

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



The Love of God, by Sabrina Squires

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/10	Senior Fellowship Outing	Tour of Project Home
9/13	“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday	Day of Service
9/20	Rally Day	Sunday School Kick-Off
9/20	Blessing of Backpacks	
9/27	Bible Distribution	3 y.o.’s, 3rd, & 6th Grades



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Grand Choeur for Organ and Brass

Dubois arr. Brockman

Accent Brass and Tom Ferry

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

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656

✠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

Assisting minister



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

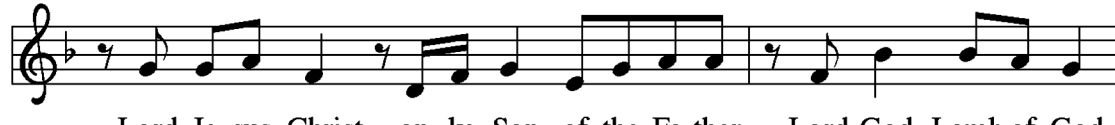
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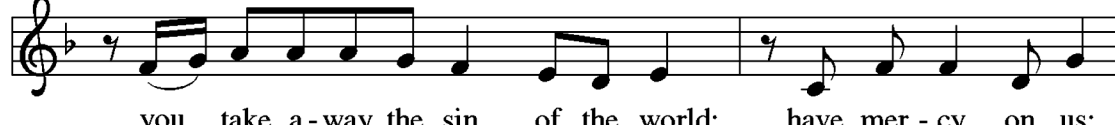
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



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,



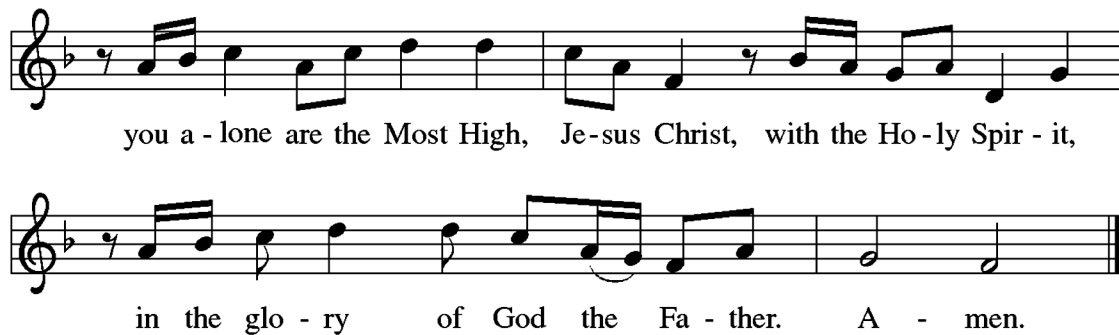
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

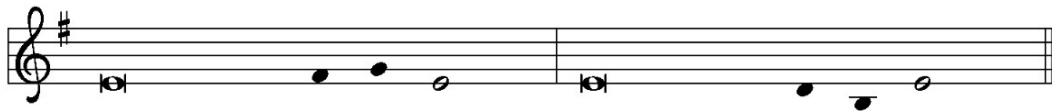


¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40



³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠GOSPEL VERSE

ELW pg. 142



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

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

✠GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Eighteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

David Person

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Peter Coen-Tuff

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

ELW 716

✠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

Anchored in Love

James Rowe

Deb Kmetz and Dan Garvin

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

In All Our Grief

ELW 615

✠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

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

ELW 865

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in g BWV578

J.S. Bach

Please pray for...

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

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✂ ✂ ✂

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

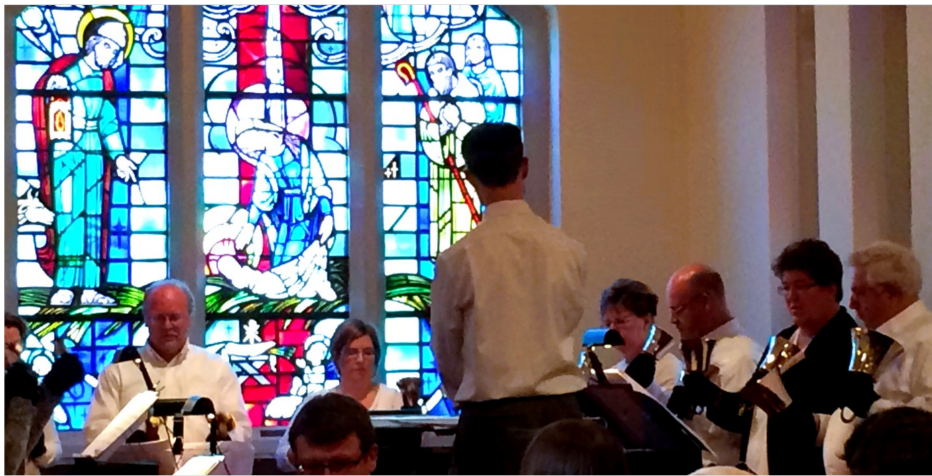
✂ ✂ ✂

We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.

This week in worship, we pray for:

Linda Fearing
Chad & Kristina Fehn
Tom & Kathy Ferry, Ethan, Eli
Daniel Fischer
Ginger Fischer
Joe & Sadie Fischer, Vega, Pace, Clark
Ryan & Nicole Fischer, Freya

**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM
AND THE FERRY FAMILY**



You've helped us make joyful noise for 28 years.
Now go make some noise of your own.

With gratitude for your faithful ministry and all the music you have
shared with us,

Como Park Lutheran Church

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Peter Coen-Tuff

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

ACCENT BRASS

Trumpet I - Alex Kahler

Trumpet II - Scott Swanson

Horn - Michelle Kahler

Trombone - Lauren Husting

Tuba - Jerry Sherohman

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	September 6, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Brennan Todd
Communion Prep	Pam Ballis
Assisting Minister	Polly Heaton
Communion Asst 1	Sasha Weber
Communion Asst 2	Elizabeth Weber
Greeter	Mark & Joann Becker
Coffee Servers	Lowell Lundy & Shirley Ding-
Children's Message	David Person
Reader	David Harris
Liturgist	Dan Garvin
Ushers	Team 2
Welcome Desk	Rosemary Johnson
Bus Driver	Tom Spivey
Video Tech	Craig Canada

USHER TEAM

Team 2: Kevin Johnson, Mark Bly, Sandra Hirsch

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Blest Be the Tie That Binds Text: John Fawcett, public domain
DENNIS Music: Johann G. Nageli, public domain
Anchored in Love by James Rowe, public domain
In All Our Grief Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications
FREDERICK TOWN Music: Charles R. Anders ©1978 Augsburg Fortress
Grand Choeur for organ and Brass by Theodore Dubois arr. David J.Brockman ©2017 Birnamwood Publications

ANNOUNCEMENTS



God's work. Our hands.

On Sunday, September 13, 2026, "**God's work. Our hands.**"

Sunday there's an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor — by participating in a service project. We invite you to participate in one or both of the projects listed below. Please email Sue@comoparklutheran.org with any questions.

Neighborhood School Supply Drive — Help students go back to school prepared. CPLC will be collecting school supplies for students at Chelsea Heights Elementary, Falcon Heights Elementary, and Roseville Area High School.

Items to donate:

Large and small backpacks, Pencils, Pens, Crayons, Markers, Watercolor paint brushes, Scissors, Folders, Notebooks

Pajama Kits — donate/ pack pajama kits for children ages 3 – 18. These kits are distributed through Lutheran Social Services. For children facing uncertainty, these kits offer dignity and familiarity during times of adjustment.

Items to donate:

Drawstring bag (to pack and transport the kit)

- 1 pair of pajamas (gender-neutral if possible; sized for ages 4 – 18)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 pair of underwear
- 1 soft stuffed animal (small to medium-sized, cuddly, no battery-operated toys)
- Optional addition: 1 children's book (new or gently used, age-appropriate, for youth – YA novel, journal or coloring/activity book)

THIS WEEK AT CPLC

COMO PARK FARMERS' MARKET

Back on Thursday!



The State Fair is about wrapped up, and the Como Park Farmers' Market will be back this Thursday in the CPLC parking lot from 2–6 PM. Apples are now in season, and you'll see them as a new addition at the market. Come support our local growers and enjoy fresh fall produce with our neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you at the market and celebrating the best of the season together!

FAREWELL TOM FERRY

06 September 2026

Tom Ferry - Last Day Playing



07 September 2026

Labor Day - Church Office Closed



07 September 2026

Sisterhood Social

GROUPS ARE BACK



CONFIRMATION & YOUTH GROUP - WEDNESDAYS

Confirmation (Grades 7th-8th) meets in the Fireside Room at 7 PM (starting September 23rd). Youth Group (Grades 9-12) meets in the Youth Room at 7 PM (starting September 10th).

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



JOYFUL RINGERS & CPLCHOIR REHEARSALS - WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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



CRAFT GROUP - EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

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

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

Bring your current project and join us!

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Resolve conflicts in the church with mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Philippians 4:1-3	Paul encourages the Lord's followers
Thursday	Romans 5:6-11	Being acceptable to God
Friday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Rules for the new life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one." **Matthew 18:15 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, teach us your ways that we may live together in peace and see Jesus in the face of others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in the midst of violent storms and droughts we encounter in the world, we thank you for this gift of food and for those who have brought it to us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to love your neighbor as yourself.

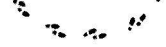


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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lift Up Your Heads



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:

- What do you do when your relationship with a neighbor, family member, or someone else is in conflict?
- Jesus says we are to pursue others with love and grace. How can knowing this help you to resolve differences in relationships that are difficult?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even relationships in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God. This is announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: *"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."* Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentile or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones. We are to seek out relationships with love and mercy.

Discuss: When you have been wronged or hurt in a relationship, how did you handle it? How might Jesus' words in Matthew 18 impact how you respond?

Pray: **Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present. Strengthen us to love one another anew each day. Amen.**

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 resolve a hurtful relationship you have with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*

(Matthew 18:20). Think or talk about people in your life at home, school, work, in your family, and in your neighborhood. Write their names down on a sheet of paper and next to each name, a word or words that describe your relationship with each one. How is Jesus present in those relationships? Light a candle to symbolize Jesus' presence within you.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to love others, live together in peace, and see your face in others. 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.**

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

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—(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

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**Hunger Ministries, Kitchen & Events
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Sue Brogger - 651-646-7127 Ext 2203
sue@comoparklutheran.org

**Finance Comptroller & Trust Fund
Donations**

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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