

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
201 N DIVISION AVENUE  
POLO, IL 61064  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)



2023



# **August 2023 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois (815) 946-2919**

**E-mail: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net) Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	<b>7</b> Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	<b>8</b> Work Second Hand Rose August 8-12th	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Church Council meeting at St. Mark's NEW DATE	<b>10</b> 9:00 Worship & Hospitality meeting 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Deadline to submit articles for September Newsletter	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30 Social Time <b>Deadline to reserve tickets to Timberlake Playhouse</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00-6:30pm Community Meal at FUM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 Prayer Partners		

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Worship Assistant</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Flowers</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>	<b><u>Tellers:</u></b> Julie Hoak, Phyllis Dyer, Sharon VanOosten
<b>August 6</b>	Cliff Bardell	Julie Hoak			<b><u>Altar Guild:</u></b> Merla Brooks
<b>August 13</b>	Tracey Anders				
<b>August 20</b>	Sandy Stahler	Becky Patterson			
<b>August 27</b>	Julie Hoak	Phyllis Dyer	Phyllis Dyer		<b><u>Head Usher:</u></b> OPEN



## ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL

### LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

201 N. Division Avenue, Polo, IL 61064

Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

Church office: 815-946-2919

Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)

Pastor Scott Ralston

Mission statement: *St. Mark's ELCA is a community of believers who gather to hear God's Word in Christ; worshipping, serving, and proclaiming God's love for all people and the world.*

#### Make your reservation to join us!

September 17<sup>th</sup> will be our Sunday School rally day followed by a potluck and a trip to see the *Church Basement Ladies* play at Timberlake Playhouse.

#### Church Basement Ladies

"Inspired by the book *Growing Up Lutheran* by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, this funny and down to earth musical comedy about four women preparing food for multiple events at church will have audiences howling with laughter."



#### Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm at Timberlake Playhouse in Mount Carroll

- Tickets are \$25 each, 25 seats reserved (highlighted in Yellow on back page of newsletter), Talk to Lisa if you need more accessible seating that avoids any steps.
- Minimum of 10 people
- **Reservations and payments needed by 8/27.** Call Lisa Hinrichs @815-298-8009 to reserve.

We will have a Potluck after Church that is open to everyone before heading to the playhouse.

#### **Sunday School teachers needed!**

Sunday school begins September 17<sup>th</sup> – Please let Pastor or Lori know if you are interested in teaching our youth. All materials will be provided.



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#### **Do you want to earn free tuition at Sauk?**

Sauk Valley Community College has a program called IMPACT. By doing volunteer work, you can earn free tuition. St. Mark's is signing up to be a Volunteer Partner so you can earn volunteer hours while serving your church.



For more information regarding SVCC's Impact Program, please email [impact@svcc.edu](mailto:impact@svcc.edu) or call (815) 835-6650 or visit [www.svcc.edu/impact](http://www.svcc.edu/impact)

*Pastor's thoughts ...*

Hello St. Mark's Lutheran,

Welcome to another month held gently in the loving arms of God. So, July is quickly coming to an end and I still haven't done all those summer projects I imagined I would... how about you? One thing I'm still looking forward to is taking Elyse to Starved Rock. It certainly can be challenging to get everything scheduled and everything done. Sometimes I wish, probably like almost every school kid, that summer wouldn't end. The sunshine and the more mild days this year have been great... and given me an opportunity for hikes, disc golf, and the state/local park exploration that I love. I've really enjoyed getting to know Polo more, and checking out local events, shops, and museums has been eye opening.

The people here have been great, being both very helpful and very welcoming. I'm getting to know the neighborhood a bit and I even gave someone else directions the other day, what a treat.

One of the things I love about Polo/Forrester is that the view of the stars here is incredible they seem much brighter than they do in Rockford, and the sunset over the fields west of town is just amazing.

Sitting outside today listening to the birds chirp and feeling the sun shining down reminds me of how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. It also made me reminisce about a book I read called Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor; in it she reminds us to see the glory of creation around us. She talks about hearing the buzz of the yellow jackets wings, seeing groundhog holes, marveling at the bright colors of the irises as she walks, and just taking the time to appreciate the world around us knowing that it is all God's great and beautiful creation that we have come to dwell in. God loves us so much that all of creation has been entrusted into our hands, we are called to be stewards of God's creation... called to care for the land and water, air and all the creatures that call this place home.

Thinking of the goodness of God's creation, I hope that August is especially good to you this year and that you get a chance to spend some time walking paths that you haven't before (with family and friends or perhaps on your own to reflect), so that your senses can be filled with the hum of not cars and trucks, but of God's beautiful creation. If you are looking for a neat place to check out I commend Castle Rock Overlook, Lowell Park (incl. a zip line for kids), Severson Dells, and LOMC. Where ever you may go, I'm praying God watch over you and keep you safe. May God bless you all!

Peace and Blessings to you and yours,  
Pastor Scott

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**A volunteer is needed August Head Usher.**  
**Please let Lori know if you are able to do this month.**

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**Altar Guild volunteers needed for September, November and December**  
Easy instructions with pictures are in the cabinet in the upstairs kitchen. We would be happy to help anyone learn. Serving on altar guild is an honor and a privilege. Preparation of the Lord's Supper for the congregation reinforces with physical elements those beliefs most basic to our traditions. Let the office know if you would like to help!

## June Finance Report

Income	Expenses	Net Income
5,511	6,510	-999

### Polo Community Meal

The next meal will be held August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### Polo Lifeline Food Pantry

#### Needs:

Sugar, coffee, cookies, soup and meat.

### St. Mark's Needs:

Toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner spray, paper towels.  
*Any donations are greatly appreciated!!*

## St. Mark's Building Fund drive

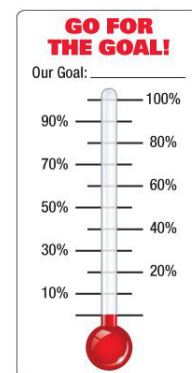
Please help us keep our beautiful building updated and in great condition. We have made some repairs and are in need of a few more:

- Tuckpointing on the church
- plaster repair
- Recently repaired the Organ and boiler
- Replenish our building fund for future needs

We have a goal of \$25,000!

### Did you know you can donate directly to our building fund online?

Visit [www.stmarkspolo.com](http://www.stmarkspolo.com) and look for the green button that says "Give to St. Mark's". You can choose to donate to Building Fund, General Fund or Missions.



Give to St. Mark's

**Thank you for your generous donations to the building fund!**  
**Since September we have raised just over \$10,000 toward our goal!**

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**If you would like a Devotional book for August, September please let the office know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.**

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If you know of any milestone birthdays or anniversaries, please let us know so we can share it with our Church Family. If you have a photo, please send it along and we'll put it on Facebook. Please email it to: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)

## **Church Council Secretary's Report**

St. Mark's Council June 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m. In Person Meeting

**Members:** Pastor Scott, Trish Patterson, Mary Calderon, Renee Boyle, Hailey Walker, Lisa Hinrichs, Cindy Schryver

Pastor Scott – Opening Prayer

**Secretary's Report by Trish Patterson was reviewed and approved. Hailey motions to approve. Mary 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved**

**Treasurer's Financial Report for May 2023 – \$100 from LeRoy Toms memorial designate \$50 to quilters, \$50 to kitchen fund. Lisa motion to approve, Renee 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Spring supper proceeds goes to building fund. Lisa moves to approve, Hailey 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **Committee Reports:**

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott:** Visits are going well. He is the chair for Creation Care. That is going really well. He is also the Dean for the central conference. Pastor is leaving on June 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> on vacation. Confirmation is going well also. Attendance has been ok. Kids from Forreton are coming also. Coverage for when Pastor is gone will be Cliff Bardell leading worship on June 25<sup>th</sup>. No Communion on that day. 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in August is Sauerkraut days in Forreton at 9:30am at the park. This will need to be discussed further.

**Finance (Lisa):** Nothing to report.

**Worship & Music (Trish):** They did meet in May.

**Hospitality: (Hailey) –** Nothing to report.

**Fellowship (Lisa):** Ice Cream Social is scheduled for the end of July at the Polo Library. Merla is working on this. Lisa is planning a trip to see The Basement Church Ladies matinee at Timberlake Playhouse on the first Sunday in Sept (9<sup>th</sup>). She is working on getting a block of tickets for those who want to go.

**Education Committee (Renee):** Confirmation classes are starting off well with limited involvement over the summer. Will resume normal classes in August/September.

**Memorial (Cindy):** Meeting in May. Talked about the awnings and used memorial money from Marorie Engel and Kenny O'Bendorf's memorials.

**Property (Renee reported in Steve's absence):** Chimney Bricks – we had an accident and some slid off and hit a car and broke the window. Marilyn Nelson and Bob Mitchell looked at it with Simmons Masonry for tuckpointing. We cannot take the chimney down. The boiler people said it was necessary to have it. Renee makes a motion to have Simmons Masonry do an estimate to determine any repairs that will be needed for the chimney and other masonry around the roof. Trish 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved. The Church's Liability policy will cover the repair for the vehicle that was damaged.

**Polo Council of Churches (Pastor):** Pastor attended the meeting in May.

**Liason (Trish & Lisa):** Meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> after joint worship in Forreton.

**Vision (Pastor):** They will meet again soon.

### **Old Business:**

- Review Modifications to the travel expenses in Faith Lutheran Yoking Agreement – Lisa revised the contract with travel expenses will be submitted separately to both Faith Lutheran and St. Mark's. When trips are specific to parishioners of one church 100% of mileage will be submitted to said church. When travel is shared, the travel will be split evenly between both churches. Pastor Scott will be required to submit mileage to each church.

Renee makes a motion to revise the contract, Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **New Business:**

- New Communications board (Lisa) – Lisa found a new dry erase board, \$295.00 thru Amazon. Lisa moves we buy the display board, Cindy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.
- Review Orientation Info & Head Usher Duties – Renee reviewed head usher duties with council members.
- Closing Prayer by Pastor Scott

**Motion to adjourn by Renee. Hailey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adjourned at 8:05 pm**

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 pm in person

**Respectfully Submitted by: Trish Patterson**

## **Polo Council of Churches Meeting – May 23, 2023**

PRESIDENT JEFF DAVIDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM AT PINE CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE: DAVID POOLE, SUZANNE SORENSON, SUZANNE STOUT, MARILYN SCHWARTZ, JONATHAN STAUFFER, PATRICIA STAUFFER, ROD BENAVIDEZ, MERLA BROOKS, MARY WILLIAMS AND PASTOR SCOTT AND MARLA BUSKOHL.

DEVOTIONS WERE GIVEN BY PASTOR DAVIDSON.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH MEETING WERE APPROVED AS READ.

TREASURER'S REPORT SHOWS A BALANCE OF \$1239.78. A MOTION WAS MADE AND PASSED TO REMOVE WILLIAM HARE AS A SIGNATORY ON THE PCCC ACCOUNT. AFTER DISCUSSION, A MOTION WAS MADE AND PASSED TO ADD PASTOR JEFF DAVIDSON AS A SIGNATORY ON THE PCCC ACCOUNT. FIRST STATE BANK WILL BE NOTIFIED.

### REPORTS:

SECOND HAND ROSE IS DOING WELL AND HOPES TO HAVE MORE CUSTOMERS DURING TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS.

LIFELINE PANTRY HAS BEEN STEADY WITH SERVING FAMILIES WITH FOOD AND SUPPLIES.

COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORT FROM JONATHAN STAUFFER: THE GARDEN HAS BEEN 80% PLANTED WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE POLO LIBRARY. HE HAS A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CULTIVATING, WEEDING AND WATERING THE GARDEN IN UPCOMING WEEKS.

KIDZ CAFÉ WILL START ON JUNE 5 AND WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS AS WELL AS FINANCIAL HELP. THE MENU WILL BE POSTED ON FACEBOOK.

VBS-PATRICIA STAUFFER REPORTED THAT JUNE 5, 7, AND 9 ARE THE VBS DAYS THIS YEAR. THEME "LET'S GO FISHING" WILL USE A BOAT AND FISH NETS AS PROPS. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

MERLA BROOKS AND MARY WILLIAMS WILL BE IN CHARGE OF GIVING OUT WATER DURING TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS. A MOTION WAS MADE AND APPROVED TO GIVE MONEY FOR EXPENSES.

ASHLEY SORENSON FROM THE SVCC IMPACT PROGRAM GAVE US INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR EARNED TUITION IN THE SAUK VALLEY AREA.

THIS PROGRAM WILL CREATE A PATH FOR STUDENTS TO PURSUE A COLLEGE EDUCATION AND ACHIEVE CAREER SUCCESS USING PUBLIC SERVICE AND HELPING COMMUNITIES.

CHURCH EVENTS: JULY 16—ST MARK'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL, JULY 22—PULLED PORK/CORN BOIL, FUMC AND MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND A CEMETARY SERVICE WITH PASTOR SUZANNE STOUT.

NEXT MEETING—JULY 25 AT FAITH DISCOVERY CHURCH AT 7:00 PM.

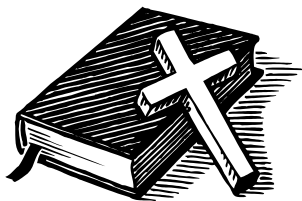
SECRETARY, MARLA BUSKOHL

## **Thank you!**

~ Thank you to all who supported our Ice Cream Social! The bakers, servers, set-up and tear down, people who came and donated and of course the band. What a great turnout, you are all appreciated! Just over \$600 was raised to support our building fund and neighbors in need.

Sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Jeanne Scholl who died in Christ July 15<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at St. Mark's on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who helped with the service and luncheon.

*Please let us know if someone needs a thank you.*



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Barb Grobe, Richard Hose, Shelby Hose, Trudy Karrow, Tommy Knipple and Pat McPherson.

**Those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Marian Schnulle and Linda Scholl.

**Those in Military service:** Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

## **August Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

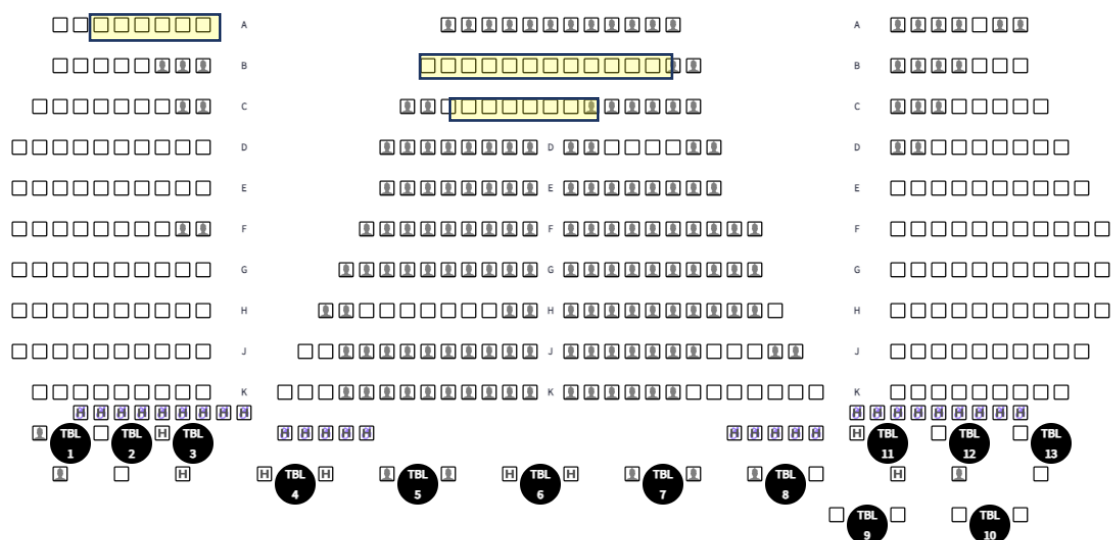
- 1 Kimberly Hilleman
- 2 Shelby Jean Hose  
Rilley Peterson
- 3 Renee Boyle
- 4 Megan Patterson  
Cooper Dawson  
Tylar Groth
- 5 Cliff Bardell
- 7 Melanie Armstrong  
Casandra Kurschner
- 8 Carly Hinrichs
- 9 Jeremiah Christen
- 10 Everett Richardson
- 11 Jeff Hose
- 12 Ed Olsen  
Matt Mekeel
- 13 Tanner Johnson  
Dennis Massolle  
Betsy Coy

- 14 Taylor Woodin
- 15 Drew Garrett
- 18 Larry Weaver
- 19 Phil Johnson  
John Carroll
- 21 Robyn Nelson
- 22 Marty Toms  
Charlotte Bartelt
- 23 Steve Sorenson  
Sara Morrison  
Dominic Escobar
- 25 Beth Shipman  
William Ukena
- 27 Curt Nelson  
Linda Gall
- 30 Laney Christen

### **Anniversaries**

- 9 Alan & Beth Wiegmann
- 28 Jim & Renae Shrader

Highlighted seats are the reserved seats for St. Mark's at Timberlake Playhouse. (Stage at the top)



Click on the available seats you wish to purchase, then click "Select Seats" to proceed.