



Marco Lutheran Church

525 N. COLLIER BLVD. MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145

marcolutheran.org

Sunday, September 6th, 2026

WORSHIP HOUR: 9:30 A.M.

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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Church Office: (239) 394-0332

office@marcolutheran.org



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.

WORSHIP

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

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Please be Seated

PSALM 86: 1-11

- Leader: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
People: **Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.**
- Leader: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.
People: **Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**
- Leader: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
People: **Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.**
- Leader: In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.
People: **There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.**
- Leader: All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
People: **For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.**
- Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to
fear your name.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 43: 1-6, 8-9

- Leader: Now the famine was severe in the land. ²And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, buy us a little food.” ³But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ ⁴If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’” ⁶Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?” ⁸And Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand

HYMN

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

1. Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return sweet hour of prayer
2. Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer
The joys I feel the bliss I share
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for thy return
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Savior shows His face
And gladly take my station there
And wait for thee sweet hour of prayer

HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 15: 11-24

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Pastor: ¹¹And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that

country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ

After the Cross is Returned, Please Be Seated

HYMN

1. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
2. When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end
3. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path

THY WORD

4. I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end
5. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
And a light unto my path...
You're the light unto my path

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: 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

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

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

'FAMILY REUNION'

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

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

1. We are one in the Spirit,
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit,
we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity
will one day be restored

REFRAIN:

*And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love*

2. We will work with each other,
we will work side by side
We will work with each other,
we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
and save each man's pride

REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Thank You to Our Helpful Servants For:

Sunday, September 6th, 2026

Worship Leader: Linda Harrison

Pastor Jim Thelen

Music: Craig Greusel

Keyboardist: John Davis

SHARING

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS: Joyce Maxfield, Kitty Argobright, Bob Kelley, Don Terry, Al Wilke, Hal Heidtman, Marilyn Nervig, Kim Razaiv, Mirella Brache

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, Charlie Pike (Dick & 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), Jack & Connie Hawkins, Darlene Kent (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Shane Silver (Nancy Carrington), Jim Cookfair, John & John Brewitt Jr. (Doug & Sandy Alger), Fran Hall (Linda Harrison), Patricia Willey, Ryan Degen (David & Judy Karlin), Frank Alterio (Marge Alterio), Tracy Rusinyak (Patti Naughton), Shirley Rhodes (Sybil Fleming), David Hill (Pamela Hill), Dave Stiffler, Pam Harger (Dave & Connie Wuellner), Dan Popoff, Larry Sturzenegger (Vicki Williams), Denny Zent (Dave & Connie Wuellner) August Streit (Eric & Sara Peterson), Rick Maxfield (Joyce Maxfield), Sharon Grady (Laverne & Conrad Henry), Pastor Gary Koltz, Shawn Alcarese (Ruth Miller), Madelyn Erickson (Doug & Sandy Alger) and those we name in our hearts.

As noted, we added Gary Koltz, our former Interim Pastor, to our prayer list as he prepares for surgery to repair a hole in his heart, scheduled for early September.

May we continue to keep him, his family and all the doctors in our thoughts & prayers.

Anyone who would like to send a card, his mailing address is: 1813 SW 12th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33991.

KINDLY ADVISE IF WE MAY REMOVE ANY NAMES FROM OUR PRAYER LISTS

ANNIVERSARIES: Harry & Kim Rubash, Jim & Linda Sawyer, Julie & Mark Smiley, Jerry & Ellen Donselman, Paul & Tammy Gremel

BIRTHDAYS: Chuck Wiley, Kate Bongiovanni, Conrad Henry Jr., Jule Smiley, Jacquielynn Wolff, Nancy Carrington, Bob Tessarolo, Peggy Irwin, Karlyn Hughes

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!

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

IN PERSON – 122 ONLINE -125 GATHERING – 21 TOTAL – 268

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Total August Target: \$47,500

August to-date (5 Sundays): \$52,918 (111%)

Year-to-date Target \$643,800

Actual Year-to-date: \$661,215 (103%)

Our Daily Bread Pallet Drive: \$13,040

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**

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE VISIT OUR MINISTRY DESK TO SIGN UP

*THE CHOSEN * FAITH, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

* OKTOBERFEST * THE GATHERINGS * CELEBRATING YOU *

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE DINNER WITH FRIENDS

BECOME PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AT MARCO LUTHERAN



Bible Studies

Coffee & Conversation - Sundays @ 10:45am

Men's Bible Study - Tuesdays @ 8:30am

Will resume October 13

Women of the Word - Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Will resume October 14

Adult Bible Study - Thursdays @ 10:00am

Will resume October 15

Time of Remembrance

Do you have a heart for bringing hope and comfort to those grieving a loved one? Join me and the Board of Human Care in planning a Service of Remembrance on Friday, December 18, 2026. Sign up at the Ministry Desk.

A Time Of Remembrance



To learn more about each program
visit marcolutheran.org



Disciples in Residence:

The Disciple in Residence program is a seasonal ministry designed to help people grow as followers of Jesus and live out Marco Lutheran Church's mission: Loving God and Others by Participating, Serving, and Sharing. We are excited to welcome our first Disciple in Residence, Pastor John Benham III on October 4th. To learn more about the program, visit marcolutheran.org

Faith, Friendship & Fellowship Luncheon:

Join us for our Faith, Friendship & Fellowship Community Luncheon, on Tuesday, October 6th, a free luncheon open to the public. It is a special opportunity to come together in fellowship, share a meal, and learn more about the work taking place through Marco Lutheran Church's Disciple in Residence program. RSVP are encouraged, contact the Office. To learn more about the Luncheon, visit marcolutheran.org

Ways to Give

Be Part of What God Is Doing at Marco Lutheran

Offering Box - Check or Cash

Online - marcolutheran.org under the “Sharing” tab

Mail - 525 N. Collier Blvd. Marco Island, FL 34145

Board of Human Care- 3rd Qtr Mission (July- Sept)
A Pallet Drive for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry



Monetary Donations accepted via:

MLC website- “Giving” tab Vanco Offering Boxes
Cash or Checks memo line: ODB



Dinner with Friends:

Do you have any interest in dining with friends at Ciao Bella? The date would be Thursday, Sept 24th and the time is

5PM. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Ministry Desk in the Narthex. We are limited to 30 people, so please sign up if you would like to attend. Everyone pays for their own meal. Please join us for a fun evening of socialization!

Worship Services

Worship In Person

Sundays at 9:30am



Worship Online

Watch the service anytime at
marcolutheran.org

Stay Connected





Celebrate You!

STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

We will celebrate members and friends with a birthday or wedding anniversary on the first Sunday of every month.

Join us after the service in the Narthex.

We look forward to celebrating YOU!

Join us after worship on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate that month's birthdays and wedding anniversaries with coffee and baked goods in the Narthex.

Please ensure the church office has your correct dates.

Are you a baker?

Sign up at the Ministry Desk to provide baked goods for one of the Celebrate You! events.



Marco Lutheran Church

Foundation

“Marco Lutheran Church Foundation’s mission is to spread the Love of Jesus and be a beacon of light throughout our local Community, our Nation and across the Globe.”

GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

DUE DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2026

marcolutheran.org/foundation



SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00am WOMEN OF MARCO	2	3 10:00am SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	4	5
6 9:30am WORSHIP 10:45am COFFEE & CONVERSATION & CELEBRATING YOU! THE GATHERINGS 1pm WATERMARK 3:00pm DISCOVERY VILLAGE	7 OFFICE CLOSED NO YOGA	8 10:00am CHRISTIAN ED	9 1:00pm OUTREACH 5:00pm THE CHOSEN	10 10:00am SUMMER BIBLE STUDY 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	11	12
13 9:30am WORSHIP 10:45am COFFEE & CONVERSATION THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK 3:00pm DISCOVERY VILLAGE	14 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	15 10:00am COUNCIL 5:30pm BIBLE STUDY FOUNDATION - MENS/WOMEN GROUP	16 11:00am LUNCH WITH FRIENDS 1:00pm HUMAN CARE	17 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	18	19
20 9:30am WORSHIP 10:45am COFFEE & CONVERSATION THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK 3:00pm DISCOVERY VILLAGE	21 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	22 5:30pm BIBLE STUDY FOUNDATION - MENS/WOMEN GROUP	23 5:00pm THE CHOSEN	24 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	25	26
27 9:30am WORSHIP 10:45am COFFEE & CONVERSATION THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK	28 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	29 5:30pm BIBLE STUDY FOUNDATION - MENS/WOMEN GROUP	30 4:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL			

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