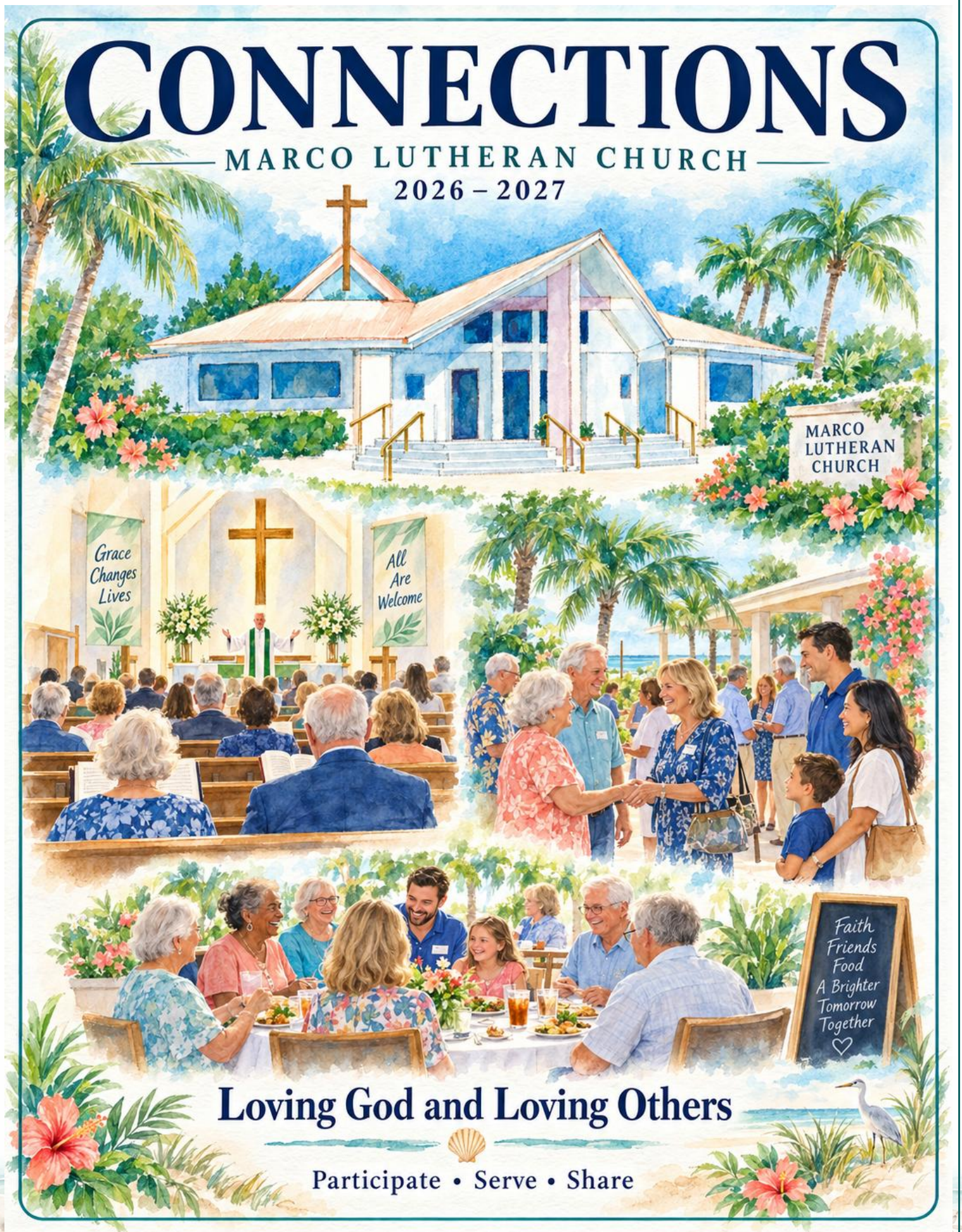
CONNECTIONS

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026 – 2027



Loving God and Loving Others

Participate • Serve • Share

CONNECTIONS 2026 2027

Connected in Christ

Welcome to a new season

Dear Members and Friends of Marco Lutheran Church,

As a new season approaches, we are reminded of both the importance and the joy of staying connected. Whether this is your first time at Marco Lutheran or your hundredth, there is something special about gathering together. We truly are better together.

Our hope is simple: that everything we do at Marco Lutheran helps people connect with longtime friends, meet new friends, and most importantly, grow closer to Jesus. A wonderful season lies ahead, filled with worship, learning, service, shared meals, laughter, and the quiet encouragement that comes from knowing we do not walk alone.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Jesus is the connection that gives us life, strengthens our faith, and holds us together. We hope you will join us throughout this season and bring a friend. It simply would not be the same without you.

Connected in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Inside this issue

Worship Seasonal, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter schedules	**Our Church Family** Staff, leaders and ways to receive help
Participating and Serving Groups, studies and places to use your gifts	**Season Highlights** October through April events and Artist Series

WORSHIP

Worship With Us

Gather around God's Word and Holy Communion

"Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker."
Psalm 95:6

SERVICE	DATE AND TIME
Sunday Worship	October through January 3 at 9:30 a.m.
Advent Services	Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Saturday Worship	January 9 through March 13 at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship	January 10 through April 11 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Ash Wednesday	Wednesday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m.
Lenten Services and Supper	Wednesdays, February 17 through March 17 at 5:00 p.m. (In the Great Room)
Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. begins in the Sanctuary
Good Friday	Friday, March 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Easter Sunday	Sunday, March 28 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WATCH ONLINE ANYTIME marcolutheran.org/video

PEOPLE

Our Church Family

Leadership, care, and people ready to help

Marco Lutheran is blessed by pastors, staff members, council leaders, board members, and volunteers who serve with generosity and care. Please reach out when you have a question, need prayer, or want to find a place to participate.

Our Staff

Jim Thelen, Senior Pastor
Jaye Spencer, Finance Administrator
Amy Lewis, Office Administrator/Pastoral Assistant
Larry Soccio, Property Manager
Hedel Agaoglu, Director of Technology
Jen Sprague, Communications
Christine Mastangelo, Publications/Administrative Asst.
Craig Greusel, Music Director
John Davis, Keyboardist

Church Council Officers

David Wuellner, President
Diane Reinig, Vice President
Elisa Zorn, Treasurer

Board Leadership

Lay Ministry: Randy Allan
Human Care: Scott Berner
Outreach: Jeff Patterson
Christian Education: Bob Sutton
Property: Mike Pigeon

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Church office: (239) 394-0332
Website: marcolutheran.org

A Church Where Everyone Has a Place

Our boards and ministry teams help the congregation turn faith into action. Some lead worship and education. Others care for neighbors, welcome guests, maintain our campus, and create opportunities for fellowship. Every role matters because every role helps someone experience the love of Christ.



PARTICIPATING

Find Your Place

Learn, laugh, pray and build friendships

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Connection often begins with one simple step: sitting down at a table, joining a conversation, singing beside someone new, or returning to a group that has missed you. These gatherings offer room to learn, laugh, pray, and build friendships throughout the season.

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Women of the Word meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.; Adult Bible Study meets Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.; All are welcome to bring a Bible, a question, and an open heart. We have bibles if needed.



Lunch With Friends

Third Wednesday Each Month •
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Great Room

This free community lunch welcomes adults age 60 and over for a warm meal and good conversation.

RSVP at
lunchwithfriendsmarco@gmail.com or
(706) 566-8532.

Coffee and Conversation
AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Oct.4 - Dec.27 10:45am & Jan.**3 – April 11** 10:15am

Stay for coffee, conversation, and an easy opportunity to meet someone new. Ministry introductions and special celebrations also take place during this time. We will spend time talking about the theme in worship.

Choir

The choir welcomes singers who want to help lead the congregation in worship. Contact Craig Greusel at cagreusel@gmail.com to learn about rehearsals and seasonal music.

Sailing Solo

Fourth Sunday Each Month • 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Great Room

Active single adults gather for friendship, local outings, restaurant gatherings, Mahjong, and a book club.

Yoga Classes

Mondays And Thursdays

Gentle Yoga meets from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Chair Yoga meets from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

NEW THIS SEASON: Celebrate You! On the first Sunday beginning October 4; Oktoberfest on October 17; and the Women's Conference with Wendy Sue on January 30. See the monthly features for details.

SERVING

Faith in Action

Simple ways to serve and share God's love

"And do everything with love."
1 Corinthians 16:14

Service at Marco Lutheran is not limited to one kind of person or one kind of gift. Some people enjoy greeting guests. Others prefer preparing communion, helping with technology, caring for the grounds, praying quietly, or setting up a room before anyone arrives. Whatever your strength, there is meaningful work to do and people ready to serve beside you.

Altar Guild Prepare the sanctuary and communion for worship. Training is provided, and both visible and behind-the-scenes roles are available.	**Lay Ministry** Serve as a greeter, usher, communion assistant, or lay minister. These volunteers help worship feel orderly, reverent, and welcoming.
Technology and AV Support worship slides, sound, livestreaming, and online ministry. This is a wonderful place for people who enjoy practical problem-solving.	**Welcome Center** Greeting visitors before and after worship, answer simple questions, and help every guest feel noticed and at home.
Property Help keep the church campus beautiful through gardening, light projects, and event setup. Some tasks involve moving tables and chairs.	**Human Care** Join Prayer Warriors, Better Together, or Lifeboat Ministries. These teams offer prayer, companionship, practical support, and confidential care.
The Gatherings Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at The Watermark and 3:00 p.m. at Discovery Village, except the fourth Sunday (at Discovery Village). Bring worship, the Word, and the Sacrament into senior living communities.	**Ways to Give** Give by check or cash in the offering box, online at marcolutheran.org under the Sharing tab, or by mail to 525 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island, FL 34145.

Serve this season: Meals of Hope packing on November 14; Shine Like Stars packing on December 5; Candy Cane Lane on December 11; Valentine's Cookie Packing on February 12; and the Rummage Sale on February 27. Ask at the Ministry Desk about helping.

OCTOBER

A Season of Welcome

The church doors are open and the season begins

Celebrating You!

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH BEGINNING OCTOBER 4 • AFTER WORSHIP • NARTHEX

We begin the month by celebrating the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of our church family. Stay for coffee and baked goods, offer congratulations, and enjoy the simple gift of being together.

YOU ARE INVITED Make sure the church office has your correct celebration dates. If you would like to bake for these celebrations, you may sign up at the Ministry Desk.

Disciples in Residence

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 • MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are delighted to welcome Pastor John Benham III as our first Disciple in Residence. During his six-week stay, Pastor John will focus on the theme of Serving and help us explore how everyday acts of faith can strengthen the church and bless our neighbors.

YOU ARE INVITED Attend worship, welcome Pastor John, and follow the program at marcolutheran.org.

Faith Friendship and Fellowship Community Luncheon

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

This free community luncheon is open to the public. Guests will share a meal, meet new people, and learn more about the work taking place through the Disciple in Residence program. It is an easy, welcoming event for a friend who may not yet know Marco Lutheran.

YOU ARE INVITED RSVP on our website at marcolutheran.org or call the church office. Make sure you invite someone to join you.

Oktoberfest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 5:00 P.M. GREAT ROOM

Oktoberfest returns with traditional brats, potato pancakes, delicious sides, lively Oom-pah music, and plenty of cheerful fellowship. Come ready to laugh, visit, and enjoy a festive evening with members and guests.

YOU ARE INVITED Sign up at the Ministry Desk to attend or volunteer.

NOVEMBER

Care Hope and Community



Care Ministry

NOVEMBER 8, 12, AND 15 • MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Marco Lutheran's Care Ministry shares God's love through prayer, companionship, practical assistance, and confidential care. Learn about the ministry at Coffee and Conversation on November 8; attend training at 11:30 a.m. on November 12; and support the commissioning of Care Ministry volunteers on November 15.

YOU ARE INVITED Visit marcolutheran.org and choose Serving, then Human Care and Outreach.

SHINE Medical Counseling

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 • 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

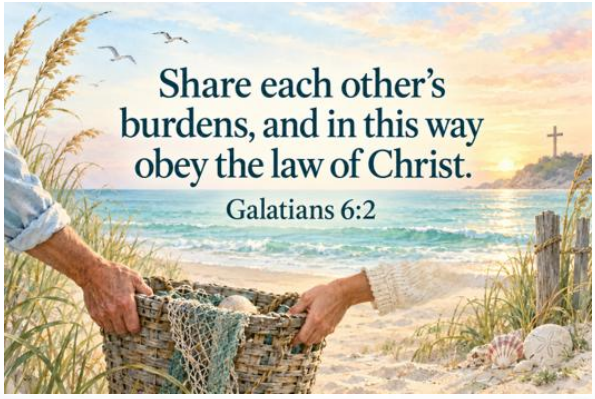
SHINE offers members an opportunity to receive information and guidance in a caring setting. Appointment and participation details will be shared through the church office.

Meals of Hope Packing Event

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • OFF-SITE LOCATION

Many hands can accomplish something remarkable. Volunteers will work side by side to pack meals for people facing hunger. Final arrival information will be shared with registered volunteers.*Sign up at the Ministry Desk*

SIGN UP SHEETS ARE AT THE MINISTRY DESK FOR THESE EVENTS



Revelation Reclaimed Visiting Scholar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • 1:00-4:30 P.M. GREAT ROOM

John Roth, D.Min., M.Div., pastor of Thrive Community Church, presents "Revelation Reclaimed: Hope That Outlasts Empire." This complimentary presentation offers a thoughtful, faith-centered look at a biblical book that can feel mysterious or intimidating.

YOU ARE INVITED. No RSVP is required.

Thanksgiving Dinner

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

All are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and most of all to share our blessings with one another. RSVP can be done at the Ministry Desk; Call the Church Office or at marcolutheran.org

Church Decorating

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Come help prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1



DECEMBER

Hope Shines Bright

Celebration, compassion, and the promise of Christ

Forty-two Families… One Community of Hope

After the congregation's wonderful support last year, Shine Like Stars is returning with an even larger goal. This Christmas ministry will help 42 local families by providing the ingredients for a Christmas dinner and gifts for every member of the family. Each selected star represents a real need and an opportunity to surround a neighbor with dignity, generosity, and the love of Christ.

SERVICE	DATE AND TIME
Stars Available	November 1
Donations Due	December 1
Packing Event	December 5
Blessings of Baskets	December 6

Choose a star. Give generously. Volunteer to pack. Pray for every family.

Celebrate Performance
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3-4 • 7:30 P.M. GREAT ROOM
Join us for our annual Christmas concert, a beautiful way to begin the holiday season.

Women of Marco Christmas Luncheon
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 • MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH
A joyful Christmas luncheon filled with friendship, seasonal hospitality, and gratitude for another year of ministry. Watch church communications for reservations.

Candy Cane Lane
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 • MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH
A one-afternoon-to-evening Christmas outreach welcoming elementary-aged children and families for a joyful, Christ-centered experience with festive activities and warm hospitality.

Christmas Parade
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 • MARCO ISLAND
Members and families are invited to help share a warm, joyful church presence during the community parade.

DECEMBER

Comfort and Remembrance

A place for tenderness, prayer, and hope

Time of Remembrance

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 5:00p.m. at MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas can be especially tender for those grieving the loss of someone they love. This quiet service offers prayer, comfort, Scripture, and space to remember.

YOU ARE INVITED Sign up at the Ministry Desk if you would like to attend or help with the service.

"God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4



Care continues throughout the season through Prayer Warriors, Better Together, and Lifeboat Ministries. Contact the church office to connect with one of our Care Ministries.

Make Room for Wonder

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
Luke 2:14

Advent invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In a season that can quickly become crowded, these services create room for prayer, music, Scripture, and the steady promise that God is with us.

Advent Services

WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 2, 9, AND 16 • 5:00 P.M. (Great Room)

Gather midweek for worship as we move toward Christmas together. Come directly from your day and allow this simple rhythm of worship to bring calm, hope, and renewed attention to Christ.

Christmas Eve Worship

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 3:00 P.M. AND 5:00 P.M.

Celebrate the birth of Jesus through beloved music, the Christmas story, prayer, and the joy of worshiping with family, friends, and neighbors. Both services offer a beautiful opportunity to invite someone looking for a church home or a meaningful Christmas tradition.

Christmas Day Worship

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 • Online

Join us online as Pastor Jim will share a Christmas message along with music to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Please go to marcolutheran.org/video to watch a previously recorded service celebrating the greatest Gift ever given.

A Christmas Blessing

May the peace of Christ settle gently over your home. May the hope of the manger strengthen you, the joy of the angels lift you, and the love of God draw you close to one another. Merry Christmas from your Marco Lutheran Church family.



JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2027

Looking Ahead

Fresh opportunities to worship, learn, build friendships and serve

"Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."
Proverbs 16:3

Seasonal Worship
BEGINNING JANUARY 9
Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m. Beginning January 10, Sunday services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The seasonal Sunday schedule continues through April 11.

Blood Drive
JANUARY 7 • 2:00-4:00 P.M.
During the blood drive, guests may write prayer requests on a card while prayer volunteers pray on-site throughout the event.

Women's Conference
JANUARY 30
Wendy Sue. Program and registration details will be shared through the church office.

Disciples in Residence
JANUARY 31 THROUGH APRIL 10
Pastor Jeff Scheich will be with us from January 4 through February 18 teaching on the topic of Participating. Pastor Kevin Elseroad will be in residence February 23-April 10 with a focus on Sharing.

Valentine's Cookie Packing
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Join the first annual Valentine's Cookie Packing event.

Foundation Grant Weekend
FEBRUARY 20-21
Learn how the Marco Lutheran Church Foundation supports ministry in our community and beyond.

Rummage Sale
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
The biggest rummage sale on the Island. Whether you want to volunteer, bake, shop, or do all three, there is room for everyone.

Faith Friendship and Fellowship
FEBRUARY 2 AND MARCH 2
COMMUNITY LUNCHEON
Great food and fellowship along with music and teaching awaits those who come.

Lent and Holy Week
FEBRUARY AND MARCH
Lenten worship/supper dates and worship information for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.
(see dates on page 3)

Get Involved
MARCOLUTHERAN.ORG • MINISTRY DESK
Participate, serve, give, or learn more about any ministry.

Artist Series 2027 Season

Season tickets begin at $165 • Individual tickets are $35
Individual ticket sales begin November 10

Five evenings of music, comedy, and memorable entertainment

"Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy."
Psalm 100:2

Marco Lutheran's Artist Series brings friends, neighbors, and visitors together for a lively season of entertainment. From dueling pianos and nationally touring comedians to Broadway favorites and the unforgettable music of the 1960s, each program offers a wonderful reason to invite a friend and enjoy an evening at the church.



MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stay Connected

Your church family is only a conversation away

Thank you for being part of Marco Lutheran Church. Your presence, prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve help make this congregation a place where people encounter Christ and find genuine community. We look forward to sharing this season with you.

Bring Someone With You

A personal invitation can open the door to friendship, healing, and faith. Think of one person who may enjoy a luncheon, a concert, a service project, Advent worship, or Christmas Eve. Reach out, offer to meet them at the door, and let them know there is a place for them here.

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH
525 N. Collier Blvd.
Marco Island, Florida 34145
(239) 394-0332

office@marcolutheran.org
marcolutheran.org
Online worship: marcolutheran.org/video

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Thursday • 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



"The LORD bless you, and keep you"

Numbers 6:24



Encouragement Through the Seasons of Life

New Beginnings "Do something new." **Isaiah 43:19**	**Seasons of Change** "There is a season." **Ecclesiastes 3:1**
Through Life's Storms "Our refuge and strength." **Psalm 46:1**	**Times of Waiting** "Wait patiently for the Lord." **Psalm 27:14**
The Later Years "Even in old age..." **Psalm 92:14**	**In Every Season** "Jesus Christ is the same..." **Hebrews 13:8**
When Grieving "Close to the brokenhearted." **Psalm 34:18**	**When Feeling Alone** "Personally go ahead of you." **Deuteronomy 31:8**
When Afraid "Put my trust in you." **Psalm 56:3**	**Seeking Peace** "I will lie down and sleep." **Psalm 4:8**
Called to Serve "Share each other's burdens." **Galatians 6:2**	**Hope for Tomorrow** "Confident hope." **Romans 12:12**
Seeking Wisdom "Which path to take." **Proverbs 3:6**	**Renewed Strength** "Will find new strength." **Isaiah 40:31**
Choosing Joy "The day the Lord has made." **Psalm 118:24**	**God's Presence** "With you always." **Matthew 28:20**
Finding Courage "Be strong and courageous." **Joshua 1:9**	**God's Healing** "He heals the brokenhearted." **Psalm 147:3**
Living Gratefully "Be thankful in all circumstances." **1 Thessalonians 5:18**	**Eternal Hope** "I am the resurrection and the life." **John 11:25**

Brief Scripture excerpts: Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT), © 1996, 2004, 2015 Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission.