

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



The Net, The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep by Nelly Bube. © Copyright by Norwegian Bible Society, used with permission.

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

**Coffee hour will take place immediately after the service.
Join us in the Narthex for coffee and light snacks.**

Upcoming events and announcements can be found at the back of the bulletin.

This service is broadcast live on YouTube and recorded for later viewing:
www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Be Thou My Vision”

T. Ferry

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

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519

✠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 157

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant:

All:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant:
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
All:
A - - - men.

✠NOW THE FEAST

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

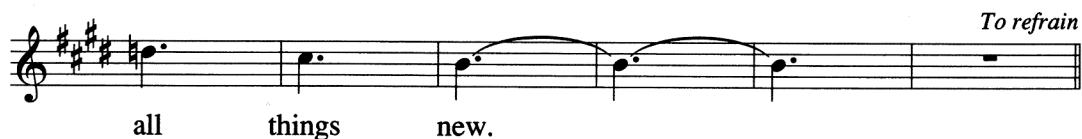
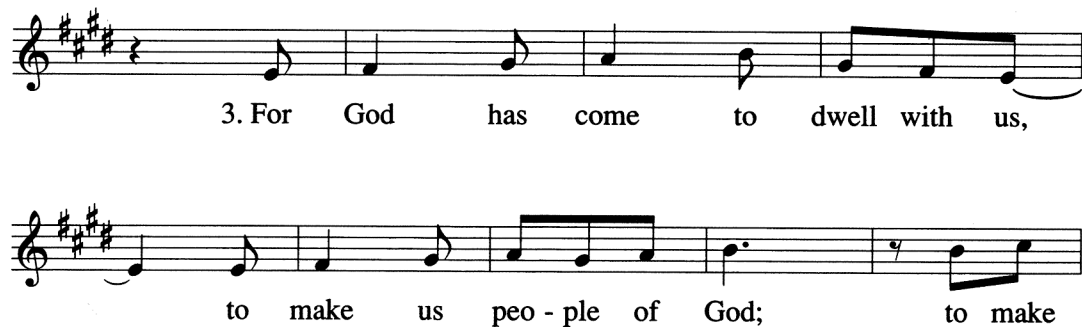
1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great



Verse 2



Verse 3



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136



- 129 Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- 130 **When your word is opened | it gives light;**
it gives understanding | to the simple.
- 131 I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
- 132 **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name.
- 133 Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- 134 **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.
- 135 Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
- 136 **My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.



³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

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

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

✠GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Thirteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

David Osterhouse

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

✠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

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

JELA Workcampers

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:
you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
you are the way of mer - cy and love:



mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, your take a - way the sins of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

✠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

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in e BWV533

J.S. Bach

Please pray for...

Anders N.	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.)
Ruth R.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Gina K.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	Mary C.
Heidi G.	Ginger F.
Betty H	... 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:

Joy & Haley Walsh
Kaylynn Ann Weltzien
Sue Woodhall
Charles Worthington
Dick & Zarida Young
Judy Zalk
Michael Zalk, Ida, David, Daniel

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	July 26, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Esben Lund
Communion Prep	Rosemary Johnson & Zarida
Assisting Minister	David Person
Communion Asst 1	David Harris
Communion Asst 2	Mary Sommerfeld
Greeter	Elizabeth Weber
Coffee Servers	Mark Bly & Darrell Anderson
Children's Message	David Osterhouse
Reader	Mark Bly
Liturgist	Julia Leone
Ushers	Team 2
Welcome Desk	Connie Parizek
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Ruth Pechauer

USHER TEAM

Team 2: Kevin Johnson, Mark Bly, Sandra Hirsch

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-703921. All rights reserved.

Feast and Celebration liturgy by Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications

Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Be Thou My Vision Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor Hull; tr. Mary E. Byrne, public domain

SLANE Music: Irish traditional

As We Gather at Your Table Text: Carl P. Daw © 1989 Hope publishing Co.

IN BABILONE Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Countradansen; arr. Julius Rontgen, public domain

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People Text: Hasidic traditional; Williard F. Jabusch, English version © 1982

Williard F. Jabusch, admin, OCP publicattions

YISRAEL V'ORAITA Music: Hasicdic tune, public domain

Prelude and Fugue in e BWV533 by J.S. Bach, public domain

Prelude on “Be Thou My Vision” by Thomas Ferry, used by permission

GROWING COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Como Park Farmers' Market & Grow-a-Row!

The Como Park Farmers' Market is in full swing, bringing together local growers, makers, and neighbors in one vibrant space. Each Thursday from 2:00–6:00 PM, the CPLC parking lot at 1545 Hamline Ave N becomes a hub of fresh produce, good conversation, and shared community spirit. (Please note: no market on August 27 or September 3, and no church parking from noon–7 on market days.)



*Week 6 Produce Donation, July 2026:
105 lbs sent to Keystone and Peace House Community*

That same spirit of shared abundance is at the heart of Grow-a-Row. As Sue Brogger, our Director of Hunger Ministries, reminds us, you don't need a big garden—or even a garden at all—to make a difference. “You can just make a decision to pick one spot, one pot, and grow something.” One tomato plant. A handful of beans. A single pepper plant. Small gifts, offered by many, become remarkable impact.

Last year, neighbors and congregation members donated more than 2,500 pounds of fresh produce to partners like Keystone Community Services and Peace House Community. And in a wonderful example of community connection, **some of the same growers you meet at the Farmers' Market also contribute to Grow-a-Row**, extending

the circle of generosity that begins right here in our neighborhood.

Whether you have a backyard bed, a raised planter, or one sunny container on your porch, you're invited to grow with intention and share what you can.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



Pole Beans, CPLC Giving Garden June '26

- Sign Up at the Grow-a-Row table in the Narthex.
- Choose what to grow. Free seeds are available at the table and at participating Little Free Seed Libraries.
- Bring your harvest to church; we'll weigh and deliver it to our community partners.
- Need help transporting produce? We're happy to assist.

Together (gardeners, market growers, and neighbors 🍷) we're cultivating a season of generosity. We look forward to seeing you at the market and celebrating all the ways our community grows and gives.



Tomatos, CPLC Giving Garden, June '26



Week Eight Donations: 15 LBS delivered to Keystone Community Services. July '26



See the difference we're making together.
Visit our website throughout the growing season for Giving Garden updates and weekly donation totals as our harvest grows.

JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalms 103:8-14	The Lord's wonderful love
Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the great high priest
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and strengthen us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with kindness. (Psalm 119:135)



JULY 26, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

For by Grace You

Have Been Saved



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:

- Think of a person who you consider to be wise. What makes them wise?
- When you are going through tough times, do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 and 1 Kings 3:5-12.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating the good from the bad. There are details in these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. Jesus asked the disciples if they “*understood all this*,” and without hesitation they simply replied, “*Yes*” (Matthew 13:51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Whereas, Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes became split into two realms because of Solomon’s failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded, with humility, that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us “*with sighs too deep for words*” (Romans 8:26).

Discuss: How has faith in God helped you during difficult times?

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help or support someone who is struggling with a health issue?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things (Matthew 13:31-32). Growing the church involves being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Think or talk about how you have told your faith story or passed on Christian rituals and traditions to others. How might you sow seeds of faith that grow into something great?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus who teaches us about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to grow your kingdom and take time to learn and to tell others about what Jesus has taught us. Amen.**



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**

Church Office—651-646-7127
office@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 Coordinator

Pam Ballis—(612) 834-2284
pmbalice@gmail.com

Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

Alex Leone—alex@leonesoftware.com

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