

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

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The Call by Z. Randall Stroope ©2006 Birnamwood Publications

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

UPCOMING ADULT FORUM

5/3/2026	Coffee and Conversation
5/10/2026	Coffee and Conversation
5/17/2026	Coffee and Conversation with Joyce Ngandango



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

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

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives

ELW 380

✠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. 193-194



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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



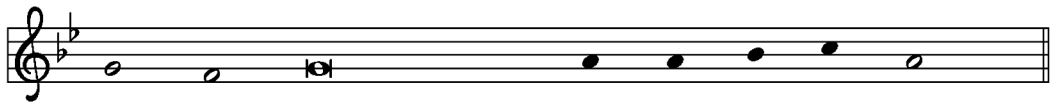
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

✠GLORY TO GOD

ELW pg. 195-196



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



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



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men, a - men.

✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

HOLY BAPTISM

ELW pg. 227

Annika Ida Jagodzinkse Hakanson
Isaac David Jagodzinkse Hakanson
Sonja Elaine Bolstad Grafstrom

THE WORD

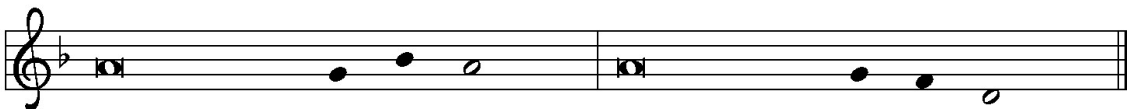
FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16



- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.
- ² **Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and
my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
- ⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength.
- ⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.
- ¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those
who | persecute me.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”



⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 198

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

✠GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Fourteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

Rebecca Numainville

SERMON

Pastor Martin Ericson

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are the Way

ELW 758

✠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

The Call

Randall Stroop

CPLChoir

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.

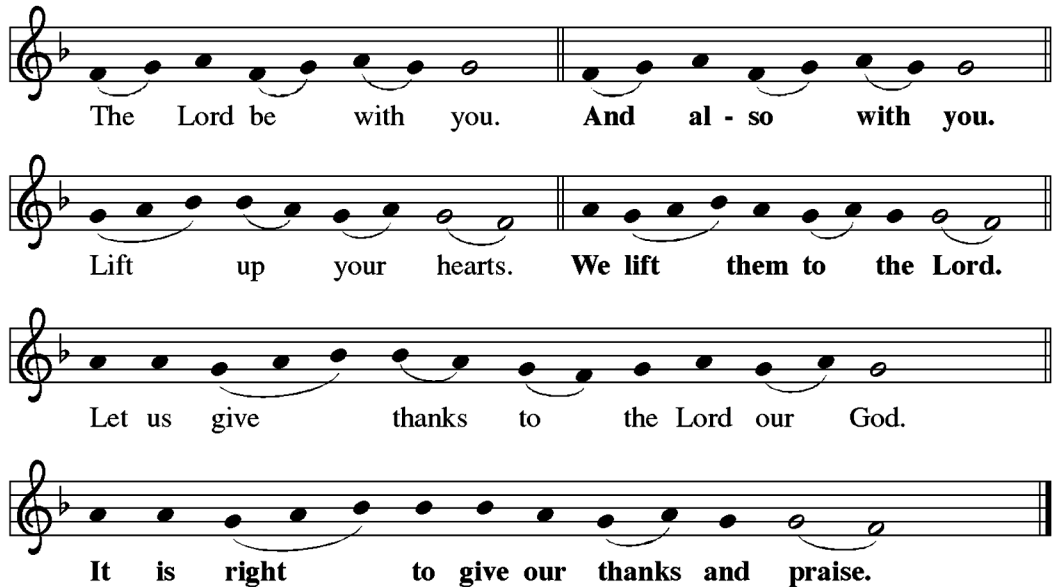


✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

✠THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.




It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

✠ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (Isaiah 6:3)




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ **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. 201

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

I Received the Living God

ELW 477

✠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.

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

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

ELW 377

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Finale from Symphony No. 1

Louis Vierne

Please pray for...

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

Gregg Nelson & Jeanette Maynard, Anders, Kristian
Katie Nelson, Kaylie, Celia
Matt Nelson & Loraine Kinler, Piper
Jeff & Rebecca Numainville, Eloise, Theodore
Jonathan Nye
Jeff & Sarah O'Brien, Harper, Imogen
Thomas Cole & Heather O'Connell, Maleah, Mekhi

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Martin Ericson

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	May 3, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Wren Wietzke
Communion Prep	Jan Lathrop
Assisting Minister	Shirley Dingman
Communion Asst 1	Tom Spivey
Communion Asst 2	Darrell Anderson
Greeter	Deb Spivey
Coffee Servers	Polly & Scott Heaton
Children's Message	Rebecca Numainville
Reader	Jonathan Nye
Liturgist	Jeanette Maynard-Nelson
Ushers	Family Team McCreight
Welcome Desk	Fay Cushman
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

Family Team McCreight: Kate & Paul, Noah, Finn & Moxy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 17th
10:45am-1:00pm.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch & Sock Toss!

Come celebrate our Sunday School teachers with a tasty brunch and stay for some safe, rowdy fun! All ages are invited. We hope to see you there!

The event is sponsored by CPLC Family & Education Committee. Brunch will be provided.

We are seeking new sock donations (men's, women's, & children's) for a friendly battle of the socks! Please watch for a collection box in the narthex. Donations will benefit local families in need.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: CHURCH DAY CAMP



Kids from our neighborhood and from our congregation are invited to summer Vacation Bible School! We will be partnering with counselors from Camp Onomia to fill the week with Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and more!



DATES: July 6-9



TIME: 9:00am - 3:00pm



AGES: PreK-5th; PreK children must be potty trained. Must have experience participating in a class environment.



LOCATION: Como Park Lutheran Church
(1376 Hoyt Ave W., Saint Paul, MN 55108)



COST: \$40 per child (financial assistance available)



PLEASE BRING A BAG LUNCH



Senior Fellowship Luncheon - May 14

Come join us for lunch! We offer two options.

Option 1 - Pick-up/To-Go Meals: 11:30 AM

Option 2: In-person/Dine-in Meals. Noon, in Fellowship Hall

Contact the church office to place your orders and/or reservations.

COMO PARK FARMERS' MARKET

May 14 - Oct. 29

No market Aug. 27, Sept. 3

Thurs: 2 PM - 6 PM

1545 Hamline Ave, St. Paul



**MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



We are precious in God's sight.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	A chosen people
Wednesday	Romans 8:31-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Thursday	Hebrews 11:29-40	The faith of heroes
Friday	Lamentations 3:19-24	God's steadfast love endures
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you send us out to witness to Jesus Christ; give us confidence and courage to be your faithful witnesses. Fill us with mercy and love through Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen the body and your word strengthen our calling to be your loving and faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the steadfast love of Jesus.



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MAY 3, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



taking **+** faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you were honored for something you did?
- What are words that you would use to describe God's people?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Peter 2:2-10.

1 Peter helps us to imagine the meaning of Christ's resurrection for our lives. Jesus is the living stone rejected by people yet "*precious in God's sight*" (v. 4). As followers of Jesus, we are living stones built into a sacred community, "*a holy priesthood*" (v. 5). The imagery in this reading is expanded to explore its spiritual depth. We are "*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*" (v. 9). This rich language and imagery all lead us to understand the treasured life we have. We are called to speak of God in Jesus Christ, the one who has brought us out of darkness and into a precious and holy light. Once we were those who had not received mercy, those who were not God's people. Now we are God's people and live lives filled with mercy and honor to be God's chosen people. Jesus' resurrection changed our lives from desperation to empowerment and joy. It is no wonder that we are to be like babes, thirsting for spiritual milk so we may grow into a life that is our inheritance and delight.

Discuss: How does being one of God's chosen people affect how you live your life?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, remind us again and again of our holy calling as your chosen people sent out to others with words of mercy and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you show mercy to someone who is feeling lonely or in pain?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "*a living stone*" and Jesus' followers "*like living stones*" to be "*built into a spiritual house.*" Gather some smooth stones. Draw a cross on a large stone and write the names of family and friends on the smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the one with the cross on it in a visible place in your home. Think or talk about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. Take a moment to look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

**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**

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jonathan@comoparklutheran.org

Social Ministries

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Ruth Pechauer - 651-641-1654 (c)
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Prayer Chain

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

**Hunger Ministries, Kitchen & Events
Coordinator**

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**Finance Comptroller & Trust Fund
Donations**

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laden@comoparklutheran.org

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

Ted Chresand—651-646-7127

Custodian & Groundskeeper

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

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