



Marco Lutheran Church

525 N. COLLIER BLVD. MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145

marcolutheran.org

Sunday, September 13th, 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

Loving God and loving others are at the heart of the Christian life. We love God because He first loved us, saving us by grace and making us His own through Jesus Christ. That love does not remain hidden—it flows into the way we treat the people around us. We love others by noticing their needs, listening with compassion, forgiving freely, serving humbly, and sharing the hope we have in Christ. Loving God shapes our hearts, and loving others puts our faith into action.

✠ 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

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore
Serving you whom we adore.

Please be Seated

PSALM 103: 1-13

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

People: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

People: **who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: **The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

Leader: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People: **I said to the LORD, "You are my Master!
Every good thing I have comes from you."**

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

People: **as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

FIRST READING

ROMANS 5: 6-11

Leader: ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his

life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand

HYMN

OPEN OUR EYES

1 Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him

2 Open our ears Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 3:1-17

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

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

Pastor: Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit" ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I

have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Special Music

Craig Greusel

The Love of God

After the Cross is Returned, 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: 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

1. Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing
3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

4. Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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

'Love, God's Idea'

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

1. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like Thine
can peace afford.

Refrain:

**I need Thee, O I need Thee;
ev'ry hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.**

2. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
stay Thou nearby;
temptations lose their pow'r
when Thou art nigh. **[Refrain]**

I NEED THEE EV'RY HOUR

3. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide,
or life is vain. **[Refrain]**

4. I need Thee ev'ry hour,
teach me Thy will;
and Thy rich promises
in me fulfill. **[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: Carolyn Ohman
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: Steve & Debbie Tintera

BIRTHDAYS: Melinda Geartz, Warren Leonard, Anita Dreyer, Kay Hunter, Andrea McCreanor, Steve Kahre, Marsha Schulz, Kathy Smith, Michael DeLazzzer, Mary Ann Lauber, Diane Waltrip, Larry Hartwig

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 –123 ONLINE -169 GATHERING – 31 TOTAL – 323

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Total September Target: **\$47,500**

September to-date (1 Sunday): **\$16,315**

Year-to-date Target: **\$693,400**

Actual Year-to-date: **\$677,530 (98%)**

Our Daily Bread Pallet Drive: \$14,640

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 * CELEBRATE YOU *

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE DINNER WITH FRIENDS

BECOME PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AT MARCO LUTHERAN

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3

SHOWING HERE AT MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH



| September 23

DINNER AND A MOVIE IN THE GREAT ROOM | WEDNESDAYS AT 5:00 PM



Marco Lutheran's Care Ministry shares God's love through prayer, companionship, practical help, and confidential support.

To learn more about this Ministry and how you can get involved, Visit marcolutheran.org- "Serving" Tab, Human Care/Outreach

A Time Of Remembrance



Time of Remembrance

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

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

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

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

Remembering 11



As the 25th anniversary of the “9-11” terrorist attacks approaches, Marco Island will gather to honor victims and reaffirm the vow to "never forget". The Marco Island Fire Rescue Foundation will proudly unveil the Marco Island 9/11 Memorial on Friday, September 11, 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that forever changed our nation. Marco Lutheran Church is a contributing sponsor to this memorial.

The unveiling ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Marco Island Fire Station 50, 1280 San Marco Road, Marco Island. The community is invited to gather for this meaningful occasion of remembrance, reflection, and gratitude. Following the memorial unveiling, a Blue Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at San Marco Catholic Church



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!

Bible Studies

Coffee & Conversation - Sundays @ 10:45am
Will resume October 4

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



Celebrate You!

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

Follow us on [Facebook](#) & Subscribe on [YouTube](#) to stay connected



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			

