

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By Pastor Tom Boeck

Placing Everything in God's Care

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

— Martin Luther

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." -

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV)

There have been many things that have taken place over the past months or even the past year that have really gotten our attention. We have often worried about things over which we have no control. We have seen incredible civil unrest across our nation. We have seen evil in politics as those in power show more concern for power itself than for the well-being of the governed. We have experienced a global pandemic that has caused illness and even death for those close to us, maybe even ourselves. And we find ourselves often times consumed with worry over these things.

This month of February, we will have a brief discussion on the stewardship of time and talent. You may not think that it has much to do with the things over which we have worried of late, but in fact our stewardship of the time and talent that God has given us, speaks directly to all of these worries. In the quote above from Martin Luther, we see his wisdom in acknowledging that it is our trust in God that keeps everything in perspective and allows us to have confidence to move forward in His service.

As a congregation, we have a healthy understanding of how our financial gifts can affect and increase the spreading of the Gospel and can show the love of Christ to

those in our community by supporting the local food banks and clothing drives to help those in dire need at this time. Your gifts to the church continue to expand God's kingdom and share His love with those who need them most.



However, this past year's events have caused us to change where and how we spend our time and talents. The fear of illness or worse because of the pandemic has caused us to become more insular. We have "hunkered down" indoors and avoided crowds in order to stay safe. We have avoided human interaction to such an extent that some of us have not even seen another person within six feet of ourselves in almost a year. So how as Christians can we determine to use our time and talents in God's service and to help our fellow human being, if we can't get near anyone? This is where our passage from Proverbs comes into the picture to inform us of God's intention. We must lean on our God and be willing to trust in Him in all things. That even means with regard to our use of our time and talents in the service of others. Please understand that no one is advocating for you not to protect your health, especially until things may be normalized with inoculations through the new vaccines. But just as this past year has caused us to be creative in managing our lives through use of technology and so on. So too, we can be creative with how we can share the love of Christ with others. We have many volunteer opportunities for people to serve God and His kingdom. They include ways to serve in worship in areas like worship leaders and sound and video assistance. Our choir has found ways to safely sing and pre-record music for worship in order to maintain safety. We have outreach opportunities that

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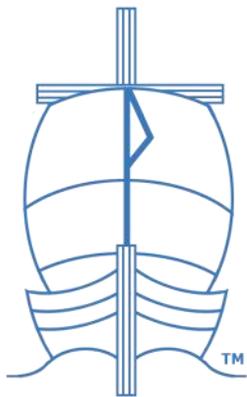
need people to make telephone calls. For any of the in-person activities where we need volunteers, we have maintained appropriate distancing and masking guidelines and have ensured safety in our actions. And we can never underestimate the power of your prayers and encouragement for others as we seek to share the Gospel with those who do not know Jesus.

Our visiting scholar, Dr. Scott Sullivan, PhD. will be here the weekend of February 5-7. We encourage you to participate in this event. Dr Sullivan will help us to understand how we can share the good news of the gospel with those who do not believe the

Bible. Social distancing will be observed, refreshments and food will all be provided free of charge, but registration will be necessary. This is going to be another wonderful opportunity to use your time and talents in God's service. Events will be live-streamed and recorded as well.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." Prayerfully consider how God can use your time and talents in this coming year to serve others and to grow His kingdom here on earth. Trust in the Lord, and He will lead us, if we place everything in His care!

Blessings to you all!



Setting Sail with Service

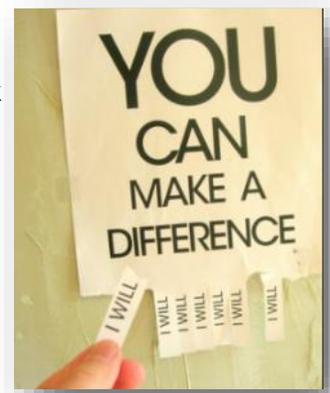
Every organization, whether it be a business, a school or a church, relies on people volunteering to take on the challenges that group is facing. For a church, it is somewhat different. We are called, as part of our faith journey, to work to support and grow God's Kingdom through our actions.

The advent of COVID has definitely put a damper on people's enthusiasm to serve. Yet, in 2020, 73 people participated as servants at church services, outreach activities, committees and other church-sponsored activities. Thank you to all who have donated their time to support or grow the Kingdom.

Marco Lutheran still has service needs – and many more ideas that would definitely help us serve our church family and the community. But, we need folks to step up to help with those efforts. Pastor Tom and Pastor Ken will be preaching about the importance of service in our walk with God on February 7 and February 14.

Their focus on service is the kick-off for our new initiative designed to increase participation in church-related volunteer opportunities. For the next 12 months we'll be focusing on growing servants to be active in any and all of our church-sponsored events, activities and missions. In keeping with our nautical theme, that initiative will be titled, "**Setting Sail with Service.**" Throughout the year you'll hear about some of our congregation's most active servants, and you'll learn more about opportunities for you to become involved. We're hoping to make it easier for those who want to help set their sails to join the volunteers whose service drives what the church is able to do. However, if you are interested in getting more involved but just don't know where to turn, feel free to contact me at 317-460-0185 and I'll help you get started.

To those who already serve our congregation and our missions, I salute you! To those who wish to enrich their lives through giving back and praising God through their service, welcome aboard! The more crew members who join our efforts, the more easily we can chart the course of the ship of the church and set sail!



Blessings! Linda Harrison

Thankfully, Some Things Don't Change

Vann Ellison, President & CEO,
St. Matthew's House

How different our world was a year ago! We had just started hearing about the coronavirus, but it still seemed like something that would affect other people, not us. Even among those we served at St. Matthew's House, the impact was minimal in those early weeks ... but that quickly changed.

When hotels and restaurants began shutting down, thousands of men and women in Collier County were out of work and the number of people coming to the mission for meals and food boxes increased. Our food pantry went from serving hundreds of families per month to thousands. By the time the CARES Act funding for food assistance expenses expired on December 31, we were helping more than 15,000 hungry families every month. The new year has not brought those numbers down.

In the meantime, the lockdowns, social isolation and economic issues drove many vulnerable people deeper into their addictions. With so many suffering from addiction unable to access the help they needed, relapses and overdoses skyrocketed.

Finally, we now anticipate the moratorium on evictions to expire soon. That can only mean we'll see a spike in people needing shelter.

Yes, it's a different, more difficult world for many people. But some things have not changed. God is still in control and Jesus is still our hope and our salvation. You have remained faithful to His call to care for the poor in our midst. And because of that, St. Matthew's House is still ready to serve anyone who comes to our doors. Thank you for your prayers and support.



BOARD OF HUMAN CARE

By Sybl Fleming

The congregation of Marco Lutheran Church received HUNDREDS of colorful handwritten notes from the students of Herbert Cambridge and Golden Gate Elementary Schools thanking you for their new fleece blankets that were given to them before their holiday break. Your support of the Christmas Project was so appreciated. These youngsters felt the warmth of your love.

You are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the **Board of Human Care, Monday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.**



BIBLE STUDIES

Come Join Us!

- Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Join after worship for coffee and fellowship and stay for an Bible Study! This class will be held in the Great Room. This class will be led by Pastor Tom & Pastor Ken.
- Artesia Bible Study—2nd & 4th Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Join us for a study of the book of *Hebrews* at the Artesia subdivision clubhouse. A light supper is provided. 1460 Santiago Cir. Naples, FL 34114. This class is led by Pastor Tom. Call the church office for the gate code.
- Men's Bible Study-Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.
Men, come on Tuesday mornings for a study and discussion on the book of Romans. This class will be meeting in the Choir Room.
- Women's Bible Study—Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. .
Women, Join the group led by Carolyn Ohman, in February we will begin "Taste and See – Discovering God among butchers, bakers & fresh food makers." This class will be meeting in the Choir Room.
- Thursday Adult Bible Study—Thursday 10:00 a.m.
GENESIS— Fellowship with coffee 9:30 a.m. and class begins at 10:00 a.m.
The class is held in the Great Room and is led by Pastor Tom.

Yoga at Marco Lutheran!

Please note: an additional Gentle Yoga class has been added on Wednesday!



GENTLE YOGA

**Mondays , Wednesdays & Thursdays
at 12:30pm**

CHAIR YOGA

Mondays & Thursdays at 2:00pm

Class Maximum is 25 Students.

Online Pre-Registration is REQUIRED

**Please visit our website— www.marcolutheran.org
to pre-register online!**

Sailing Solo



Marco Lutheran Church's
singles ministry meets monthly
on the 4th Sunday from

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Sailing Solo offers the opportunity
for singles to meet with others at
a similar time in life. For many, it
helps in going from a "me"
to "we".

*For more information call
394-0332*



Grace Place for Children and Families always welcomes volunteers! Opportunities are available for those who would like to volunteer once or twice-a-week, on a monthly basis, several times per year, or occasionally for special events. Our educational programs and Friday Food Pantry can use your talents both in-person and virtually!

We can use your help on Fridays throughout the day in our Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry needs volunteers to unpack and sort food, and to greet families and provide customer service. This is a great opportunity to come with a friend or a group and volunteer together! COVID guidelines are being followed including social distancing, and masks. Our Food Pantry is also accepting non-perishable donations including but not limited to:

Cooking Oil, Toilet Paper, Beans, Rice, Paper Towels, Tooth Paste, Detergent, Corn Meal, Spaghetti, Mac and Cheese

Spend one hour an afternoon virtually tutoring our Academy of Leader middle and high school students. Virtual tutors in all subjects are needed. Programs run Monday – Thursday and times vary.

Please remember that any purchases you make on Amazon.com can be made through Amazon Smile, sending charitable dollars from Amazon to an organization of your choice, and to choose Grace Place for Children and Families as the organization receiving funds.

*Nobody can change the world.
But you can make a difference!*



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Calling all Full and Associate Members!

PLEASE JOIN US for our Annual Meeting on

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

At 9:30am in the Great Room

Synodical Voting necessary and we will present the MLC Annual Report from 2020. We must have a

MUSIC NOTES

BY Craig Greusel



COME TO CHOIR PRACTICE! Join in the fun!

Due to COVID recommendations, the choir is not singing in the sanctuary during the normal worship services this season.

Instead... we are recording the choir anthems and showing them as videos so we still have the opportunity to

Praise the Lord with MUSIC!

9:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 6

No registration necessary—Just come and bring your singing voice!!

thrivent

DO YOU KNOW?

Saving for retirement is not easy, but using your retirement savings wisely can be just as challenging. How much of your savings can you withdraw each year?



Withdraw too much and you run the risk of running out of money. Withdraw too little and you may miss out on a more comfortable retirement lifestyle.

Whether you are retired, soon will be, or are saving for retirement in the future, this is information you should know. Thrivent can help. At Thrivent we believe humanity thrives when people make the most of all God has given them. If you have any questions, please reach out to David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.

Thrivent Member Network - Southeast Region free online events are continuing in 2021!!

We want to offer you opportunities of inspiration to learn something new and give back. To view a full list of upcoming online events please visit: <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/southeast/events/> and follow us on Facebook [@southeasttmn](https://www.facebook.com/southeasttmn).

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

By Roger Miller

Donors should have received a 2020 contribution statement. If you have not, please contact

financialsec@marcolutheran.org.

DISCOVER MARCO

(Marco Lutheran Church New Members Class)

Discover Marco is an introduction to Marco Lutheran Church which provides inquirers a review of our beliefs and practices along with a practical discussion on becoming involved in our many activities.

This class is for those interested in new membership, as well as any members who would like to know more about our church and ministry.

If you are interested in attending or have relatives or friends interested; contact the church office.

FEBRUARY 21, 28, MARCH 7 & 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room

New-member reception on MARCH 21



MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visiting Scholar Program

Welcomes

Dr. Scott M. Sullivan

Author, Lecturer, apologist, and
owner of Classical Theist Productions.

February 5-7, 2021

**Please Join Us -
Free Lecture Series!**



Dr. Scott M. Sullivan is a father of 8 and holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX. He is the producer of numerous video courses in the areas of logic, the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, philosophical arguments for the existence of God, the historical evidence for the Christian faith, and others. Dr. Sullivan is a popular speaker throughout the United States who speaks on topics like the importance of teaching children on how to intellectually defend their faith, the complementary relationship between faith and reason, the importance of training in classical logic, why the study of philosophy is everybody's business. Dr. Sullivan has also appeared on EWTN television and several nationally syndicated radio programs.

Friday, February 5 at 7:00pm

Saturday, February 6 at 10:00am & 1:00pm

(with free lunch provided between sessions)

Sunday, February 7 at 9:30am

You are invited to stay for worship at 11:00 and FREE soup luncheon at 12:00 with a FREE Concert featuring Eirinn Abu and friends at 1:30pm!

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE - PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

MARCOLUTHERAN.ORG (239) 394-0332

MARCO LUTHERAN CHURCH • 525 N. COLLIER BLVD • MARCO ISLAND, FL

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY !!!

Marco Lutheran Church

Visiting Scholar Program 

Welcomes

Eirinn Abu

with

Jose Gregorio Hernandez & Pedro Alfonso



Sunday, February 7

Visiting Scholar Dr. Scott Sullivan 9:30-10:30am

Free Soup Luncheon 12:00pm

(Pre-Superbowl) Super-Sunday Concert 1:30pm

FREE EVENTS!

Please bring cans of soup for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry!

Pre-registration Requested—www.marcolutheran.org

Social Distanced Seating—Please wear a mask while inside the church building.

525 N. Collier Blvd. • Marco Island, FL • (239) 394-0332

2021 Artist Series

February 18 & 19

Annie Moses Band

America's premier classical-crossover string & vocal band. Juilliard trained musicians bringing classical, jazz, pop, folk and bluegrass from Nashville to the Marco Lutheran stage.



Seating Available for the Matinee Performances

Thursday, February 18: 3:30pm Friday, February 19: 3:30pm

Socially Distant Seating – Masks Required

Questions?: email: artistseries@marcolutheran.org or call 239-394-5579

2021 ARTIST SERIES Order Form

Select Performance (X): Thu, 2/18 3:30pm Fri, 2/19 3:30pm

Number of seats: _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Enclose your check made payable to: *Marco Lutheran Church*
Please write Artist Series in the memo.

Drop off this form with your check at the church office or mail to:

Marco Lutheran Church
Artist Series
525 N. Collier Blvd.
Marco Island, FL 34145-1949

Please provide contact info for seating questions:

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

*Tickets will be mailed beginning January 4, 2021
(mailing address)*



CANCELLED

We are sorry to announce that the 2021 Rummage Sale has been canceled due to COVID. With the nature of a rummage sale, for people to walk freely and “rummage” through the treasures...we would not have the ability to maintain safe distancing or a disinfected environment. We are thankful to those who had volunteered to help and hope that we can all look forward to the 2022 Rummage Sale!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION By Jacquelynn Wolff



Dearest Marco Lutheran Church Family,

“So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Happy February – Sending so much Love to you!!!

We are so excited for Marco Lutheran Church’s 2021 Visiting Scholar Program February 5 – 7. We cannot wait to welcome Dr. Scott Sullivan! Dr. Sullivan is an academic, researcher of the philosopher St. Thomas Aquinas, and author, whose most important job is being a loving, homeschooling father of 8. He is also a member of the Committee on Logic for the American Catholic Philosophical Association Committee on Priestly Formation. Dr. Scott will join a growing global fellowship of MLC Visiting Scholars who so thoughtfully and generously share their: journeys, experiences, and deeply thought-provoking windows into their research and lived experiences. They so graciously offer such wonderful opportunities to engage and think about a vast, richly laden treasure trove of perspectives: for thought, study and furthering understanding; and always such beautiful, loving fellowship!

Sending, especially, such appreciation to our Amazing Bible Study Leaders and Organizers— and as always the very warmest Welcome to all to join our wonderful Bible Studies! Wishing everyone the most beautiful February! With so, so much Love Always!



Happy Valentine’s Day!

SAILING SOLO

By Shirley Rhodes

On Sunday January 24, Sailing Solo met in the church parking lot. What beautiful weather was enjoyed by 19 members of our group. We played a competitive game of Corn Hole with the final winners Arlene Slaughter and John Patterson.

Since Sunday was National Peanut Day, we were treated with delicious peanut butter cookies and a chocolate hot cocoa bomb.

As always it was so nice to see our friends (even though they wore masks) and we observed social distancing.



Any singles please mark your calendars for February 28 at 4:00 p.m. for the next Sailing Solo Sunday Event at MLC parking lot. Bring your own chair and wear a mask!

BOARD OF OUTREACH

By Sharon Boeck



Welcome back to our seasonal parishioners! I am looking forward to seeing more of you at church. In the latter part of 2020, The Board of Outreach sponsored, with your help and support, events such as Luv-in-a-Mug for our First Responders, collecting school supplies for our community schools, Thanksgiving Blessings Bags for needy families in our community and Operation Christmas Child for children overseas.

As the pandemic continues, we have become aware that the needs of the poor exceed food. There is a great need for personal care items. So the Board of Outreach is sponsoring an event called, **Church with a Heart** on February 27 on the church grounds. During the next five weeks we will be collecting personal care items for men and women - feminine pads, incontinent pads or under garment, diapers in all sizes, Kleenex, individually wrapped toilet paper, tooth brush and toothpaste, dental floss and Clorox wipes. There is also a great need pet food supplies and treats for our furry friends on the island. A more extensive list of items will be available in the ministry center.

This event is similar to our Blessing Bags event, but instead of giving the bag of items to each individual, they will be able to shop for their items at designated tables themselves. We will also be partnering with some of our community like Our Daily Bread, Winn Dixie, Publix. We are still in the planning stages, and will add more sponsors in the coming weeks. **Our goal is to serve one hundred families.** This will not be possible, without your contributions, and support. If you would like to make a monetary gift, please put *CHURCH WITH A HEART* on the memo line. You can drop off your items at the ministry center starting on Monday, January 25. More details about the event will follow in the coming weeks.

Outreach met earlier in January to discuss plans for the coming months. We are in the planning stages of doing an Easter Outreach event spreading the Gospel, and planning an end of summer event / back-to-school for the community.

Of course, none of these past, present and future events would not be possible without your continued support and encouragement. Thank you so much! Stay Safe and Healthy!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Debra Caudill	Feb 2
Francis Newman	Feb 2
Dan High	Feb 2
Barbara Moore	Feb 2
Floyd Davis	Feb 3
Deborah Ann Paczka	Feb 3
Bruce Woolnough	Feb 3
Marcia Bailey	Feb 4
Robert Meyn	Feb 5
Karl Ristow	Feb 7
Lydia Krueger	Feb 9
Mimi Nimtz	Feb 9
Sandra Plath	Feb 9
Gwynne Steiner	Feb 9
Carol Thole	Feb 9
Carmine Voglino	Feb 9
James Lawson	Feb 10
Kimberly Rubash	Feb 10
Edward Tann	Feb 11
Rebecca Ericson	Feb 12
Harry Laskey	Feb 12
Roberta Strosnider	Feb 12
Carolyn Volatile	Feb 12
Gerald Beck	Feb 13
Christine Brazgel	Feb 14
Olga Hakanson	Feb 15
Terri Heins	Feb 16
Merle Ericson	Feb 17
Sandra Witherington	Feb 17
Cheryl Ballenger	Feb 18
Thomas Graves	Feb 20
Susie Lounsbury	Feb 20
Judith Vollmer	Feb 20
Alan Byard	Feb 22
Christopher Caudill	Feb 22
Jan Liebreuz	Feb 22
Terrell Horne	Feb 24
Don Schulz	Feb 26
Diane Pieske	Feb 27
Brenda Richard	Feb 27
Thomas Boeck	Feb 28
Richard Gady	Feb 28
Tammy Gremel	Feb 28
Nicholas Eckerle	Feb 29



BOARD OF LAY MINISTERS

By Bob Harrison

The Board of Lay Ministry would like to thank Karl Ristow for his nine years of Chairing the Board. Karl's leadership and guidance were invaluable in helping to lead Marco Lutheran to a position of respect and strength. Karl has decided to retire from the Board and he will be missed. Also retiring from the Board is Jean Ristow and Gail Hoopes.

We will miss their service to the Board as well. The Church Council has approved Bob Harrison as the interim Chairman of the Board of Lay Ministry until the next Congregational Meeting we the position will be filled for a two year term.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



James & Eleanor Jones, Larry & Michele Sturzenegger, Scott & Jan Loula, Edward & Deb Skryzinski, Michael & Susan Knox, Rick Mammel & Cara Jo Peck, Jeff and Nancy Patterson.

525 N. Collier Boulevard | Marco Island, Florida 34145

CHURCH OFFICE: 394-0332

CHURCH STAFF & CONTACT NUMBERS

Rev. Thomas Boeck	239-394-0332
Rev. Ken Garazin	239-394-0332
Craig Greusel, Music Director	239-250-5200
John Davis, Keyboard Specialist	239-776-1200
Larry Soccio, Facilities Manager	239-394-0332
Betsy Sabbides, Office Manager	239-394-0332
Nancy Piper, Technical Administrator	239-394-0332
Vicki Williams, Office Assistant	239-394-0332

WWW.MARCOLUTHERAN.ORG

Pastor: Rev. Tom Boeck

Seasonal Pastor: Rev. Ken Garazin

OFFICE HOURS:

Office open M-TH 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

FR 8:30 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

WORSHIP Sunday 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 5:00 p.m.