

Congratulations! You are part of a uniquely gifted, caring and mission-minded community. Because of you, pastors preach the Gospel, the faithful sing hymns and praise songs, we practice love and acceptance, teach the faith, keep the buildings beautiful for worship and mission, feed the hungry, and comfort those who sorrow. And this is only the tip of the iceberg! Thank you for your generosity, love, care and prayers. You truly make a difference.

Now, your community needs you. We believe in an audacious vision: to empower ministry as a thriving community of renewal and growth, reaching out in Christ to a changing world. Our vision calls us beyond our excellence in worshipping God and growing our faith.

Our recent congregational survey revealed that people at Como Park, people like you, want to attract more families, especially more children, instill a spirit of generosity that carries our mission forward, and work to heal those harmed by life's circumstances. This is happening now through our staff and program ministries. Amongst other things, the *Thrive!* mission appeal will help us fund the Intern Pastor and Youth Director positions. These two positions alone are responsible for programs that include:

- *Lutherans and Lattes*
- *Theology on Tap*
- *Book Clubs & Bible Studies*
- *Wednesday Evening Youth Groups*
- *Sunday School for Older Youth*
- *Vacation Bible School*
- *Pastoral Visits to the Homebound*
- *Mission Trips & Service Projects*
- *Monthly Senior Worship at RosePointe and Eagle Crest Apartments*

These positions extend our ministry beyond our front doors, while providing a variety in preaching and worship, music, and a thriving congregational life that are simply amazing.

And speaking of amazing, the hospitality that you provide is truly first-rate. Como Park Lutheran Church is a place where people welcome people with meals, and greetings, and call others by name, drawing them into close and caring community. The building hosts a large number of community groups and organizations throughout the year.

This church building is a space that we've made comfortable and accessible to young children, senior citizens and the disabled. Yet as you probably know, after 53 years of service, the 40-ton air conditioning unit that cools our fellowship hall and sanctuary is broken beyond repair and needs to be replaced. Your gifts are needed to fund a replacement unit that will cost approximately \$60,000.

We do this for the sake of hospitality, out of care for our visitors, our senior citizens and those with small children. It's a part of ministry and restoring this feature to the building requires your support.

The entire *Thrive!* mission appeal requires your support. Funds that have provided for our ministries in the past are quickly being depleted. Over the past four years, the *Shine* mission appeal funds and the Helen Reis bequest are two examples of funds that have been completely used up. Both have been spent faithfully and fruitfully for ministries as they were directed and we're thankful for the gifts that made them possible. Now, we need a new three-year mission appeal in addition to our annual budget appeal, along with special one-time gifts to support our calling and mission.

God gifts us with a spirit of compassion and generosity. Now, Como Park Lutheran Church needs for you and your family to grow your financial giving to the congregation as well as your faith commitments in order to reach out and grow and serve the needs of the community in a truly thriving manner. Your generous financial gifts will guarantee that we become an even more vital servant community, connected to and responding to the needs of those near at home and far away. Our ministry is exciting and we are grateful that you are part of it with us.

With your help we can ensure that our core ministries of
Worshipping God, Growing in Faith,
Building Community, and Serving Others
continue to thrive and grow.

As you grow in your own giving and commitments, prayers and involvement, you will see to it that Como Park Lutheran Church grows and thrives as a community that lives faithfully, serves others, transforms lives, and creates a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

In the coming days and weeks, your stewardship team will ask you to commit yourself once more to participating fully in our congregational life and to giving generously to see that Como Park Lutheran Church can continue to provide for the training of Intern Pastors and Youth Ministers and the ministry that they provide to families, children and young adults, as well as our aging friends and neighbors.

To fulfill our vision of extending our ministries even farther into the community around us, we call upon you and your family to join others in giving generously; to our annual budget, for the additional \$400,000 over three years needed to grow in vitality and membership as well as to replace the air conditioner, and to consider what one-time gifts you are able to make as part of this appeal.

Please be sure to be in worship over these coming weeks. We will share with you a new, simpler, and we pray more powerful way to understand and experience the ministry and life we call Como Park Lutheran Church.