



Marco Lutheran Church

525 N. COLLIER BLVD. MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145

marcolutheran.org

Sunday, September 27th, 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

BLESSED BE THE TIE THAT BINDS US



1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love; The
2. - Be fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers; Our
3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear; And
4. When we a - sun - der part it gives us in - ward pain; But



fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

Please be Seated

PSALM 133

Leader: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

People: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,**

Leader: on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

People: **It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!**

Leader: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

FIRST READING

LEVITICUS 19: 9-18

Leader: ⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. ¹¹“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. ¹³“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. ¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. ¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand

HYMN

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

OPEN OUR EYES

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

Holy Gospel

John 13: 1-17

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

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

Pastor: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

1. Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Me
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Me

3. Holy Presence, love divine Cast away my fear
Holy Presence, love divine Cast away my fear
Shield me, free me, call me, lead me
Holy presence, love divine, cast out my fear

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

2. Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Us
Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Us
Melt me, mold me, fill Us, use Us
Spirit of the Living God
Fall Afresh on Us

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

THE LAMB

1. The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

2. The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
[Ref]

3. The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. [Ref]

4. He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness. [Ref]

5. He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. [Ref]

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

'Loving Others'

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

OH FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace | 2. My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread thru all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name |
| 3. Jesus the name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears
'Tis life and health and peace | 7. To God all glory, praise and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n. |

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 27th, 2026
Worship Leader: Randy Allen
Pastor Jim Thelen
Music Director: Craig Greussel
Keyboardist: John Davis

SHARING

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS: Joyce Maxfield, Kitty Argobright, Bob Kelley, Don Terry, Al Wilke, Hal Heidtman, Marilyn Nervig, 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), Tim Graunke (Cindy Widby), Ron Hysell (Jan, Ray & May Skelly), Mike B and those we name in our hearts.

BLESSINGS!! Gary Koltz, our former Interim Pastor, had a successful heart procedure on September 10th. He is home resting and recuperating. Gary and his wife Melissa are thankful for all our continuing thoughts & prayers. For anyone who would like to send a card, his mailing address is: 1813 SW 12th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Judy & David Karlin, Kitty & Victor Argobright, Diane & Robert Pieske, Elaine & Jim Lawson, Kathy & Dave Smith

BIRTHDAYS: Gwen Nestaval, Lu Schieferdecker, Randal Garden, Hildegard Leypoldt, Barbara Benedetti, Joe Hoffman

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 –140 ONLINE-137

GATHERINGS –30

TOTAL – 307

CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

September to-date (3 Sundays): **\$32,279 (65%)**

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

Actual Year-to-date: **\$693,494 (100%)**

Our Daily Bread Pallet Drive: \$16, 990

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**

- * FAITH, FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON *
- * OKTOBERFEST * THE GATHERINGS * CELEBRATING YOU *
- * TIME OF REMEMBRANCE *

BECOME PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING AT MARCO LUTHERAN





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



Grief Share Coming in October

Beginning Monday, October 5, Marco Lutheran Church will offer GriefShare, a supportive program designed to help individuals who are grieving the death of a spouse, family member, friend, or other loved one.

GriefShare will meet on Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the conference room at Marco Lutheran

Church. The program is open to anyone in the community who is coping with loss, whether the loss occurred recently or many years ago no one needs to walk the path alone.

GriefShare is a welcoming support group for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. There's no pressure to have the right words or to "move on." Instead, you'll find a safe place to share your story (when/if you're ready), listen when you need to, ask questions, and discover timely tools that can help you navigate life after loss—one step at a time. Please contact the office to sign up or for additional information

Bible Studies

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

Men's Bible Study - Tuesdays @ 8:30am
Will resume October 6

Women of the Word - Wednesdays @ 10:00am
Will resume October 7

Adult Bible Study - Thursdays @ 10:00am
Will resume October 8

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



Monetary Donations accepted via:

MLC website- "Sharing" tab Vanco Offering Boxes
Cash or Checks memo line: ODB

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



You're invited to join us for our
Faith, Friendship & Fellowship Community Luncheons!

A special time to Gather around the table, Share a meal,
and Grow in faith as we learn from God's Word with our
Disciples in Residence.

OCTOBER 6, 2026

11:00 am to 1:00 pm



Pastor John Benham III will be the first Pastor in a new program at Marco Lutheran Church, "Disciple in Residence".

He will speak on "Serving" and explore how each person can use their gifts to serve the church, the community, and others. Pastor John also serves as part-time Congregational Care Pastor at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church in Liberty Township, Ohio, where he leads a 90-member, 10-team Care Ministry.

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

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.

Oktoberfest

Saturday October 17th

at 5:00p.m.

OOM-PAH
MUSIC
&
MUCH MORE!!

Potato
Pancakes

Brats

All the sides!

SIGN UP AT THE MINISTRY DESK

Oktoberfest Is Back Again! Celebrate Oktoberfest with us on Saturday, October 17, at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Room! Enjoy traditional brats, potato pancakes, delicious sides, lively Oom-pah music, and plenty of festive fun. Prost! Please visit the Ministry Desk to sign up to attend and volunteer at the event.

Worship Services

Worship In Person

Sundays at 9:30am



Worship Online

Watch the service anytime at
marcolutheran.org

Stay Connected



Follow us on Facebook



YouTube



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 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 THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK 3:00pm DISCOVERY VILLAGE	14 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	15 10:00am COUNCIL 5:30pm BSF MEN/WOMEN	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 THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK 3:00pm DISCOVERY VILLAGE	21 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	22 5:30pm BSF MENS/WOMEN GROUP	23 5:00pm THE CHOSEN	24 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	25	26
27 9:30am WORSHIP THE GATHERINGS 1:00pm WATERMARK	28 12:30pm GENTLE YOGA 2:00pm CHAIR YOGA	29 5:30pm BSF MENS/WOMEN GROUP	30 4:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL			

