

July 26, 2026

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

www.marcolutheran.org/foundation

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday, 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.

AS WE GATHER

In Genesis, God speaks—and life begins. As we journey through these early chapters of Scripture, we see creation, the fall into sin, the flood, Babel, and the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Through broken people and difficult moments, God remains faithful to His promises. As we gather, we are reminded that the God who created, called, and carried His people in Genesis is still at work today—bringing grace, hope, and new life to us.

✠ 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

Light up the world, You step down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
hope of a life spent with You

And here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor

And here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely,
Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me

Please be Seated

PSALM 22:19-28

Leader: O LORD, do not stay far away! You are my strength; come quickly to my aid!

People: **Save me from the sword; spare my precious life from these dogs.**

Leader: Snatch me from the lion's jaws and from the horns of these wild oxen.

People: **I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people.**

Leader: Praise the LORD, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

People: **For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help.**

Leader: I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

People: **The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the LORD will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.**

Leader: The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

People: **For royal power belongs to the LORD. He rules all the nations.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-8a

Leader: Sometime later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." ² "Take your son, your only son yes, Isaac, whom you love so much and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." ³ The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back." ⁶ So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷ Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" ⁸ "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

HYMN

SEEK YE FIRST

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be
Opened unto you
Allelu alleluia

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

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

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

Pastor: ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the

light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes would see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees, will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself
Standing in the Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine, yeah
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in your presence
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine, yeah
I can only imagine

Please be Seated

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Today Jesus Christ comes to you with an invitation, saying, “Repent” and “Follow Me.” Let us prepare to receive His Word, leave our sin behind, and follow Him in the power of His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, open our ears to hear Your call of salvation and life. Enable us to hear the voice of Your Son, Christ our Lord, that His Word may move us to turn from our ways and our walk without You, and follow Him in faith, that we may learn and live in the light of Your love.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, “I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise You. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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: Lord of heaven and earth, we bless Your Holy Name! In Your mercy, You sent Your Son, Jesus, to take on our flesh, bear our sin, and be our Savior. With thankful and repentant hearts, we receive the salvation He won for us through His body and blood given on the cross. Gathered in Jesus’ name, we ask You to forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit. Help us faithfully receive His body and blood as He has given us to do. Keep us in Your care, hear our prayers, and bring us at last to the eternal feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom. To You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honor, and praise, now and forever.

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 after 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 after 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

**Ref. I come expecting Jesus
To meet me in this place
I come expecting to receive
His mercy and His grace
When I eat the bread and drink the wine
It will be a holy moment in time
I come expecting Jesus
To meet me in this place (Repeat)**

Before us the table is spread
Here awaits the wine
And here ere awaits the bread
This passage of hope
The bread and the cup
Here where our souls are fed **Ref.**

COME EXPECTING JESUS

Remember the price that He paid
This beautiful gift that He gave
Come and receive
The healing He freely gives
Here where His love awaits **Ref.**

**I come expecting Jesus
To meet me in this place...
I come expecting Jesus...
To meet me in this place**

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

'ISAAC'

PASTOR JIM THELEN

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 again 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 wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear saviour in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

I saw the light I saw the light
No more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God!**

I SAW THE LIGHT

I saw the light I saw the light
No more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

I was a fool to wander and a-stray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

I saw the light I saw the light
No more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light.

Announcements

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS: Joyce Maxfield, Bob Volatile, Kitty Argobright, Bob Kelley, Don Terry, Lana Davis, Al Wilke, Hal Heidtman, Conrad Henry, Marilyn Nervig, Donnie Rooksberry, Mirella Brache, Patti Naughton

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), Charlie Darr (Patti Naughton), Kevin Carr (Marie Mahr), Ruth Naughton (Patti Naughton), Jean Holland, Lynn & Jeremy Schroeder, Jack & Connie Hawkins (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Darlene Kent, Shane Silver (Nancy Carrington), Jim Cookfair, John & John Brewitt Jr. (Doug & Sandy Alger), Fran Hall (Linda Harrison), Patricia Willey, Ryan Degen(David & Judy Karlin), Rosanda Olivia (Vicki Ross), Antonella (anonymous), Frank Alterio (Marge Alterio), Tracy Rusinyak (Patti Naughton), Shirley Rhodes (Sybil Fleming), Cathy Pruden, David Pagano(Mike B.) and those we name in our hearts.name in our hearts.

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

PRAYERS OF COMFORT: For the family and friends of Mary Noble Bender

ANNIVERSARIES: Ernie & Elisa Zorn

BIRTHDAYS: Wanda Schmelzer, Leesa Carls, Sandra Schmadeke, Dave Tobiasz, John Bly, Dani Graves, Lynn Thompson

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

IN PERSON - 114 ONLINE - 146 GATHERING - 27 TOTAL - 287

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Total July Target: **\$56,100**

Total July to-date (3 Sundays): **\$50,045 (89%)**

Year-to-date Target: **\$596,300**

Actual Year-to date: **\$581,882 (98%)**

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 in the back center aisle
2. **You can mail your offerings** to the church.
3. **Using the instructions on our website under the SHARING tab you can give ONLINE.** Either as 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.** You can also **text 8339401468** and enter the amount you wish to donate to the general fund. If you aren't registered, you will receive a link. 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 - Resumes October 14, 2026
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, July 26, 2026

Worship Leader: Dave Wuellner

Pastor Jim Thelen

Music: Craig Greusel

Keyboardist: John Davis

Dear Congregation,

Pastor Jim and Kristin are prayerfully seeking to move onto Marco Island to be closer to the church and community they serve. Due to Kristin's health needs, being nearby would allow Pastor Jim to care for her while remaining available for ministry.

If you or someone you know has a rental property on Marco Island, please contact Pastor Jim through the church office.

Thank you for your prayers and support
Pastor Jim and Kristin Thelen

SUMMER SHOWING OF 'THE CHOSEN'

Please join us for dinner and a movie where we will be showing Season 3, 8 episodes of The Chosen this summer at 5:00 pm.in the Great Room.

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex:

JULY 29

AUGUST 12 AUGUST 26

SEPTEMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 23

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES.

As recovery will take months, if not longer, Marco Lutheran will be taking up contributions at a later date to support the ongoing efforts of the Lutheran World Relief Organization.

Their emergency response team is already at work on the ground, coordinating with their network of local and regional partners.

Join us from November 2-12, 2027, for a journey to the Holy Land.
Call the office for more information



Dear Friends,

Thank you to those who have already signed up to help with **The Gathering** and thank you also to those who may still be considering being a part of this ministry.

Beginning **Sunday, July 5**, we will have **two opportunities to serve**:

1:00 PM at The Watermark

3:00 PM at Discovery Village

As you may have heard, there are many ways to help during these worship services. You can:

- Read Scripture or other parts of the service
- Help sing or lead the songs
- Assist with serving Communion
- Usher and greet people as they arrive

Be present throughout the service to welcome, encourage, and support those who attend

(You can choose to help do a couple of the above at the same service if you so desire.)

You can serve as much or as little as you are able. That might be once a month or more often. It might be at one location or both. We are grateful for whatever you are able to do.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring worship, the Word of God, and the love of Jesus to people in our local retirement communities.

Please contact the church office **(239) 394-0332** and let us know how you would be willing to serve.

Thank you for considering being part of this meaningful ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Jim

THE BOARD OF HUMAN CARE'S 3RD QUARTER MISSION –

A pallet drive for Our daily Bread Food Pantry. ODB has indicated the organization is able to provide more food for those in need when they are able to purchase full pallets at a discount. Last year's drive was greatly appreciated and successful. We accept monetary donations via **Vanco** on the **MLC website** under giving as well as **checks and cash** in envelopes and placed in the offering boxes or given to the church office.

Be sure to write **ODB in the memo** line on the check.

ANNOUNCING THE ARTIST SERIES

For the 2027 Season!!

Thursday, **January 21** & Friday, **January 22**

Thursday, **February 4** & Friday, **February 5**

Thursday, **February 18** & Friday, **February 19**

Thursday, **March 4** & Friday, **March 5**

Thursday, **March 18** & Friday, **March 19**

All Shows at 7:30pm

Brochures will be mailed in late August!

Please send updates to:

ArtistSeries@Marcolutheran.org

CALENDAR JULY 26– AUGUST 15

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY 26 9:30A WORSHIP 10:45A COFFEE & CONVERSATION 1:00P GATHERING @ THE WATERMARK	JULY 27 NO YOGA	JULY 28	JULY 29 5:00P THE CHOSEN	JULY 30 10:00A SUMMER BIBLE STUDY NO YOGA	JULY 31	AUGUST 1
AUGUST 2 9:30A WORSHIP 1:00P GATHERING @ THE WATERMARK 3:00P GATHERING @ DISCOVERY VILLAGE	AUGUST 3 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 1:00P OUTREACH 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	AUGUST 4 10:00A WOM	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 6 8:00A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP 10:00A SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	AUGUST 7 8:00A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP	AUGUST 8
AUGUST 9 9:30A WORSHIP 10:45A COFFEE & CONVERSATION 1:00P GATHERING @ THE WATERMARK 3:00P GATHERING @ DISCOVERY VILLAGE	AUGUST 10 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	AUGUST 11 10:00A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	AUGUST 12 5:00P THE CHOSEN	AUGUST 13 10:00A SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 12:30P GENTLE YOGA 2:00P CHAIR YOGA	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 15