

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1st, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Como Park Lutheran Church

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



COMO PARK
LUTHERAN

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 and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, personal orientations, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet, we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.

~ The people of Como Park Lutheran Church

**TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR
will immediately follow the service.**

Please join us for some coffee and light snacks in the Narthex.

This service will be broadcast live on YouTube
and recorded for later viewing.

www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch

ADULT FORUM & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY	Discussion with LSS of MN: Changing Lives & Early Learning Centers
TODAY	Organ Concert Series: Tom Hamilton
02/15/2026	Friends of Huruma Chris Smith
02/15/2026	Organ Concert Series: Emily R. E. Roth
02/22/2026	Rachel Morey Project Home - Interfaith Action



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Berceuse

Louis Vierne

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

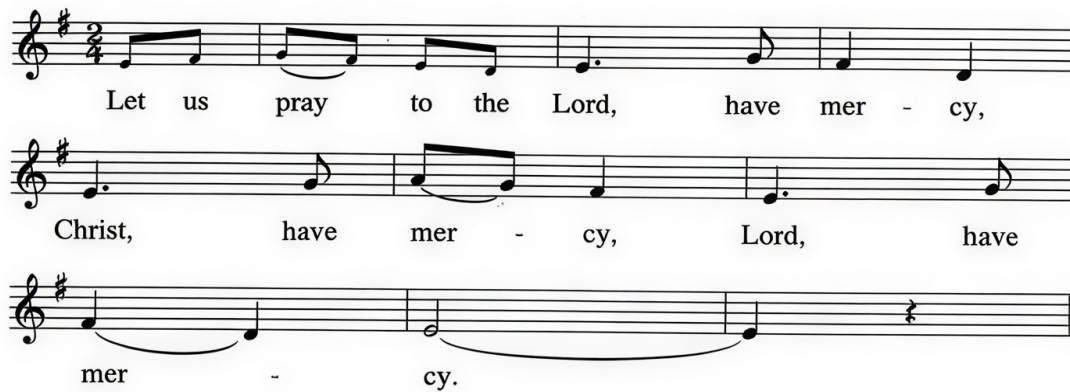
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

✠KYRIE

ELW 157

Assistant: In peace, in peace,



Assistant: 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)



✱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:

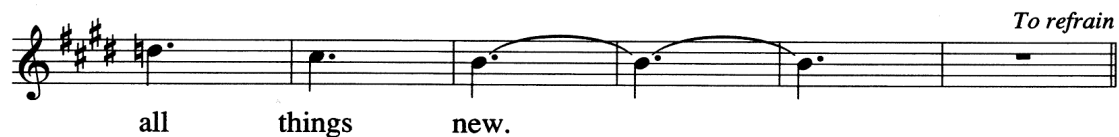
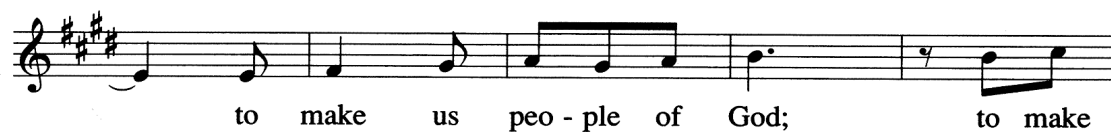
1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great



Verse 2



Verse 3



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

**Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

- ¹ Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
- ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
- ¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
- ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

3 Wealth and riches
will be | in their house,
and their righteousness
will | last forever.

⁵ It is good for them
to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs
with justice.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast,
trusting | in the LORD.

10

- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and
their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head
with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth
and | pine away;
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

- ¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom.
- ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
- ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
- ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
- ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.
- ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish.
- ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.
- ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—
- ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.



11 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

15 Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

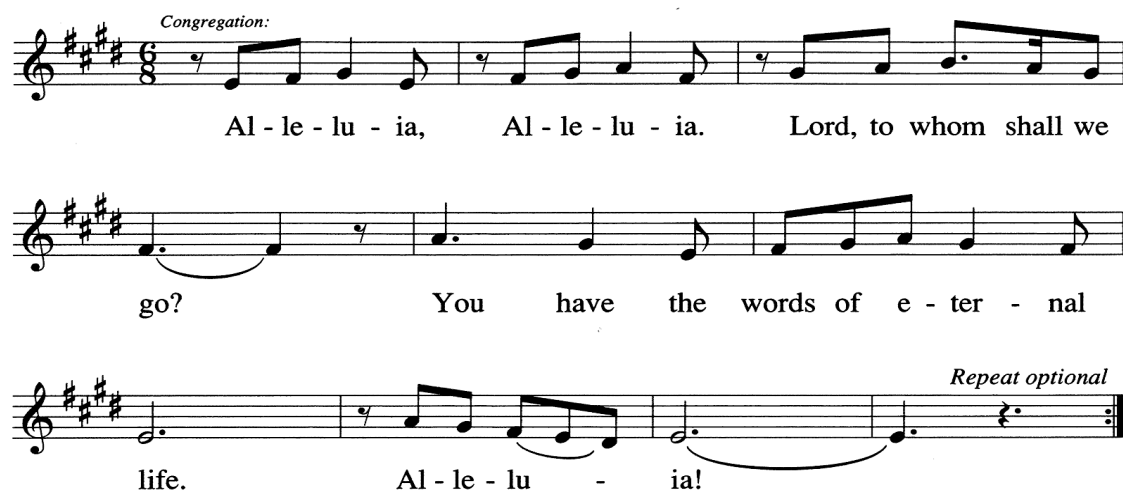
16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Fifth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

- ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
- ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
- ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.
- ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
- ¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.
- ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.
- ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Meg Duncan

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Mary Kay Ashley

✠SERMON HYMN

Lord of Light

ELW 688

✠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.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

I Am the Light of Nations

Hal Hopson

CPLChoir and Sue Woodhall, flute

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...

Merciful God,

everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. 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

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 peace.

Amen.

✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God,
gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION

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

Bring Forth the Kingdom

WP22 522

[illegible]

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!
4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the king-dom of mer-cy, bring forth the

king-dom of peace; bring forth the king-dom of jus-tice,

bring forth the cit-y of God!

✠DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

March

Alexandre Guilmant

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Please pray for...

Pam B.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Dorothy E.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Kathy H.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ann L.	Paula M.L. (cousin of Jeanette M. N.)
Heather Q.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Ruth R.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
	Mary C (friend of Deb S.)

... 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:**

Chad & Kristina Fehn
Tom & Kathleen Ferry
Daniel Fischer
Ginger Fischer
Ryan & Nicole Fischer, Freya, Vega, Pace, Clark
Donna Fleer
Noe Frausto & Rebecca Thron, Luna, Nico

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Mary Kay Ashley

Director of Music Ministries: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	February 8, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Esben Lund
Communion Prep	Jan Lathrop
Assisting Minister	Shirley Dingman
Communion Asst 1	Tom Spivey
Communion Asst 2	Janice Kragness
Greeter	Deb Spivey
Coffee Servers	Polly & Scott Heaton
Children's Message	Meg Duncan
Reader	Diedra Carlson
Liturgist	Rebecca Numainville
Ushers	Team 1
Welcome Desk	Fay Cushman
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Ruth Pechauer

USHER TEAM

Jim & Margo and Ted



February 15th – Discussion with Friends of Huruma: Giving Children a Home & a Future

Stay after worship for a conversation with Chris Smith from Friends of Huruma, a nonprofit partnering with the Huruma Centre Children’s Home in Iringa, Tanzania. Their mission is to provide vulnerable children with safety, nurturing care, education, and the support they need to grow into healthy, independent adults. Learn how this partnership is transforming lives and



February 15, 2026 at 4:00 PM – Organ Concert Series: Emily R. E. Roth

Join us for a free, in-person organ concert featuring Emily R. E. Roth. Emily holds a Master’s Degree in Organ Performance from the University of Minnesota and performs throughout the Rochester and Twin Cities area. She brings a love of teaching, artistry, and expressive organ performance.



February 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM – Craft Night

This event happens every 3rd Thursday of every month from 6-8 PM in the Fireside Room. **All are welcome!** Bring any craft you’re working on, whether it is knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, etc, or just come to enjoy community.

February 18, 2026 at 5:15pm — Ash Wednesday

Youth Hosted Soup Supper

Join us for a youth hosted soup supper before worship (6:30pm) on February 18!



Food served 5:15-6:15pm. Proceeds to support camp scholarships and youth programming.

FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



The power of knowing Christ crucified.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Galatians 2:15-21	Everyone is saved by faith
Thursday	1 Peter 2:18-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Christ is God's power and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112:1-10	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 17:1-9	Transfiguration of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, help us to see that through the cross of Christ we are made your people and to be the salt of the earth to share your saving work with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food remind us of your generosity and your desire for us to provide food for the needy. Amen. (Isaiah 58:7)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with trust in God.



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FEBRUARY 8, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Ever Walk with
Jesus*



taking 
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When have you helped someone go through a sad time?
- Being forgiven can look like weakness. How is Jesus' death on the cross a powerful gift to the life of the church?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

Paul contrasts the strength and wisdom of the world with the strength and wisdom of God. What is most important is knowing "*Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*" because it is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). The Corinthians are fixated on their spiritual gifts and special wisdom, but that only divides the community. Paul wants to unite the community as the body of Christ in the world. Spiritual gifts are all based on the work of God, not on people's own spiritual powers. Therefore, Christians are not to get caught up on who has the "better" spiritual gifts. What does matter is to know that the uniqueness of the spiritual life is to see everything through the death and resurrection of Christ, which is the true wisdom and strength that gives faith, hope, and love to a world in need.

Discuss: How does seeing the world through the cross of Christ help you as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **God of wisdom and might, give us faith to see in the cross of Christ your healing and redeeming work in the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show love and hope to those who are hungry or homeless?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus calls his followers the "*salt of the earth and the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:13-14). When gathered with friends and family in your home, give a candle to each person. As a candle lighting ritual, light one another's candles in turn either by using a lighter or passing a flame from candle to candle. As each candle is lit, say: "**Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**" (Matthew 5:16)



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**

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