

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today's coffee hour will immediately follow the service.
Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in **Fellowship Hall**.

TODAY

"God's work. Our hands."

Day of Service

9/20

Rally Day

Sunday School Kick-Off

9/20

Blessing of Backpacks

9/27

Bible Distribution

3 y.o.'s, 3rd, & 6th Grades



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Trio Sonata II, Largo

J.S. Bach

Brad Althoff, Guest Organist

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High vs 1-4, 6

ELW 835

✠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. 138-139

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 worship and praise,

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

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

✠GLORY TO GOD

ELW pg. 139-140



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



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



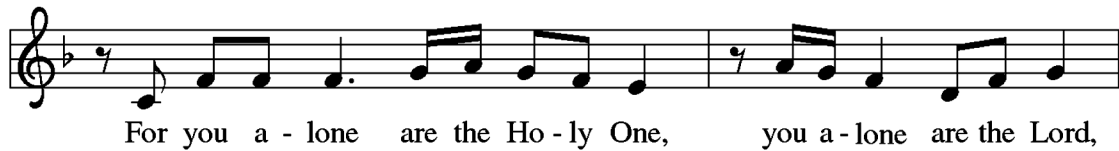
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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.



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died,

¹⁷ "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13



1 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

2 **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—

3 who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

4 **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;

5 who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

6 **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

7 You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

8 **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

9 you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

10 **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

12 **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

13 As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 142

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

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

✠GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Eighteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;



²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Joe Fischer

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

✠APOSTLES' CREED

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

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies Sake

Farrant

CPLChoir

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the “donate” button.



✠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

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's table. If you come forward and extend your hand, you will be served the bread. A gluten free option is available. If you do not extend your hand, you will be given a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are at the second station, and there is a basket for empty cups as you return to your seat.

LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29)

ELW pg. 146



COMMUNION HYMN

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

✠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

✠CELEBRATION OF VOCATION AND BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

✠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

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

ELW 544

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Cortege

L. Vierne

Brad Althoff, Guest Organist

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Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing Text: Howard C.A. Gaunt © Oxford University Press

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN Music: Johann Lohner, public domain

Please pray for...

Anders N.	Tyler F.
Kathy H.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Ruth R.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Gina K.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	Mary C.
Heidi G.	Ginger F.
Betty H.	Duane B.
Charlie S.	Carol B.
Brita G.	... 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:

Donna Fleer
Noe Frausto & Rebecca Thron, Luna, Nico
Cathy & Mark Gagné
Robert Gall
Dan Garvin & Debbie Kmetz
Marilyn Gomez
Hunter Gordon & Kristin Murch, Scout, Finn, Grady

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Guest Organist: Brad Althoff

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	September 13, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Maja Johnson
Communion Prep	Polly Heaton
Assisting Minister	Janice Kragness
Communion Asst 1	Deb Spivey
Communion Asst 2	Mary Sommerfeld
Greeter	Mark Bly
Coffee Servers	Barbara Reiter & Mark Bly
Children's Message	Joe Fischer
Reader	Polly Heaton
Liturgist	Tom Spivey
Ushers	Family Team O'Brien
Welcome Desk	Deb Spivey
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

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

FEATURED LOCAL/PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES



2026 GUATEMALA GALA

WOVEN TOGETHER

Sunday, October 4, 2026

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Town and Country Club

300 N Mississippi Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55014

Register at:

spas-elca.org/26gala

Individual tickets: **\$75**

Sponsored Table (10 guests): **\$1,500**

Registration Deadline: September 27

**Special
Guatemalan
Guests**

Rev. Karen Castillo, ILAG President/Pastor
Valeria Gil Castillo, Delegation Coordinator
Diego Gil Castillo, ELCA Representative for
Central America and Mexico

For more information, contact Ruth Pechauer:
rapechauer@gmail.com

SHOBI'S TABLE

FROM SCRATCH
BENEFIT 2026



Join us for a magical evening
of good food, connection,
and healing.



Thursday, September 24, 2026

Social Hour 4:30 p.m.
Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m.
Program To Follow



**Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church**

1669 Arcade Street
St. Paul, MN 55106



Tickets

\$75 per person
Table of 8 for \$500

Congregations interested in reserving
a \$500 table should reach out to
development@shobistable.org



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!



Saint Paul Area Lions clubs are sponsoring a open community bed build event with SHP.

Join other community members to build beds for children in need.
No experience needed — just a willingness to help and build something that matters!



**Saturday,
Sept 19, 2026**
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT



**Little Canada, MN
5517**
(Sign up to see exact location)

SIGN UP →



GROUPS ARE BACK



CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

Confirmation (Grades 7th-8th) meets in the Fireside Room at 7 PM (starting September 23rd). Youth Group (Grades 9-12) meets in the Youth Room at 7 PM (starting September 16.)

Contact Pastor Peter at
pastor@comoparklutheran.org or David Osterhouse at
osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org.



JOYFUL RINGERS & CPLCHOIR REHEARSALS - WEDNESDAYS

Joyful Ringers rehearse every Wednesday in the sanctuary from 6–7 PM and ring once a month during Sunday worship. If you can count to four and know your right hand from your left, you can be a Joyful Ringer!

CPLChoir rehearses every Wednesday in the Choir Room from 7:15–8:45 PM. The choir sings roughly three out of every four Sundays and uses a sign-up system so the Music Director can plan music based on who will be present. Newcomers are welcome, whether you have experience or not. Each week we learn the music, reading skills, and singing skills by sight and by ear.

Although Tom Ferry will be retired, both groups will continue as scheduled. For more information, contact the church office (office@comoparklutheranchurch.org).



CRAFT GROUP - EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

We are back in the Fireside Room on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6–8 PM! Here are the dates for your calendar:

Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, and May 20.

Bring your current project and join us!

Contacts: Meg Duncan (melaarak@msn.com) or Cathy Gagné (cmtm@comcast.net).



SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS

Registration is now open for the 2026–2027 Sunday School year! Please register by Sunday, September 20, at bit.ly/cplcsundayschool

Even if your family has registered in the past or your information is already on file with the church, please complete a new form for this school year. Updated registrations help us plan class sizes, prepare materials, accommodate dietary or other needs, and verify current family and emergency contact information.

For additional information, contact Sunday School Superintendent Kelly Whitstone at 651-435-4181 or sundayschool@comoparklutheran.org

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

Interim Pastor

Peter Coen-Tuff—651-646-7127 Ext 2202
218-230-8059 (c)
pastor@comoparklutheran.org

Youth Director

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

Church Office:

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

Sunday School Superintendent

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

Nursery

Jessica Vargas—651-646-7127 Ext. 2219

Senior Ministry Coordinator

Pam Ballis—(651) 426-3690
pmbalice@gmail.com

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

Alex Leone—alex@leonesoftware.com

Social Ministries

Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
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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**

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