



Como Park Lutheran Church
The Evangelist

REACHING OUT IN CHRIST TO A CHANGING WORLD.

Volume 71:12 | December 1, 2017



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am and 10:45
Sunday Mornings

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**ADULT FORUMS
and
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:35am

* * * * *

**BIBLE VERSE
OF THE
MONTH**

To you is born this day in
the city of David a savior,
who is the Messiah, the
Lord.
Luke 2:11

THE FIRST WORD

by Pastor Martin R. Ericson

Dear Friends,

I love the Advent hymns that speak of Jesus' coming. These are hymns filled with hope and longing; "Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee." And "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace! So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrows load."

These songs cross centuries of human need and experience to speak to our condition here and now. We want and need a new beginning. We want and need to be set free. We long for relief from this world's trials, and we thrill at the promise of God's love drawing near. And we know that Jesus is come, has come, and will come again.

In time we will sing the Christmas Carols through all twelve days of Christmas. We'll even sing some out of season. We like to start early. But sometimes we move on too soon. The season doesn't end until we meet the wise men at Epiphany.

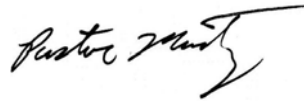
Still, there is something in the watchful waiting and hoped for coming of Advent that is beautiful and calming. "Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace. Ever loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace."

This isn't just schmaltz. This is a promise, rooted in God's word, and realized in Jesus so that it's made real in our own lives. This is a heartfelt response to our own spirit's keening. "O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear." And then the song explodes in the

refrain, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel." Or if you prefer something more processional, "Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word."

The hymns of Advent can be read, spoken or sung. They speak to our hearts and unburden our souls. It's a shame that Advent is only four weeks long. Join us all through this season of grace as we await the coming of our King. Join us as we sing, "Savior of the nations come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!"

Advent Blessings,



Pastor Marty

CPLC News

Music in December!

Join Como Park Lutheran Church in song in December!

The Messiah Sing will be held on December 17th at 3:00pm.
Come ready to sing Hallelujah!

This year's Carol Sing will take place at the 9:30am
Christmas Eve Service.



The Advent Dinner will be at 5:00pm. Swedish Meatballs, baked ham, rosemary roasted potatoes, lefse and more.

Adults \$8.00
Children \$4.00
Family Maximum \$25.00

This year's Annual Meeting will include a vote on an updated congregational constitution. Copies are available on the Website and at the Welcome Center. Changes reflect updated language for all ELCA congregations approved at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Saturday December 2nd Pageant Rehearsal 9:00am– 11:00am	Sunday, December 3rd CPL Choir at 2nd Service
Saturday, December 9th Pageant Rehearsal 9:00am– 11:00am	Sunday, December 10th Worship Team at 8:30am Christmas Pageant 10:45am Coffee Hour and Fellowship
Sunday, December 17th Preaching Scholar Mark Tranvik Messiah Sing 3:00pm Advent Dinner 5:00pm	Sunday, December 24th 9:30am Carol Sing with Joyful I 3:30pm Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 25th 9:30am Worship	Sunday, December 31st 9:30am Worship



Littles and Middles Photos



Littles and Middles Photos



Photo Credit to David Osterhouse

Music

Symbols of Grace

Como Park Lutheran Church's building is filled with symbols of our faith. A statue of Jesus is clearly visible at the front of the sanctuary, even to those walking down Hoyt Street. Stain glass windows tell stories from the bible and of saints that we strive to emulate. Paintings and crosses adorn the walls of our building created by Christian artists from around the world as well as by our youth. We even have a series of paintings hanging in the Fireside Room that tell the story of holy week. They are called, "The Stations of the Cross." However, a container for one of the most powerful symbols we have stands empty on most Sundays in the narthex just before the entrance to the sanctuary.

As Lutherans, we know that we are forgiven and redeemed people of God. We did not earn God's grace, nor can we do anything to make God stop loving us. It is, however, still helpful for our own sake to be reminded that God loves us no matter what we do. Baptism is the sacrament that made us children of God. Through the Word, the action of the Holy Spirit, and the physical element of water, we died to sin and rose to new life in Christ. That is why water is such a potent symbol of God's grace.

On Reformation Sunday, the baptismal font was placed in the front of the sanctuary and filled with water as a symbol of the daily reformation in our lives. Through baptism, each morning we die to sin and rise again to life in Christ. In the bulletin, there was an open invitation to dip your fingers in the water and to make the sign of the cross with that water on your forehead in remembrance of your baptism. As a tradition, that empty container, the

baptismal font, will be filled with water on Sunday mornings. You are invited to use that water, in whatever way you find meaningful, to remember that in baptism you have become a child of God, forgiven and redeemed.

Thanks be to God.

Tom Ferry

Director of Music Ministries

The Lighter Side

Q: What happens if you play a county song backwards?

A: Your wife returns to you, your dog comes back to life, and you get out of prison.



To avoid taking down my Christmas lights, I'm turning my house into an Italian restaurant.

Q: Why couldn't the string quartet find their composer?

A: He was Haydn



When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me \$85. That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.



Q: What's the difference between a piano and a tuna?

A: You can tune a piano, but you can't piano a tuna.



Luke Skywalker is my favorite hero that looks 100 percent prepared to figure skate at all times.



Q: Why did the burglars decide to rob a music store?

A: For the lute.



Sunday School

“And fit us for heaven...”

Stories from Sunday School. 3rd Floor. Come and Explore!

How is it that we are ever “fit” for heaven? Here is what the dictionary says about the word, “fit:” (adjective) well-suited, worthy, proper, becoming; ready, in good condition. (intransitive verb) be suited to, be properly adjusted to; arrange, adjust, apply, insert; supply, furnish. (intransitive verb) be correctly adjusted or adapted, be of the right size.

(Webster’s Dictionary, Book Essentials Publications, Larchmont, NY, 1990)

These days we talk a lot about fitness. We count our steps with devices on our wrists. Interviewers decide if one is fit for the task or a “good fit” for the job. Dressing rooms are populated by people checking to see if a piece of clothing “fits.”

So what are we asking Jesus to do when we ask Him to “fit” us for heaven?

One suggestion, I think, is to empower us by the Holy Spirit to follow Him beginning and remaining faithful in prayer and in the Word, and then stepping out to serve, share, comfort, feed and nurture as He prompts us.

The Sunday School families are demonstrating such “fitness” by ministering to the homeless through Central Lutheran Church:

Assembling over 70 hygiene kits

Blessing and sending polar fleece scarves sewn by Dee Anderson of our congregation, to warm the heads of those in need.

Tying and praying over polar fleece blankets made

by the Sunday School classes

And now, a new need: we are collecting walking shoes, especially large sizes for men. (If you have a pair to give, leave them at the Welcome Desk for Jane Nelson) We will pray over and send those, too!

Be near me, Lord Jesus,

I ask you to stay close by me forever,

And love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

(Away in a Manger, verse 3, ELW #277)

Equipped for the task by His grace alone: “fit” for heaven.

Thanks be to God!

Jane Nelson, Superintendent of Sunday School
School

FELLOWSHIP



Wednesday Night Meals

December 6

Chicken Enchilada bake, Vegetable, fruit and dessert

December 13

Beef Stroganoff with egg noodles, Vegetable, fruit and dessert

December 20

Sloppy Joes, Tater tots w/ seasoned sour cream, vegetables, fruit and dessert

December 27

No Meal – Christmas Break

Quilting-Tuesday Mornings, 9:00am — Fellowship Hall

Check out our weekly quilting group for fun, fellowship, and food! We get together every Tuesday morning to work on quilts that we donate each year. We always enjoy a snack after our morning of great conversation and hard work!

Lutherans & Lattes-Tuesdays, 9:00am — @ Underground Music Cafe

Indulge in a couple of favorite Lutheran pastimes: coffee and conversation! The coffee & tea are as refreshing as our conversations. Join us as we discuss our experience of God in regular life, exploring current world events, theology, scripture, and more – all from a Lutheran/Christian perspective. *Join your CPLC friends for Lutherans & Lattes next Tuesday morning!*

Men's Bible Study-Thursday Mornings 7:30am —Perkins (1495 Cty. Rd. B W)

Coffee, bacon, Bible — 'nuff said. *Bring yourself and bring a friend!*

Theology on Tap- Tuesday, December 5th 8:00pm — Ol' Mexico (1754 Lexington Ave)

We always meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Our conversations deal with the intersection of faith and life, theology and current events. Order a beer, a glass of wine, or a pop and join in the friendly and meaningful conversation. Stop by and check it out!

Women of the Word January 23rd— Barnes & Noble Café

Questions? Call Jane Nelson: 651-484-7978

Grace Circle December 21st—The Fireside Room

We meet the third Thursday of each month at 9:30am from September through June for Bible Study, fellowship, and coffee. **We would love to have you join us.** For more information, call Sheila Skone 651-488-5084.

Senior Fellowship—December 14th— RSVP by December 8th

Trudy Harper will perform at the Senior Fellowship Luncheon on December 14th Baked Ham and Rosemary Mashed potatoes will be served. Cost is \$8.00 for food and entertainment. Keep an eye on weekly bulletins, E-announcements and upcoming issues of the Evangelist for more information about Senior Fellowship.

Wednesday Night Craft Group January 31st— The Fellowship Hall

Food and Crafting on the last Wednesday of the month. Bring your current project or learn how to Knit/Crochet/ Embroider crafts to support the CPLC Fall Bazaar! Contact Cathy Gagne (651) 442-4738, Kelli Jean Duncan (651) 272 -6600, or Meg Duncan (612) 251-1158. Will start back up in September.



December 14th

Youth

Advent is a time filled with waiting, waiting, and more waiting. We wait in line at Target and the supermarket, we wait in line in traffic during the snowstorms, and we wait for the work day to be done or for Winter break to begin after finals are completed. All the while, there is this sense of anticipation in the air – something wonderful is coming! Perhaps it is the foresight of family Christmas dinner, or the expectation of presents under a carefully decorated evergreen tree. Maybe we are just really looking forward to the Peanuts' Christmas Special on TV.

Or, perhaps like Charlie Brown, we need to be reminded what Christ-Mas is really all about: the celebration of the birth of the Messiah. Christmas is about ordinary people working their ordinary jobs, and the Glory of God shining all around them. It is about being frightened out of our regular routine, but also about being comforted and told news of great joy. It is a reminder we have been given a gift and a savior for us. Christmas is about children and families and simple living. It is about praise towards God and peace on earth (Luke 2:8-14).

As this is being published, work on our annual Children's Christmas Pageant is well underway. There are a lot of preparations to be done with costumes, lines, and set designs. There is a lot of waiting at rehearsals and a great deal of anticipation. However, at the heart of it all is the baby Jesus.

This time is full of children, and joy, and praise. Let us not forget the meaning of Christmas, and let us wait in joyful anticipation of the coming of the Christ child – the greatest gift of all.

Our Como Park youth have been busy the past

month: we brought in record numbers for the Littles and Middles Fall carnival, with games, food, and fun for all ages!

Sr. High and confirmation traveled to Can Can Wonderland for an adventurous time with mini golf, arcades, and pinball.

We also raised money for Plymouth Christian Youth Center's Children Gift Sale, and made a huge impact for underprivileged kids in Northeast Minneapolis.

Coming up, we have a ton of other events. Make sure you put them on your calendar!

Saturday 12/2, 9:00-11:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday 12/9, 9:00-11:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Saturday 12/9, 4:00-5:00 PM Christmas Pageant

Sunday 12/10, 10:45-11:45 AM Christmas Pageant (Second Service)

Wednesday 12/20, 6:30-8:00 PM Youth Group Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

Advent blessings to all,

~Josh

CARING & PRAYER

Our Prayers Go Out To....

Jean Eastvold
 Dody Ellingson
 Dolores Fevig
 Dom & Merry Fragomeni
 Marcy Ketelsen
 Muriel Morin

Gretchen Prohofsky
 Edna Pankonin
 Barbara Ripley
 Harriet Stoltz
 Phyllis Trisco
 Eugene Vogel

Angela Nelson
 Alice Hultmann
 Lisa Kane
 Norma Gogar

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Jonathan Lund & Christian Nelson, and all who serve



12/1..... Noah Hanson	12/8..... Ginger Fischer
12/2..... Eric Johnson	Edward Krum
12/3..... Barbara Moormann	12/10..... Lowell Lundy
12/4..... Cassandra Reiter	12/11..... Emma Purdy
12/5..... Britt Logan	Mia Purdy
12/6... ..Carol Rossi	Daniel Rapatz
Isaiah Vargas	12/14..... Jeremy Bennett

12/17..... Kristina Fehn	12/27..... Annabel Popp
Bradley Peper	Louis Siegel
Lillian Peper	12/28..... Mark Hoisser
12/19..... Everett Zehrer	12/30..... Richard Roller
12/21..... Thomas Rapatz	12/31..... Linda Johnson
12/24..... Sydney Leach	Megan Rodriguez
	Vivienne Megitt
12/25..... Noa Carlson	
	Ann Haugen
12/26..... Maxwell Popp	

12/4..... Robert and Patricia Johnson
 12/18..... Travis and Amanda Rupp
 12/22..... Dennis and Ing-Mari Ryan



December
 Anniversaries



WORLD MISSION: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania
CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS: Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill
SYNOD MISSION PARTNERS: Iringa Diocese of Tanzania &
 Iglesia Lutherana Augustine de Guatemala

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Envelope Giving	Actual Giving
Year-to-date this year (through September 2017)	\$317,298.97
Year-to-date last year (through September 2016)	301,453.65
Giving Goal (Budget for 2017) ¹	310,422.00

¹Offerings do not flow evenly throughout the year. Giving goals are based on historical giving pattern analysis.

Benevolences

(Given through August 2017)

Lenten Offering	2,060.30
World Hunger	3362.60
Disaster Response	7006.60
Local Hunger/ Food Shelves	6084.45
Lyngblomsten	153.00
Como Park Living at Home Block Nurse Program	193.00
Sunday School Church Bank Offerings	501.49
The Family Place	178.00
Lutheran Social Service of MN	175.00
Luther Seminary	223.00
Plymouth Christian Youth Center	60.00

Actual Giving	\$61,185.87
Thrive! Mission Appeal	Year-to-date this year (through August 2017)

CPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

Church Office hours: 8:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Senior Pastor

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THE LAST WORD

Dear Friends,

Please do not bring your guns to church.

Please leave your fears at home.

Within these walls we simply say,

“Our Trust is in the Lord.”

We know that there are wolves out there.

We wish them joy and peace

And if they'll sit at meal with us

We'll feed them from our table.

There is one God we worship,

He is the Prince of Peace.

We find our strength within his calm

And healing in his balm.

It's unfortunate that houses of worship have to be concerned with public safety. Attacks on Mosques and Synagogues and within Christian churches are all sadly increased. Here at Como Park Lutheran Church, we're working on a safety plan for medical emergencies, children's safety and yes, active shooter situations also. Ushers and greeters and welcome desk volunteers, as well as those working with our children will all be briefed on our own best practices for different scenarios, but you can expect the central piece of each to be, “First, Alert People and Call 911” “Then, provide aid, or talk to the pastor (even if he's mid-sermon or baptism.)” If ever the building does not seem safe, we will quickly and safely empty it. If ever anyone feels threatened or ill at ease, we will deal with the situation directly and as peacefully as we can.

As for weapons, if you're not law enforcement,

there's no place for them in church. None. Ever. As I said, we will be training people to call 911 directly if they feel threatened or in danger. And if ever there is a heart emergency, each member should know that we have an AED device next to the elevator on the main floor. It begins walking you through the process for its use once you open it up.

Como Park is a welcoming, safe and caring community of grace, focused on God's mission to the world.

Working together we can ensure that this remains true, so that we can continue our ministry, reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin R. Ericson

Como Park Lutheran Church
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- December 2nd** 9:00am Pageant Rehearsal
- December 9th** 9:00am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- December 10th:** 10:45am Christmas Pageant
- December 17th:** 3:00pm Messiah Sing
5:00pm Advent Dinner
- December 24th** 9:30am Carol Sing with Joyful Ringers
3:30pm Christmas Eve Service
- December 25th** 9:30am Worship Service

