

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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 Narthex.

TODAY	Rally Day	Sunday School Kick-Off
TODAY	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

Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele

JS 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

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

✠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.



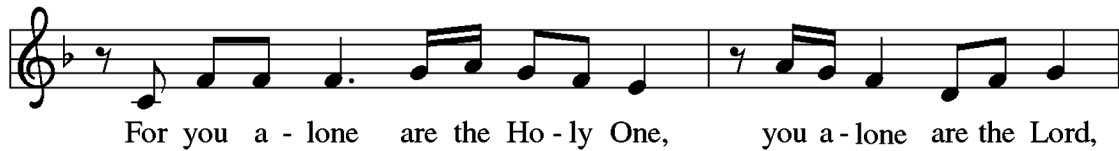
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

¹ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8



- ¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
and I will re- | count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.



²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

✠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 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Twentieth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

✠BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Loving God, we lift up these students, teachers, and school staff as a new year begins. We thank you for minds to learn, hearts to grow, and hands to serve.

Please bless these backpacks. May they carry not only books and homework, but also a deep sense of your presence. When the days are long or difficult, remind these students and educators that they are never alone, that they are loved by you, and that they are supported by this church family.

We send you forth with our prayers. May your year be filled with courage, kindness, and joy. Amen.

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW 358

✠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

We Arise This Day by Ward

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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

✠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

Rise Up! O Saints of God

ELW 669

✠DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Concerto II, 1st mvmt.

JS Bach/A. Vivaldi

Brad Althoff, Guest Organist

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As Saints of Old Text: Frank von Christierson © 1989 The Hymn Society
FOREST GREEN Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams © Oxford University Press
Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Text: Brian A. Wren © 1995 Hope Publishing House
RYBURN Music: Norman Crocker © Oxford University Press
Now We Join in Celebration Text: Joel Lundeen © Augsburg Fortress
SCHMUCKE DICH Music: Johann Cruger, public domain
Rise Up, O Saints of God! Text: Norman O. Forness © Augsburg Fortress
FESTAL SONG Music: William H. Walter, public domain
We Arise This Day by Ward by Aidan Francis/Tony Ward © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Please pray for...

Anders N.

Kathy H.

Gina K.

Gary

Heidi G.

Betty H.

Charlie S.

Brita G.

Julia L., Father, Family

Tyler F.

J.J. K.

Joe

Cheryl & Jim

Mary C.

Ginger F.

Duane B.

Carol B.

... 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:

Brita Grafstrom

Peter & Laura Grafstrom, Anders

John Grafstrom & Carol Sime

Hanna Gulden & Mike Tischler

Bryan Gulden & Ann Haugen

Doug & Mary Hagerman

Mark & Kathy Hakanson, Isaac, Annika

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Guest Organist: Brad Althoff

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	September 20, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Carl Johnson
Communion Prep	Meg Duncan
Assisting Minister	Janice Kragness
Communion Asst 1	Mary Hagerman
Communion Asst 2	David Harris
Greeter	David Harris
Coffee Servers	Pam Ballis & Raija
Children's Message	David Person
Reader	Heidi Banitt
Liturgist	Jeanette Maynard-
Ushers	Team 1
Welcome Desk	Meg Duncan
Bus Helper	
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Jeff Carnes

USHER TEAM

Team 1: Darrell Anderson, Fred Halberg, Paul McCreight, Sam Schultz

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

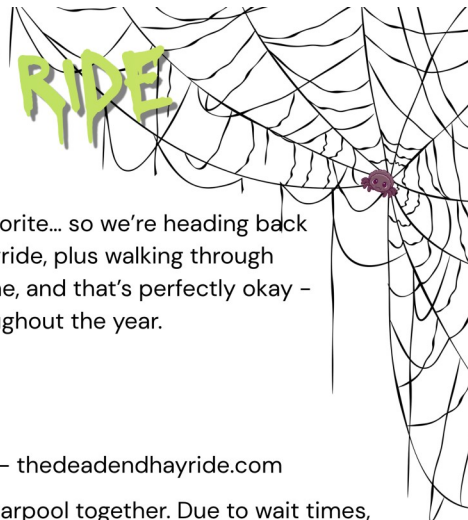
congregational introspection necessary for creating the Ministry Site Profile, and eventually drafting the document itself. It is important work that will require individuals with an abiding passion for Como Park, it's people, and it's works.

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

**7-8
CONFIRMATION**

**7-8 YOUTH
GROUP**

**6-7 HAUNTED
HAY**

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