

Marda Loop CHURCH

ENGAGING GOD



EVERYWHERE

DRAFT FIVE – April 25, 2021

VISION STATEMENT

Marda Loop Church exists to help people *Engage God Everywhere*. Through communal, relevant, and accessible means we want to meet people where they're at. In an increasingly online world, we will technologically shape our church so that people can connect anytime and anywhere.

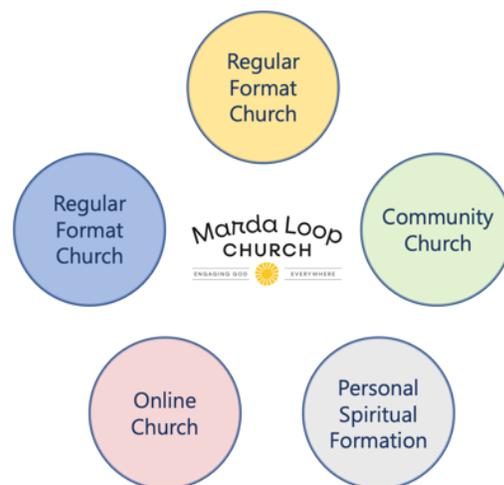
STRATEGIC SUMMARY

Marda Loop Church will be a church where people who don't go to church feel at home. We will love our city, support meaningful Marda Loop centred community service projects, help people spiritually grow in a variety of creative ways, focus on supporting younger generations, be a church for all generations, expand our definition of church beyond Sunday mornings, and make room for ever deeper and more meaningful spiritual conversations.

To be this kind of church we see a typical month-of-services looking quite different:

Week 1 REGULAR FORMAT CHURCH – A regular format service with preaching, singing, sacraments, and post service coffee (with the service livestreamed, sermon recorded and later posted online)

Week 2 ONLINE CHURCH – An online sermon and song—like we've been doing this past year. This service will include the addition of a few guiding questions for life application. A Sunday-morning Zoom meeting will be hosted every other month to discuss, unpack, and further engage our online church community. This week will be 100% online focused, designed, and produced. Services can be engaged individually, as families, or in small groups. A mid-week senior's chapel will be hosted for those seeking a live gathering.

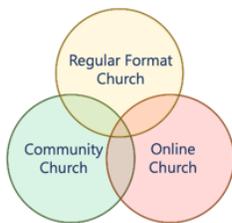


Week 3 COMMUNITY CHURCH – A community-focused weekend gathering (no singing and no traditional church service) that takes the form of a Sunday morning workshop that unpacks the

previous week’s message, a communal breakfast, a Friday night art show, a parenting group, a Saturday afternoon picnic, an off-site community event (zoo, science center, K-country), or a community service project. The goal of this week will be to facilitate a communal experience of our *Engaging God Everywhere* vision.

Week 4 REGULAR FORMAT CHURCH – A regular format service with preaching, singing, sacraments, and post service coffee (with the service livestreamed, sermon recorded and later posted online)

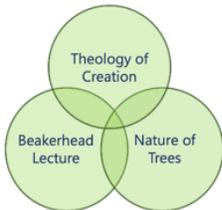
Week 5 PERSONAL SPIRITUAL FORMATION CHURCH – Four times a year each church member will be emailed a short spiritual practice to read and personally apply to their lives. These practices can be unpacked individually or in a small group setting. No online, live, or community gatherings will be held during these four weeks.



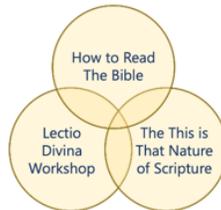
A Thematic Pod



A Thematic Pod



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A Thematic Pod

Each month-of-services will be linked together thematically. We’ll spend an entire month, via a variety of learning styles, thinking into, experiencing and personally applying particular truths/themes/teachings about the nature of God. By hosting offsite events, we will be church in places where people already live.

(Included below is a DRAFT annual schedule that begins to imagine how all of this might come together).

By shaping Marda Loop Church this way we will:

1. Continue to provide ‘regular format’ Sunday morning live gatherings at least twice a month; allowing for continuity with the past.
2. Livestream and post accessible online sermons at least three times a month; with one of these sermons produced directly for the online audience (affirming that online church is not just an appendage of Sunday live gatherings).
3. Begin to develop portable, anytime/anywhere spiritual formation materials that will help people deepen their spiritual walk in self-guided ways (via weeks 2, 3 and 5).
4. Provide more room for meaningful communal experiences, conversations, and spiritual growth (on weeks 3 and 5). Our vision of “Engaging God Everywhere” will have more relational and conversational space within which to be communicated and understood.

Over the course of a year, the spiritual formation materials that we develop will be compiled for further distribution and use (via booklets or books or videos). These materials will be crucial for

helping people develop an all-of-life spiritual practice that will help them to step into the vision (both locally and beyond). Also, these materials will be more broadly accessible and scalable.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Marda Loop Church has been given a big vision. We can achieve this calling by being a church that prayerfully extends itself into the world via all of these communal, creative, and accessible means.

While there are many questions that need to be answered...

- How can we best support our neighbours in Marda Loop?
- What kind of community service projects will we engage in?
- How will all of our stakeholders be engaged and invited into the project?
- What specific topics will we address through our sermons/messages/events?
- How will we grow 'real community' online (online elders, pastors?)?
- How will we assess the effectiveness of the newer components of this model?

...our plan is to step into this new church vision for a full year (after "re-opening") and assess and adapt as we go.

Our prayer is that the Spirit will breathe life into this new way of being church and help each us grow in our capacity to *Engage God Everywhere*.

MLC 2021/22 — DRAFT/EXAMPLE Annual Schedule				
Date	SPK R	Series	Type of Service	Details
Sept 5	JVS	CREATION Trees	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of revelation via creation as unpacked by science...
Sept 12	JVS		ONLINE	A talk on trees... UBC professor's stuff (ideally listened to while walking in a forest and then unpacked with spiritual formation materials)
Sept 19	JVS		COMMUNITY	A "Theology of Trees" lecture (Friday night, Central library) preceded by an article in the Herald promoting the event (all in concert with Beakerhead)
Sept 26	?	OPEN TOPIC	REGULAR FORMAT	
Oct 3	JVS	RELATIONSHIPS Parenting	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of parenting
Oct 10	JVS		ONLINE	A message on knowing God through listening (ideally listened to with significant others... and then engaged via spiritual formation materials)
Oct 17	MG?		COMMUNITY	Parenting Workshop (Saturday in the church sanctuary)
Oct 24	?	OPEN TOPIC	REGULAR FORMAT	
Oct 31	JVS		PERSONAL SPRITUAL FORMATION	Pastor John writes a booklet on "The Spiritual Practice of Parenting" for individual and small group use.
Nov 7	JVS	SPIRITUALITY Reading the Bible	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of bible reading

Nov 14	JVS		ONLINE	A message on the "This is That" nature of both the bible, and the bible and creation (along with spiritual formation follow-up materials)
Nov 21	JVS		COMMUNITY	Lectio Divina Workshop (Sunday, church sanctuary)
Nov 28	?	OPEN TOPIC	REGULAR FORMAT	
Dec 5	JVS	ART C Space (as text)	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the creativity of God
Dec 12	JVS		ONLINE	A message on the art of Calgary artist... pick one (along with spiritual formation follow-up materials)
Dec 19	ALL		COMMUNITY	C Space Artist talk and studio tour (Sunday morning)
Dec 24	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	
Dec 26	none	No service		
Jan 2	JVS	SCIENCE Theology of Winter	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of winter, snow and ice
Jan 9	JVS		ONLINE	A message on the theology of the slipperiness of ice
Jan 16	ALL		COMMUNITY	The Great Marda Loop Skating Party (for all Marda Loopers!) where we skate on the text and host the Marda Loop community with food and drinks.
Jan 23	?		REGULAR FORMAT	
Jan 30	JVS		PERSONAL SPRITUAL FORMATION	Pastor John writes a booklet on "The Spiritual Practice of Winter" for individual and small group use.
Feb 6	JVS	WORK Theology of Work	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of Work
Feb 13	JVS		ONLINE	A message on a specific job (of a church member or another)
Feb 20	JVS		COMMUNITY	<i>Every Job a Parable</i> Workshop (Saturday)
Feb 27	?		REGULAR FORMAT	
Mar 6	JVS	EDUCATION Language Arts	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of language/words
Mar 13	JVS		ONLINE	An interview with a few LA teachers about knowing God through language
Mar 20	JVS		COMMUNITY	Writing workshop (Friday evening/Saturday am)
Mar 27	?		REGULAR FORMAT	
Apr 3	JVS	SPIRITUALITY How to Pray	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the theology of prayer
Apr 10	JVS		ONLINE	Guided prayer exercises (ideally engaged in a quiet room, or while on a walk, or while out driving)
Apr 15	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	Good Friday (with a focus on prayers of confession)
Apr 17	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	Easter (with a focus on prayers of gratitude)
Apr 24	?		REGULAR FORMAT	
May 1	JVS	CREATION Creation care	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the Theology of Creation Care
May 8	JVS		ONLINE	A message on Bow River pollution
May 15	ALL		COMMUNITY	River cleanup event (Saturday or Sunday)
May 22	?		REGULAR FORMAT	
May 29	JVS		PERSONAL SPRITUAL FORMATION	Pastor John writes a booklet on "The Spiritual Practice of Environmental Care" for individual and small group use.

June 5	JVS	LEISURE/PLAY Theology of Summer	REGULAR FORMAT	A sermon on the Theology of Play
June 12	JVS		ONLINE	A talk on the theology of walking (to be listened to while walking)
June 19	JVS		COMMUNITY	Community K Country hike
June 26	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	
July 3	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	Something Stampede related... The Theology of a Horse
July 10	?		ONLINE	JVS holiday
July 17	?		ONLINE	JVS holiday
July 24	?		ONLINE	JVS holiday
July 31	JVS		REGULAR FORMAT	
Aug 7	JVS	To be determined	REGULAR FORMAT	
Aug 14	JVS		ONLINE	
Aug 21	JVS		COMMUNITY	Church picnic
Aug 28	?		REGULAR FORMAT	