

**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
201 N DIVISION AVENUE  
POLO, IL 61064  
Address Service Requested

***December 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm***  
***Christmas Eve***  
***Candlelight Service***



***December 12<sup>th</sup>***  
***Children's Christmas***  
***Program 10:30am***



***December 26<sup>th</sup>***  
***Lessons & Carols***

**St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Church Phone: 815-946-2919  
Email: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)  
Website: [stmarkspolo.com](http://stmarkspolo.com)  
Reverend Terrie Wilder  
Pastor's Phone: 815-677-3443  
Email: [tfwilder@gmail.com](mailto:tfwilder@gmail.com)



**2021**

# **December 2021 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Polo, Illinois 815/946-2919**

**E-mail: [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net) Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815/677-3443 Website: stmarkspolo.com**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00 Prayer Partners	3	4
5 <b>Advent 2</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 9:00am Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship	6 Pastor's Sabbath  9:00am Sort clothes for Second Hand Rose	7 Pastor Text Study	8 7:00pm Zoom Church Council meeting *date change*	9 10:00 Prayer Partners	10 AA Meeting	11
12 <b>Advent 3</b> <b>Poinsettia orders due</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 9:00am Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship & Children's Program	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 Pastor Text Study	15	16 10:00 Prayer Partners	17	18
19 <b>Advent 4</b> 9:00am Sunday School for Children and Adults 9:00am Confirmation 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 Pastor Text Study 9:00am Quilters  <b>Work Second Hand Rose December 21-25th</b>	22 <b>Deadline to submit articles for January Newsletter</b>	23 10:00 Prayer Partners	24 <b>Christmas Eve Worship 4:00pm</b>	25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b> 
26 No classes, just worship 10:00 Social Time 10:30am Worship	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28 Pastor Text Study	29	30 10:00 Prayer Partners	31	

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Assistant</u>	<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>December Tellers:</u> Nancy Parke, Lorin & Joyce Gatz	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Tracey Anders
<b>December 5</b>	Linda Gall	Alan & Beth Wiegmann		
<b>December 12</b>	Hailey Walker			<u>Head Usher</u> – Lisa Hinrichs
<b>December 19</b>	Tracey Anders	Poinsettias		
<b>December 24 4:00pm</b>	Kent Anders	Poinsettias		
<b>December 26</b>	Merla Brooks	Poinsettias		



## 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 for a message: 815-946-2919

Pastor Terrie Wilder: 815-677-3443

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.*



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm*

Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> during 10:30 worship



**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lessons and Carols at 10:30am worship**



#### **Polo Council of Churches Christmas Food Baskets**

Christmas Basket program is under way,  
hosted by the Polo Community Council of Churches.

St. Mark's has been asked to gather 200 boxes of Au Gratin Potatoes this year.

Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship hall.



#### *Schedule*

**5:00-7:00pm Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** - Deliver Baskets to Crossroad Community Church

**5:00-6:00pm Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Sort & Pack Baskets at Crossroads

**9:00am-10:00am Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** - Delivery from Crossroads

Pastor's thoughts....

Siblings in Christ,

We have slowly been unwinding the tangled challenges of the pandemic, a time when we couldn't come together for worship in order to keep one another safe. The seasons of celebrations are upon us again and with Thanksgiving we gather to worship.

This hymn below has been playing in my head for many days lately. I love this Christmas hymn. The verses tell the story that Christians proclaim on the mass of Christ (Christ-mas). This first verse is so beautiful!

**Hymn #275 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

According to Luke the angel of the Lord came to the shepherds and the angel told them that the messiah will be born and suddenly a multitude of angels came praising God!

This year Jesus is calling, the church is calling, pastor is calling to:

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

We are blessed to live in a country which allows the freedom of public worship. While shopping, cooking, gathering and celebrating.....remember what the celebration is about:

**Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

I will be looking for you at worship soon!

Advent and Christmas blessings, Pastor Terrie

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*Welcome Melanie Wyatt as a new transferred Member!  
Her daughters are Zoie and Ella! Be sure to welcome them!*

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**Pastor is currently seeking all who would like the gifts of baptism, first communion, confirmation and new member information!**

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**October Finance Report**

Income	Expenses	Net Income
19,352	8,561	10,791

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The Constitution Committee will be printing new constitutions for review in January. Discussion and acceptance will likely be on the agenda at our Annual Meeting January 30<sup>th</sup>. St. Mark's Constitution will then go the Synod for approval. The congregation of St. Mark's will hold another meeting after the Synod approval for final adoption. St. Mark's Constitution is decades old, and it is recommended that a review be done every 3 years going forward.



If you would like a Devotional book for December please let Pastor or Lori know. One will be sent or dropped off at your home.

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*St. Mark's Quilters celebrate another generous delivery of quilts!*

15 are going to Focus House  
17 to HOPE of Ogle County  
6 to Dixon PADS



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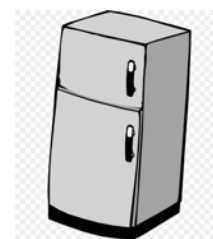
**Polo Lifeline Food Pantry Needs:**

Paper towels, toilet paper  
Items can be dropped off at St. Mark's. There is a grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

**St. Mark's Needs:**

Copy paper & address labels for the church office

A new refrigerator/freezer for the downstairs kitchen was purchased from the kitchen fund. This will be a great blessing for our dinners and other events.



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***Save the date!***

*Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual Meeting*

**\*\*Reminder\*\***

*If you are the chairperson of a committee, please turn your year-end reports in to the church office **by January 9<sup>th</sup>** to be included in the annual report.*

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*Offering envelope boxes now available – pick yours up at the back of the church*

*(let the office know if you need a box and one is not there for you)*

*Note: The String Orchestra originally scheduled on December 4<sup>th</sup> will no longer be held at St. Mark's.*

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## **Sunday school continues and prepares for Christmas program**



It is not too late to join us! All children Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. Parents are welcome to attend as helpers. We have new curriculum this year and a new Children's Bell Choir. Come join the fun as we prepare for our Christmas program.

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### *Ways to Help Polo and Beyond:*

- 1) Sending a check directly to the Polo Food Pantry 115 North Green Avenue .
- 2) Mailing cards to residents of care facilities is always a good idea:  
Polo Rehab 703 E. Buffalo, Polo 61064 (Linda Scholl and Jessica Kimpel)  
Provena Center 1372 Woodside Dr., Freeport 61032 ( Hazel Pontnak)  
Regency Healthcare 612 West. St. Sterling 61081 (Tammy Karrow and Trudy Karrow)  
Wesley Willows, 4141 N. Rockton Avenue, Rockford, IL 61103 (Sibyl Acker)  
The Meadows of Franklin Grove (Marian Schnulle)  
510 N. State St., Franklin Grove, IL 60131
- 3) Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line):  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009  
Give by phone Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.
- 4) Continue sending offerings to St. Mark's by mail or dropping in the mail slot at the north front door.  
**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE SENDING OFFERINGS**



We would love to have everyone on our email list for faster communication. If you need to be added or have changed your email please call the church office and leave a message or email the church at [stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net](mailto:stmarkspolo@frontiernet.net)



## **Council Highlights from the November Church Council Meeting**

**Treasurer's report:** A motion was made by Terry to approve. A second was made by Craig and the motion carried. St. Mark's was officially forgiven the PPP Loan and does not have to pay any of it back.

**Pastor's report:** Glad the 150<sup>th</sup> event went well. Sauk Valley news called for information about the event and church, so we look for that to be published. We received the transfer for Melanie Wyatt and welcomed her November 7<sup>th</sup>. Some home visits and communions have been done with more to come. I will be taking a vacation week November 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. Reverend Frank Lay from Mt. Morris will lead and preach. I am sure you will enjoy him. Kent and I continue to examine the microphone challenges.

**Worship:** Rededication went well. 100 adults and 14 children were reported. Advent and Christmas are on the way, and we look forward to it. Looking for more people to be trained on helping with alter guild. Christmas Eve Service will be at 4pm.

**Hospitality:** Advent calendars will be given to those individuals in nursing home. Letters & Christmas cards will be written to go along with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary book for shut ins. Pastor will be doing the deliveries due to restrictions. Thank you, Cindy, for cleaning the Advent candle stand. Thank you for everyone helping at the 150<sup>th</sup> event.

**Education:** Children's bells were terrific at the 150<sup>th</sup> Event. We really appreciate Cheryl's patience. We look forward to their program December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Property:** Thank you everyone for cleaning up the church for the anniversary celebration. Merla will call Boss Roofing and Bowman Electric again. Awnings will be replaced in the spring. Thermostats have been adjusted in the main level of the church. The basement one remains off, please let Merla know if it needs to be turned on. Radiators will be painted in the summer. Fluorescent lights have been replaced in a few spots. We have 4 florescent- 4 feet bulbs remaining. We will hold off on buying more as they need to be specially disposed. Craig will follow up with Dale Frey on finishing the painting for the porch parsonage. Refrigerator/freezer was installed in the church basement.

**Council of Churches:** The next meeting is November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00pm at Crossroads church. We are on track for our 200 boxes of Au Gratin potatoes. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the final collection.

**Constitution Committee:** We reviewed the proposed new constitution. We will make 2 slight changes, changing the proposed fiscal year and a council member does not need to be on a committee, but the chairperson must report to the council monthly. Tracey made a motion to send to the Synod for approval with the changes made, Sara approved. Motion approved.

**Other Business:** Budget meeting will be held soon. Next council meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 7pm. Nomination committee needs to find 4 replacements; Sara will be chairperson as outgoing Council. Online giving is now active on our church website.

### **St. Marks can now accept offering donations online!**

Visit our website and click the button at the bottom that says "Give to St. Mark's" This will allow you to make a one time or recurring donation to our church.

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

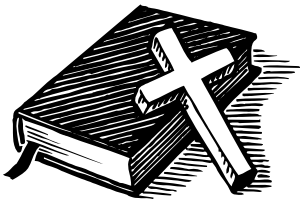


“We want to “Thank All” of our church family remembering us with all the beautiful cards for our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We’ve truly been blessed. Thanks and Bless you All.”

~ Lorin & Joyce Gatz

~ Thank you all who made the Fall Supper & Bake Sale a success! Thank you, Lisa for leading and Joyce for adding up tickets. Thank you for all the donations, set up and clean up!

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



**Prayers for those in need of healing:** Carson Bardell, Angela, Shelby Hose, Richard Hose, Kate Marschang and Brad Shippert **Those in care facilities:** Sibyl Acker, Tammy Karrow, Trudy Karrow, Jessica Kimpel, Hazel Pontnak, Jeanne Scholl, Linda Scholl, and Marian Schnulle. **Those in Military service:** Logan Albrecht, Bryan Connell, Dustin Knapp, Brad Reigle and Travis Roop.

### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

3 Leo Reinstra  
4 Colton McBride  
5 Larry Slager  
6 Diane Rasmussen  
7 Matt Morrison  
8 Trish Patterson  
9 Bryce Hays  
11 Elaine Sweet  
12 Brad Sorenson  
13 Janet Garkey  
Julia Hackbarth  
Carol Suits  
Ashley Ambeau

18 Samantha Krenc  
20 Brittney Karrow  
23 Rita Dauphin  
Phyllis Houck  
24 Maddex Woodin  
25 Cindy Bauling  
John Ennenga  
26 Gary Hackbarth  
27 Melissa Johnson  
Linnea Thorngren  
28 Jessica Sullivan  
30 Rylyn Karrow

#### Anniversaries

2 Steve & Suzanne Sorenson  
22 Larry & Karen Reap  
Pat & Leslie McPherson  
31 Lyle & Barb Grobe





## *Christmas Poinsettia Orders*

Anyone wishing to have a poinsettia in the church in memory of a loved one or wishing to present a poinsettia to the church for Christmas, please fill out the form below. Please mail or bring to the church office by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the poinsettia is \$14.00. If you are planning on buying a poinsettia elsewhere, we would still like for you to fill out the information and return it to the church office. Thank you.

Message for church bulletin:

"Presented to the church to the Glory of God by

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OR

"Presented in loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Are you ordering through the church? YES / NO

**Please make checks payable to "St. Mark's"**

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### **"The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman**



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.



## Youth Assembly ELCA July 24-28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Every 3 years the ELCA hosts a convention of faith, with programs, presentations, active service events for high school youth (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades).

There is some interest this year in attending next summer by a few students. Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade may also apply.

Contact Pastor Terrie immediately with any interest or questions.

(815) 677-3443

Pastor Terrie will accompany the youth.

This is an AWESOME faith opportunity and a lot of fun!

The church has streams of income to assist in expenses.

Participants must sign up by mid-January so that plans can be made, and funds can be raised.



[fb.com/youthgathering](https://fb.com/youthgathering)

[gathering@elca.org](mailto:gathering@elca.org)

[elca.org/gathering](https://elca.org/gathering)