to the church; please be sure to include a note “for Garden.”

### **Q: Do I have to till my own plot? Can I have a No-Till plot?**

A: We provide tilled and no-till plots. We are moving toward more no-till plots as gardeners are increasingly asking for that option. We also realize it is better for the soil health if we have more no-till plots. Current gardeners in good standing who wish to return have first pick of available plots.

### **Q: What is a “gardener in good standing?”**

A: A gardener in good standing is a person who actively works their plot throughout the season and pitches in on the overall upkeep of the garden. They remove their own weeds—shaking off the soil to retain nutrients—but taking weeds home for disposal. If they use communal tools from the tool box on site, they put them back clean. They reliably carry out any tasks they have agreed to take on for the good of the site.

### **Q: Who manages the garden?**

A: A team of dedicated committee members who are gardeners here. If you're interested in being part of the committee, please let us know--we'd love to have you! You can reach us at [allsaintsmadisongarden@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmadisongarden@gmail.com). Typically, committee member Sue Martinson will respond from that gmail address. Committee members for the 2021 season include Jerry Sieling, Raul DeLuna, Ellen Karlson, Ivan Rayment, Helga Roth and Sue Martinson. Church secretary Heather Quartaro and Pastor Kristin Woelk are also involved and can be found at All Saints.

### **Q: How do I know what plot I'm assigned and when things happen?**

A: The committee primarily communicates via email, so it is important to give us an email address you check frequently. Returning gardeners may be assigned plots by the end of January, and we'll open registration to others after that.

**Q: When can I get in the soil?**

Usually the garden is till mid-May and water turned on. You cannot work in the tilled plots until those 2 things are working AND the plots have been marked. If you've been assigned a no-till plot, you may work as soon as you wish. We anticipate water repairs/trenching to happen in spring 2021, so please stay tuned for updates so you're not disappointed.

Throughout the winter/spring, we will keep you posted on pandemic precautions in the garden, a Spring Kick Off Day, possibilities for hay or compost purchase, and other items of interest. Expect emails to come from [allsaintsmadisongarden@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmadisongarden@gmail.com).