

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



"I am the Road, the Truth and Life". Located at 1 Vasa Kyrkoplan in Gothenburg, Sweden

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 Narthex.

TODAY	Bible Distribution	3 y.o.'s, 3rd, & 6th Grades
10/10	Youth & Confirmation Retreat	Afton State Park
10/11	Call Process Discussion with Deacon Krista Lind	Immediately After Worship



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne

Dietrich Buxtehude

Tim Strand, Guest Organist

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIOIN 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

God Is Here!

ELW 526

✠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.



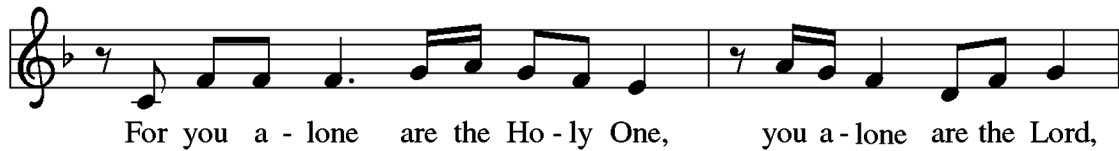
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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...

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8



- ¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all |
the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠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 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Twenty-First Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

✠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.

✠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

Teach Me, O Lord

Stopford

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

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

✠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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

✠DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

God Is Here!

Benjamin Culli

Tim Strand, Guest Organist

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God Is Here! Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1979 Hope Publishing Co
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WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT Music: Ahasuerus Fritsch, public domain
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service Text: Albert F. Bayly © 1988 Oxford University Press
BEACH SPRING Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia; public domain
Sent Forth by God's Blessing Text: Omer Westendorf © 1964 World Library Publications
THE ASH GROVE Music: Welsh folk tune, public domain
Teach Me, O Lord by Philip Stopford ©2013 Birnamwood Publications

Please pray for...

Anders N.

Kathy H.

Gina K.

Gary

Heidi G.

Betty H.

Charlie S.

Brita G.

Julia L., Father, Family

Scott H.

Tyler F.

J.J. K.

Joe

Cheryl & Jim

Mary C.

Ginger F.

Duane B.

Carol B.

Andrew

... 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:

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Guest Organist: Tim Strand

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	September 27, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Isaiah Vargas
Communion Prep	Jan Lathrop & Pam Ballis
Assisting Minister	Janice Kragness
Communion Asst 1	Deb Spivey
Communion Asst 2	Mary Sommerfeld
Greeter	Lowell Lundy
Coffee Servers	Polly & Scott Heaton
Children's Message	Joe Fischer
Reader	Polly Heaton
Liturgist	Julia Leone
Ushers	Family Team Weber
Welcome Desk	Fay Cushman
Bus Helper	
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Craig Canada

USHER TEAM

Family Team Weber: Elizabeth & Rocky, Douglas and Sasha

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Krista Lind

**Sunday, October 11th
10:45am-12:00pm**

Join us after worship from 10:45am–12:00pm as we welcome Deacon Krista Lind, Assistant to the Bishop for Vocational Formation with the Saint Paul Area Synod. She'll guide us through what to expect in the call process as we begin discerning our next permanent senior pastor.

This is a valuable chance to hear directly from the Synod, learn what comes next, and ask questions as we move into this next chapter together.

All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Pastoral Transition Update

Now that we have said our goodbyes and given our thanks and praise for Pastor Marty's 26 years of service, and we have welcomed Pastor Peter as our Interim Pastor, many members of the congregation may be asking themselves "what comes next?"

At its meeting this past Tuesday, the Church Council began to address that very question. We are now into "Phase 2" of the Synod's Call Process Manual. The main goal for this phase is to develop a document called the Ministry Site Profile, which will serve as our congregational résumé for pastoral candidates. It will be a document that expresses who we are as a congregation and how we live up to our congregational identity.

To create the Ministry Site Profile, the Council must appoint a Transition Team. This group is separate from and comes before a Call Committee. The Transition Team will be tasked with leading the process of

congregational introspection necessary for creating the Ministry Site Profile, and eventually drafting the document itself. It is important work that will require individuals with an abiding passion for Como Park, it's people, and it's works.

If you feel called to do that work, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor Peter or any Council member. We will also be hosting a representative from the Synod for worship and Adult Forum on Sunday, October 11. This will be an opportunity for the congregation to learn more about the call process in general, and Phase 2 in particular, so please attend if you are able.

In Christ,
CPLC Church Council



YOUTH HAUNTED HAY RIDE



Friday, September 25

The Dead End Hayride is quickly becoming a CPLC favorite... so we're heading back again this year! This haunted adventure includes a hayride, plus walking through spooky fields and buildings. Scary fun isn't for everyone, and that's perfectly okay - we have plenty of other youth events coming up throughout the year.

Who: 7th–12th graders — friends welcome!

What: A festive, fright-filled Haunted Hayride

Where: Dead End Hayride (about 30 minutes from church) — thedeadendhayride.com

When: Meet at church at 6:00 PM on Friday, Sept. 25. We'll carpool together. Due to wait times, return is estimated around 10:00 PM.

RSVP: To secure a group rate, tickets will be purchased ahead of time. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Cost & Permission Slips: \$20 per youth. Cash or checks may be made out to CPLC. Permission slips/waivers are available from David or can be signed at drop-off.

Questions & RSVP: Contact David Osterhouse at osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org



SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH & CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Saturday, October 10

Our annual Youth & Confirmation Retreat is right around the corner! Youth in grades 7th–12th are invited for a fall day of devotions, discussions, games, hiking, and a cozy campfire at beautiful Afton State Park. It's a great chance to recharge, connect, and enjoy the season together.

Who: 7th–12th graders

What: Youth & Confirmation Retreat

Where: Afton State Park

When: Saturday, October 10 — we'll carpool from church

Contact: David Osterhouse — osterhouse@comoparklutheran.org



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*



SPIRITUAL GIFTS retreat

Saturday, October 10 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood

"Who has God created me to be?"

October 10

This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Using spiritual gift inventories, conversation and other tools, you'll go home with a better sense of who you are and how you might best serve your faith community and the world! Retreat leaders include Pastor Kirsten Fryer of the Saint Paul Area Synod, Deacon Nina Joygaard (Faith, Forest Lake) and Pastor Wendy Steger (All Saints, Eagan). The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch.

REGISTER: bit.ly/gifts-retreat

THIS WEEK AT CPLC



SUNDAY
September 20

RALLY SUNDAY
(First Day of
Sunday school)

AND

**BLESSING OF
THE
BACKPACKS**

TUESDAY
September 22

**9-10 AM FAITH
TALK**

AND

9-12 PM QUILTERS

See the online
calendar or
contact the office
for more
information on
these weekly
groups.

WEDNESDAY
September 23

**6-7 JOYFUL
RINGERS**

**7:15-8:45
CPLChoir**

**7-8
CONFIRMATION**

**7-8 YOUTH
GROUP**

THURSDAY
September 24

**2-6 PM FARMERS
MARKET**

(Apples, treats,
neighbors,
farmers!)

AND

**6-8 PM
SISTERHOOD
SOCIAL**

FRIDAY
September 25

**YOUTH: DEAD
END HAYRIDE**

BOO!

See the
previous page
for more
information.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

SISTERHOOD SOCIAL

PUZZLES AND APP NIGHT

The Sisterhood Social Night will be held in the Fireside Room on Thursday, September 24 from 6-8pm. This month's theme is Puzzles & Appetizers, and everyone is invited to bring puzzles, snacks, and beverages to share as we enjoy a relaxed evening of conversation, connection, and fun together — come when you can and leave when you want.



FALL 2026 OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 1:00-5:00
Tuesday: 9:00-5:00
Wednesday: 9:00-5:00
Thursday: 9:00-5:00
Friday: 9:00-1:30

If you need dedicated time, please make an appointment — we're always happy to accommodate and talk.

If there are few staff members in the building, the front door may be locked. Ring the bell, and a staff member will assist you if available.

For questions or scheduling, contact the church office at office@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
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