

APRIL 12, 2026

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. JIM THELEN SR. PASTOR

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

www.marcolutheran.org/foundation

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

office@marcolutheran.org

TO CONTACT CHURCH STAFF: PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

(239) 394-0332

525 N. COLLIER BLVD.

MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145

www.marcolutheran.org

Our Mission Statement:

“At Marco Lutheran Church, we are followers of Jesus Christ who share His Good News by loving and serving all people.”

WORSHIP HOURS:

SUNDAY 9:30 a.m.



THE SHIP OF THE CHURCH For Christians, since the days of the apostles, *THE SHIP* has been a symbol for the Christian Church. The mast and yardarm form a simple *CROSS* (in wood) which stands for Jesus who saved us by giving Himself on a cross that we might be forgiven.

The *CHI RHO* ☩ (in metal) is a combination of the first two Greek letters of the name *Christ*, meaning "The Anointed One" or "The Messiah." *THE WAVES* symbolize the troubles and difficulties of life on earth. *THE SAILS* are filled with wind, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which empowers the Church. Thus, the Christian Church, under the Cross of Christ carries the faithful safely across the troubled seas of life to heaven. As we come together for worship, the cross of Christ is before us. We choose, you and I, to worship with people for whom the cross is both the sign of salvation and the sign of Christ in our lives.

A special welcome to our guests today. May you find grace and blessing in the time we spend together. If you are looking for a church home, please speak to the Pastor, the Lay Minister for the day, or an Usher. We would be most pleased to share with you ways in which you might become a regular part of our Christian fellowship.

HOLY COMMUNION – WHAT WE BELIEVE



In this Sacrament, Jesus gives us Himself, His true Body and Blood as we receive the bread and wine. On the night He was betrayed and before He was put to death, Jesus celebrated this Meal with His disciples assuring us that each time we receive it, we are again remembering His death and receiving the full benefits of His grace, namely the forgiveness of sin.

In 1 Corinthians 11, St. Paul says that we should “examine ourselves” ahead of time. We can do so each time by asking ourselves these basic questions:

- † **Do I acknowledge the fact that I am indeed a sinner and that I am sorry for my sin?**
- † **Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from all sin?**
- † **Am I trusting in Jesus’ promise that I receive full pardon and strength through this Holy Meal?**
- † **Do I believe that the body and blood of Jesus is truly present in, with and under the bread and the wine of Holy Communion?**
- † **Finally, with the Lord’s help, will I seek to amend my life and live in conformity with His Holy Will?**

Jesus Himself invites baptized followers, who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior, who recognize their sinful condition and who seek His forgiveness, to come to His Table to receive His precious Body and Blood. May the Lord bless your personal reception as well as your daily living under His power and blessing. Should you have questions, please see a Pastor or a Lay minister prior to the worship service. If you prefer not to participate in the sacrament, please cross your arms when coming forward to receive a blessing.

For those who prefer, **white grape juice is in the center of the tray.** There are also **gluten free wafers** by informing a distributing Host. For those who may have **difficulty coming to the front,** please **inform an usher** so that the Sacrament may be brought to you.

Because of Easter....

AS WE GATHER

What happens after the resurrection?

In the weeks following Easter, we walk with the disciples—and discover that the risen Jesus is not finished speaking, guiding, and caring for His people. Beginning with the empty tomb in Gospel of John 20, we find the disciples afraid and uncertain... and yet Jesus comes and stands among them. “Peace be with you,” He says. And everything begins to change. From that moment forward, Jesus continues to meet His people right where they are. He reminds us that we will know His voice, like sheep who recognize their shepherd. He assures us that He will be with us always, even to the very end of the age.

As we move into May, we are blessed by guest preachers who will bring God’s Word to us, and we continue to hear the promises of Jesus spoken into our daily lives. In a world filled with anxiety, He gives us peace that the world cannot give. In the midst of worry, He calls us to trust in our heavenly Father. And when we are weary and burdened, He invites us to come to Him and find true rest.

As we gather, we are reminded that the resurrection is not just something that happened it is something that continues. The living Jesus is still speaking. Still leading. Still comforting. Still inviting.

And His promises are for you.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

Please Stand and Face the Cross

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

BECAUSE HE LIVES

1. God sent his son, they called him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

Refrain

Because he lives
I can face tomorrow
Because he lives
All fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy the he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain day because he lives **(Refrain)**

3. And then one day I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns **(Refrain)**

Please be Seated

PSALM 32

Leader: Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight.

People: **Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty.**

Leader: When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.

People: **Day And night your hand of discipline was heavy on Me; My Strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.**

Leader: Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide my guilt.

People: **I said, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord," and You forgave me all my guilt is gone.**

Leader: Therefore, let all the godly pray to You while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

People: **For You are my hiding place; You protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of victory.**

Leader: The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

People: **We will not be like a senseless horse or mule that must be controlled with bit and bridle.**

Leader: Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

People: **So we rejoice in the Lord and are glad, shouting for joy — for our hearts are pure in Him.**

FIRST READING

Colossians 1:15-23

Leader: ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, he is first in everything.¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. ²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

HYMN

CHRIST THE LORD HAS RISEN TODAY

1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
Saints on earth and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.

4. Lives again our glorious King!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

6. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
Thee we greet triumphant now:
Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: ¹⁹ That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." ²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" ²⁸ "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have

seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ**

Please be Seated

DUET

YOU ARE THE CHRIST

LUCKY LANG & PEG IRWIN

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Confident in our lord’s steadfast love and mercy, let us confess our sins

Pastor: Merciful Lord, almighty Father,

People: **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and out of perfect love sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. We thank You for all the work of Your hands and for all the words You have spoken and kept, as You come to us still now with Your healing grace through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

JUST AS I AM

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON "THE EMPTY TOMB... NOW WHAT?" PASTOR NATHAN LEWIS

SERMON NOTES

Please Stand

APOSTLES CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

2. He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

8. He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Announcements

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS: Joyce Maxfield, Bob Volatile, Kitty Argobright, Bob Kelley, Don Terry, Lana Davis, Judy Karlin, Bill Hulbig, Al Wilke, Nancy Lisch, Hal Heidtman

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY: Andrea Sager (Donnie & Norva Jeanne Rooksberry), Rene & Terry Maurer (Anne Rozite) Woody Barnette (Donnie & Norva Jeanne Rooksberry), John SchenckII (Lydia Krueger), Judy Resler (Dick and Vicki Ross), Don Clark Jr. (Betty Clark), Cecilia Popoff (Vicki Williams), Family Member (Judy Volker), Corey Hendricks (Flo Hendricks), Charlie Darr (Patti Naughton), Arlo James Horton (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Darlene Kent (Connie Wuellner), Marlene Byard (Carmen Brookshaw), Kevin Carr (Marie Mahr), Ruth Naughton (Patti Naughton), Jean Holland, Joe Dolphin (Carolyn Ohman), Dan Taggatz (Mark & Karen Kuhnly), family of Kevin Moore Jr., Jack & Connie Hawkins (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Darlene Kent, Shane Silver (Nancy Carrington), Jim Cookfar, Sharon Hartung (Mike & Chris Pigeon), John & John Brewitt Jr. (Doug & Sandy Alger), Jerri Sheppard (Anne Rozite), and those we name in our hearts.

ON SATURDAY APRIL 18th AT 11 AM A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR MIKE NAUGHTON WILL BE HELD HERE AT MARCO LUTHERAN WITH A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE CAN REMOVE ANY NAMES FROM OUR PRAYER LISTS!

ANNIVERSARIES: Jim & Karen Swanker, John & Susan Shadler, Wayne & Jan Drews, Tom & Vicki Williams

BIRTHDAYS: John Mueller, June Prophet, Marge Spang, Linda DeStefano, Paul Goepfert, Cathy Knapp, Francia Shaw, Ron Griffith, Mary Moore, Pam Wilke, Linda Leksas, Vicki Williams, Betty Drews

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

IN PERSON - HOLY WEEK –

Maundy Thursday 155

Good Friday 263

Easter Sunday 9:00am - 367

11:00am - 309 TOTAL - 676

ONLINE - Good Friday 68 Easter 264

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Total April Target: \$97,100

Year to-date Target: \$408,100

Total April to-date: (1 Sunday) \$50,457 (52%)

Actual Year-to-date: \$340,128 (83%)

IN HOME VISITATIONS: If you, or someone you know, would like to have a visit from Pastor Jim, please call the office and we can make the arrangements. Thank you!
(239) 394-0332

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

WAYS TO GIVE:

1.You can place your offerings in the offering boxes on either side at the front of the chancel and at the back center aisle

2.You can mail your offerings to the church.

USING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER THE GIVE TAB:

3.You can give ONLINE as either a one-time donation or regular weekly/monthly donation. All transactions are secure and confidential.

4.You can give using your phone via the Vanco APP or simply texting donations. If you have any difficulty or questions, please email financialsec@marcolutheran.org

DISCOVER MARCO: If you are interested in becoming a member of Marco Lutheran Church or are already a member and just want to “refresh,” we invite you to attend a one on-one session of the ***Discover Marco Lutheran Class*** with Pastor Jim. If you have any questions about “Discover Marco” please contact Amy at the church office **(239) 394-0332**

BECOME PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AT MARCO LUTHERAN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Please join us for the following Bible Studies.

TUESDAYS: 8:30AM MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS: 10:00AM WOMEN OF THE WORD

THURSDAYS: 10:00AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAYS: 10:45AM IN THE “GREAT ROOM” FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP

THANK YOU TO OUR HELPFUL SERVANTS FOR:

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

WORSHIP LEADER:	Dave Wuellner
LAY MINISTER:	Joe Hoffman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:	Carol Siadak, Jaye Spencer, Judy Volker
HEAD USHER:	Mark Kuhnly
USHERS:	Gary Volker, Bob Sutton, Bob Cory, Ruth Cory
TRANSPORTERS:	Carol Siadek, Judy Volker
AV TECH	Ann Stuart
WELCOME CENTER	Cheryl Mueller, Peggy Irwin

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:
APRIL 26, 2026, FOLLOWING SERVICE
MAIN AGENDA ITEM-ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

CALENDAR APRIL 12 – MAY 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 12 9:30A WORSHIP 10:45A COFFEE & CONVERSATION	APRIL 13 10:00A PROPERTY BOARD 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 14 8:30A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2:00P BOLM 6:30P BSF MEN & WOMEN	APRIL 15 10:00A WOW 11:00A LUNCH WITH FRIENDS 1:00P BOHC 4:00P CHOIR 5:30P BOOK CLUB	APRIL 16 10:00A BIBLE STUDY 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 17 9:00A MAHJONG	APRIL 18
APRIL 19 9:30A WORSHIP 10:45A COFFEE & CONVERSATION	APRIL 20 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 21 8:30A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	APRIL 22	APRIL 23	APRIL 24	APRIL 25
APRIL 26 9:30A WORSHIP 10:45A COFFEE & CONVERSATION	APRIL 27 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	APRIL 28	APRIL 29	APRIL 30	MAY 1	MAY 2



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