

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.

Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.

We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.

~ The People of Como Park Lutheran Church

TODAY’S COFFEE HOUR
will immediately follow the service.

Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in the Narthex.

This service will be broadcast live on YouTube
and recorded for later viewing.

www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch

Honoring Our Graduates



Doctoral Graduate

Dr. Diedra Carlson — University of Minnesota, Doctoral Graduate in Elementary Education

Undergraduate Graduate

Noah McCreight — Oregon State University, Undergraduate Graduate



High School Graduates

Ted Chresand — Mounds View High School, High School Graduate

Nico Frausto — Mount Carmel High School, High School Graduate



Alexa Ramirez — Highland Park High School (St. Paul), High School Graduate

Max Popp — White Bear Lake High School, High School Graduate

Vega Sapphire — Avalon School, High School Graduate



Antonio Vargas — Community of Peace Academy, High School Graduate

ADULT FORUM & UPCOMING EVENTS

(For full list of events, see end of bulletin)

TODAY Pastor Marty's Farewell Celebration

TODAY Graduate Appreciation



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on a Classic Style by Gordon Young, arr by Paul Grustans

Accent Brass

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

ELW 722

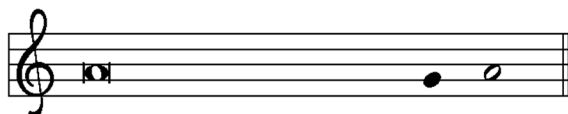
✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

✠KYRIE

ELW pg. 147-148



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



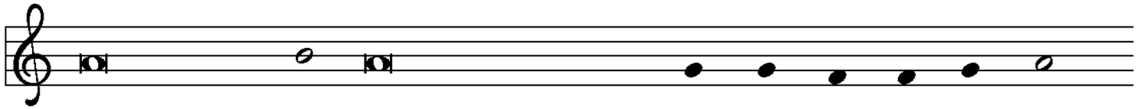
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

✠THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW pg. 149-150

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Hosea 5:15—6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

¹ "Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

³ Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."



⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early.

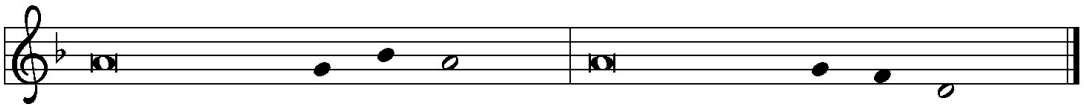
⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:7-15



⁷ “Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;

for I am | God, your God.

⁸ **I do not accuse you because | of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are al- | ways before me.**

⁹ I will not accept a calf | from your stalls,
nor goats | from your pens;

¹⁰ **for all the wild animals of the for- | est are mine,
the cattle on a | thousand hills.**

¹¹ I know every bird | of the mountains,
and the creatures of the | fields are mine.

¹² **If I were hungry, I | would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all | that is in it.**

¹³ Do you think I eat the | flesh of bulls,
or drink the | blood of goats?

¹⁴ **Offer to God a sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to | the Most High.**

¹⁵ Call upon me in the | day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

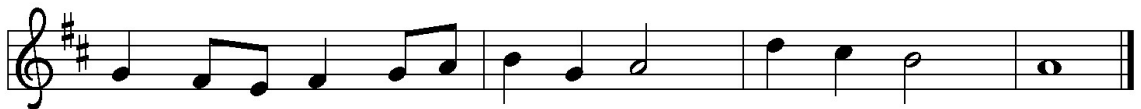
Thanks be to God.

✘ GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

✘GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Ninth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up

and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

David Person

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Martin Ericson

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

ELW 865

✠APOSTLES' CREED

Standing together, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

✠PRAYERS

... Lord, in your mercy,
... hear our prayer.

✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

THE MEAL

OFFERING

Jupiter Chorale from "the Planets" by Gustave Holst, arr. Charles De Paolo

Accent Brass

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the "donate" button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.



✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

All who believe Christ is truly present in the sacrament are invited to receive communion. At the server, hold out the flat of your palm to receive the wafer. If you desire gluten-free wafers, simply say to the first server "gluten-free." Then, step to the second server and take the wine in the small cup. The cups hold red wine and grape juice. If you are allergic to grapes, you are free to receive only the bread, knowing that Christ is fully present within each element. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from pastor or first server.

LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29)

ELW pg. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

✠POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

✠RITE OF FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR A PASTOR

See insert.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN

O God beyond All Praising

ELW 880

WORDS FROM ACCENT BRASS

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Treasure the Exceptional

Jeff Whitmill

Accent Brass

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Treasure the Exceptional by Jeff Whitmill, 2010, used by permission

Jupiter Chorale from “the Planets” by Gustave Holst arr. Charles De Paolo © 2002 Ensemble Publications

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven arr. Michael Burkhardt ©2009 MorningStar Music Publishers

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate Text: Herman G. Stuempfle © 2000 GIA Publications

ELLACOMBE Music: German melody adapt. X.L Hartig, public domain

Ellacombe setting by Noel Raswsthorne © 1990 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Ellacombe setting by Charles Callahan © 2009 Birnamwood Publications

We Come to You for Healing, Lord Text: Herman G. Stuempfle © 2002 GIA Publications

MARTYRDOM Music: Hugh Wilson, public domain

O God beyond All Praising Text: Michael Perry © 1987 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Co.

THAXTED Music: Gustav Holst, public domain

Thaxted setting by Mark Sedio © 2005 Augsburg Fortress

Thaxted introduction by Aaron David Miller © 2005 Augsburg Fortress

Please pray for...

Anders N.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Ruth R.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Gina K.	Mary C.
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✘ ✘ ✘

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

✘ ✘ ✘

**We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.
This week in worship, we pray for:**

Carol Rossi
Bill Rudstrom
Dennis & Ing-Mari Ryan, Frances
Hugh Ryan
Scott & Anne Rykken
Brianna Sadler & Kyle Spieker
Michael Santoro

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Martin Ericson

Director of Music Ministries: Tom Ferry

Accent Brass: Alex Kahler—Trumpet I
Scott Swanson—Trumpet II
Michelle Kahler—Horn
Paul Thomsen—Trombone
Jerry Sherdman—Tuba

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	June 7, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Isaac Hakanson
Communion Prep	Polly Heaton
Assisting Minister	Polly Heaton
Communion Asst 1	Mary Sommerfeld
Communion Asst 2	Mary Hagerman
Greeter	Raija Wietzke
Children's Message	David Person
Reader	Mary Hagerman
Liturgist	Ken Purdham
Ushers	Family Team O'Brien
Welcome Desk	Mary Ann Schmidt
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Jeff Carnes

USHER TEAM

Family Team O'Brien: Sarah & Jeff, Imogen and Harper



Looking Back with Pastor Marty

Twenty-six years is long enough to watch a congregation change.

Long enough to see programs come and go, committees reorganize, children grow into adults, and entire chapters of congregational life pass into memory.

It is also long enough to discover what remains.

When Pastor Marty Ericson arrived at Como Park Lutheran Church in 2000, he stepped into a congregation with a more complicated history than had been apparent during the call process. Looking back, he says he wishes he had asked more questions before accepting the call.

Still, one of his strongest memories from those early days has nothing to do with conflict or the growing pains of a church in transition. A month after arriving, he watched as Anne and their children came to church for the first time. Two longtime members, Alan Alshouse and Edgar Williams, introduced themselves to the children and learned their names. What stood out was not that they welcomed Pastor Marty's family, but that they knew the names of all the children in the congregation.

"I started to feel like this is going to be a good place for us," he reflected.

What Kept Him Here

Years later, Pastor Marty is preparing to retire after serving as Como Park Lutheran's Senior Pastor since 2000. During that time, he has watched the congregation evolve in many ways. Membership declined. Committees reorganized. New ministries began

while others concluded. Staff members came and went. The way congregations operate shifted alongside broader changes in society.

Asked what he will remember most about his years at Como Park, Pastor Marty answered simply: "The relationships with people."

"Everything in the church is relational," he said. "The church is the people. It's not the building, and it's not a program."

Pastor Marty credits the congregation's willingness to adapt as one reason he stayed for more than a quarter century. "There was always another thing on the horizon," he said. That "next thing" took many forms over the years: worship initiatives, Bible studies, building projects, community outreach efforts, anniversaries, fund appeals, and new ministry opportunities.

He also points to areas where he believes Como Park has had an impact beyond what many might expect from a congregation of its size. The church's partnerships in Tanzania, support for student scholarships, hunger ministries, educational programs, and local partnerships were among the examples he highlighted. He described the congregation as one that consistently "punches above its weight."



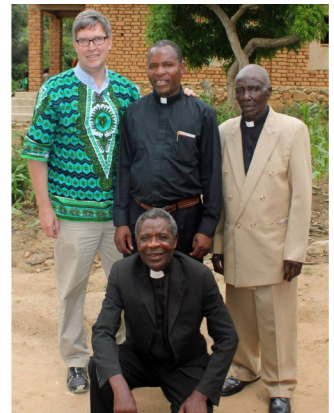
CPLC, Pentecost 2015



Santa Amelia, GUA, 2012



Santa Amelia, GUA, 2012



Tanzania, 2014



CPLC Sanctuary, 2022

Looking Ahead

When asked what he hopes never changes, Pastor Marty mentioned the congregation's commitment to hospitality, its concern for children, its support of education, and its desire to feed people in need.

As the conversation came to a close, he was asked whether there was anything else he wanted to add. Rather than highlighting a program, a building project, or a milestone from his twenty-six years as pastor, he talked about the women of the congregation.

He remembered Alice Christensen and Lillian Soderquist, whose work around meals, receptions, and hospitality helped shape congregational life for decades. He also reflected on Elida Storsley and the influence she had through Bible study and education.

"To lift up the role of the women in this place is something that needs to be done," he said.



CPLC Confirmation, 2026



CPLC Baptism, 2015

Three days before retirement, sitting in an office already beginning to look like someone else's, Pastor Marty says he is leaving a congregation that is healthy, cohesive, and financially stable. He believes there are strong assets in place for the next pastor who walks through the doors.

The congregation he joined in 2000 is different from the one he leaves today. Membership has changed. Programs have changed. The way churches operate has changed. Yet many of the things that first drew him to Como Park remain familiar: a commitment to hospitality, a concern for others, and a community where people know one another by name.



Parking Lot Monument, 2022



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vacation Bible School Church Day Camp

July 6-9 • 9am-3pm

For kids who have completed PreK - 5th grade

Music & Games
Bible Stories
Crafts & Fun

COMO PARK
LUTHERAN



SCAN HERE
TO LEARN MORE



YOUTH CAMPING TRIP – SAVE THE DATE!

By popular demand, we are planning a youth camping trip for July 16-18 for youth entering grades 7-12. Join us for a weekend of community, outdoor fun, and time together in nature. For information contact David Osterhouse at osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON - JUNE 18

Our June gathering will take the form of a field trip to the Gammelgården Museum on Thursday, June 18, in place of our usual luncheon at church. The cost is \$20 per person for the trip; lunch at the museum café is paid individually. Bus space is limited, so please contact the office to let us know you're coming or to reserve a bus spot by Thursday, June 17.



COMO PARK FARMERS' MARKET

May 14 - Oct. 29
Thurs: 2 PM - 6 PM
1545 Hamline Ave, St. Paul
No market Aug. 27, Sept. 3



COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENT



SUMMER KICK OFF

Sunday, June 14 | 11am-2pm

- Games and Activities •
- Free Food •
- Fun and Prizes •



A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY!

Christ on Capitol Hill | 105 University Ave W, Saint Paul 55103

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,
Visitations, & General Ministries**

Pastor Martin Ericson - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2202
ericson@comoparklutheran.org

Youth Director

David Osterhouse - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2204
osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org

Director of Music Ministries

Tom Ferry - 651-646-7127 Ext. 2209
ferry@comoparklutheran.org

Sunday School Superintendent

Kelly Whitstone - 651-646-7127
sundayschool@comoparklutheran.org

Nursery

Jessica Vargas—651-646-7127 Ext. 2219

**Senior Ministry & Volunteers Engagement
Coordinator**

Jonathan Nye - 612-839-2527 (c)
jonathan@comoparklutheran.org

Social Ministries

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

Prayer Chain

Mary Ann Schmidt - 720-357-3558 (c)
schmidt.m795@gmail.com
prayerrequest@comoparklutheran.org

**Hunger Ministries, Kitchen & Events
Coordinator**

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

**Finance Comptroller & Trust Fund
Donations**

David Laden - 651-646-7127 Ext 2211
laden@comoparklutheran.org

Como Connects

Lisa Kane - 651-642-1127
director@comobnp.org

Heidi Schultz - 651-642-1127
office@comobnp.org

Living At Home, Inc.

Kristin Rigg—651-649-0315
kristin@lahnetwork.org

**Senior Services Consortium of Ramsey
County (Meals on Wheels Ramsey County)**

Denise Wickiser—651-343-6875 (c)
denise@mealsonwheels-rc.org

Sunday Custodian

Evan Bergstrom—651-646-7127

Custodian & Groundskeeper

Marcus Pierce - 651-646-7127
custodian@comoparklutheran.org

CHURCH OFFICE:

Angela Lennes—651-646-7127 Ext 2200
office@comoparklutheran.org